



COMUNE DI OLGiate OLONA

Comunicato Stampa

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COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS REWARDED IN 2011 WITH
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OlgiateOlona26giugno1959.org

66th ANNIVERSARY OF PLANE CRASH OF JUNE 26, 1959

SPEECH OF OLGiate OLONA MAYOR

(read at the ceremony by deputy mayor Leonardo Richiusa)

June 26, 1959, represents for Olgiate Olona a date that brings to mind a mournful event which has indelibly marked the life of our community and of many families scattered around the world who lost their loved ones in the plane crash.

With the inexorable passing of time, the memory of the sad event was first handed down by eyewitnesses who rushed to the crash site, then by the precious works of Mr. Alberto Colombo who dedicated time and passion to putting down on paper and documenting a dramatic page of local history that would otherwise have been lost, and, last but not least, by the website in memory of the plane crash to which our Municipality has granted patronage.

In passing on the memory of the plane crash of June 26, 1959, a key role is played by our new generations, the students in the eighth-grade of *Dante Alighieri* school who - thanks to the educational project now in its 15th edition - are personally committed to keeping alive the memory of the seventy immortal lives, those who on June 26th, 66 years ago, were on board the Twa aircraft and who concluded their earthly existence in the sky of Olgiate Olona.

For us people of Olgiate Olona of all ages, commemorating the plane crash of 1959 is not only a dutiful and heartfelt act of respect, a moment of prayer and collective memory, but it also represents an important moment of meditation on the meaning of life and the importance of bonds, affections, responsibilities and priorities with which we all interface on a daily basis.

The precariousness of our earthly existence is often inexorably highlighted by the reports of sad events that the media pass on to us daily - the tragedy of Air India flight 171 bound for London two weeks ago inevitably comes to mind, with its very high cost of human lives. We cannot change the course of events but we can ensure that our existence is a quality life, that is, it translates into small great daily gestures, towards ourselves but above all towards others: for those in difficulty, for those who need words of comfort or simply to be listened to.

I am strongly convinced that a community is alive and welcoming when every citizen, in everyday life, commits himself with praiseworthy civic commitment for the well-being of all the community. For this reason, I would like to thank all those who - in a spirit of solidarity - are committed to ensuring that June 26th continues to be a significant anniversary: Mr. Alberto Colombo and his collaborators, the students of the educational project with their teachers, the families of the victims of the plane crash who honor us with their presence today, the local Associations and all the citizens who did not want to miss this commemoration.

dr. Giovanni Montano
mayor of Olgiate Olona

www.OlgiateOlona26giugno1959.org