



COMUNE DI OLGiate OLONA

Comunicato Stampa

Olgiate Olona, 27 giugno 2024

SETTANTA VITE IMMORTALI



Olgiate Olona - 26 giugno



**COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS REWARDED IN 2011 WITH
THE MEDAL OF PRESIDENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC**
OlgiateOlona26giugno1959.org

65th ANNIVERSARY OF PLANE CRASH OF JUNE 26, 1959 SPEECH OF OLGiate OLONA MAYOR

Greetings and thanks to all of you present here and in particular to the families of the seventy immortal lives of the plane crash who honor us with their presence this year too. Greetings to the associations and the young finalists of the educational project, their families and the teachers of the Beato Contardo Ferrini school. Last but not least, my heartfelt thanks for their constant commitment go to Dr. Alberto Colombo, the organizers and volunteers who make this commemoration possible with passion and dedication.

This year marks the 65th anniversary of the plane crash of Olgiate Olona, and like every year we gather to pay homage to all the people who were on board of the TWA aircraft on June 26, 1959, and who concluded their earthly existence in the sky over Olgiate Olona. The ringing of the bell of our church and the reading of the names of the victims of the plane crash, at the beginning of this commemoration gathered us together to dedicate a few moments of silence and to turn our thoughts to 70 brothers and sisters no longer among us. That distant day 65 years ago, a fatal bolt of lightning during a violent summer storm decided to put an end to their stories, their projects, their affections.

I always believe it is important to commemorate the plane crash of 1959: it is not just an institutional duty, it is above all a moral duty and a way to express the closeness of the entire community of Olgiate Olona to the families of the victims, marked by a pain that the passage of time does not ease. The community that I represent has always reserved a special place in the collective memory for these unfortunate brothers and sisters, and the memory is perpetuated thanks to the dedication of our eighth graders and their teachers involved in the educational project in memory of the plane crash: the works of our children demonstrate an extraordinary ability to grasp the profound meaning of the painful event and transform it into a message of solidarity as well as a commitment to preserving its memory.

Love for life is therefore born from a painful event, and in the memory of these unfortunate brothers and sisters the limits of time and space are erased. The presence today of some friends who have joined us from the United States of America and Italy to remember their loved ones is the best testimony to this: the "family" of those who care about the memory of June 26th is more united than never, and solidarity, moral closeness and brotherhood are the values on which this family is founded. Values that the passage of time cannot erase.

Today, once again, we embrace each other in a big embrace that unites the relatives of the seventy immortal lives, the witnesses of the plane crash, the children of the educational project and all of us attending this commemoration. This is our way of honoring this page of History, in the memory of those who are no longer visibly among us.

dr. Giovanni Montano
mayor of Olgiate Olona

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