

## SO WHERE'S THE HOME SECTION?

Starting this week, our Thursday section moves to Fridays in Your LI Home  
That's where you'll find your best guide to buying, selling, renovating and decorating.

# Colombo crackdown

■ Reputed crime family members and associates indicted in Brooklyn, LI slayings, including two in North Massapequa in '92

BY ANTHONY M. DESTEFANO  
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Mob killings that spilled blood on the streets of Brooklyn and Long Island years ago were the focus yesterday of the arrests of several reputed members and associates of the Colombo crime family, law enforcement officials said.

The 17-count racketeering indictment unsealed in federal court in Brooklyn charged 12 people, including reputed acting Colombo boss Thomas Gioeli, 55, of Franklin Square, and reputed underboss John "Sonny" Franzese, 89, with crimes ranging from murder to extortion and drug dealing.

Nine of the 12, including Gioeli, were arrested yesterday. Franzese was already in custody for an earlier violation of his supervised release in a different case. Reputed crime family associate Nicholas Bova, 31, is imprisoned on a state conviction.

The indictment covers four mob killings. Among them are the March 1992 slayings of Colombo soldier John Minerva and his friend Michael Imbergamo on Broadway in North Massapequa. Minerva was gunned down as part of a war between factions in the crime family, while Imbergamo was

an innocent bystander while seated in Minerva's car, investigators said.

Officials noted that three men had already been convicted in 1994 of the Minerva-Imbergamo slayings: the late Joseph "Jo Jo" Russo, Anthony "Chucky" Russo and Joseph Montelone Sr.

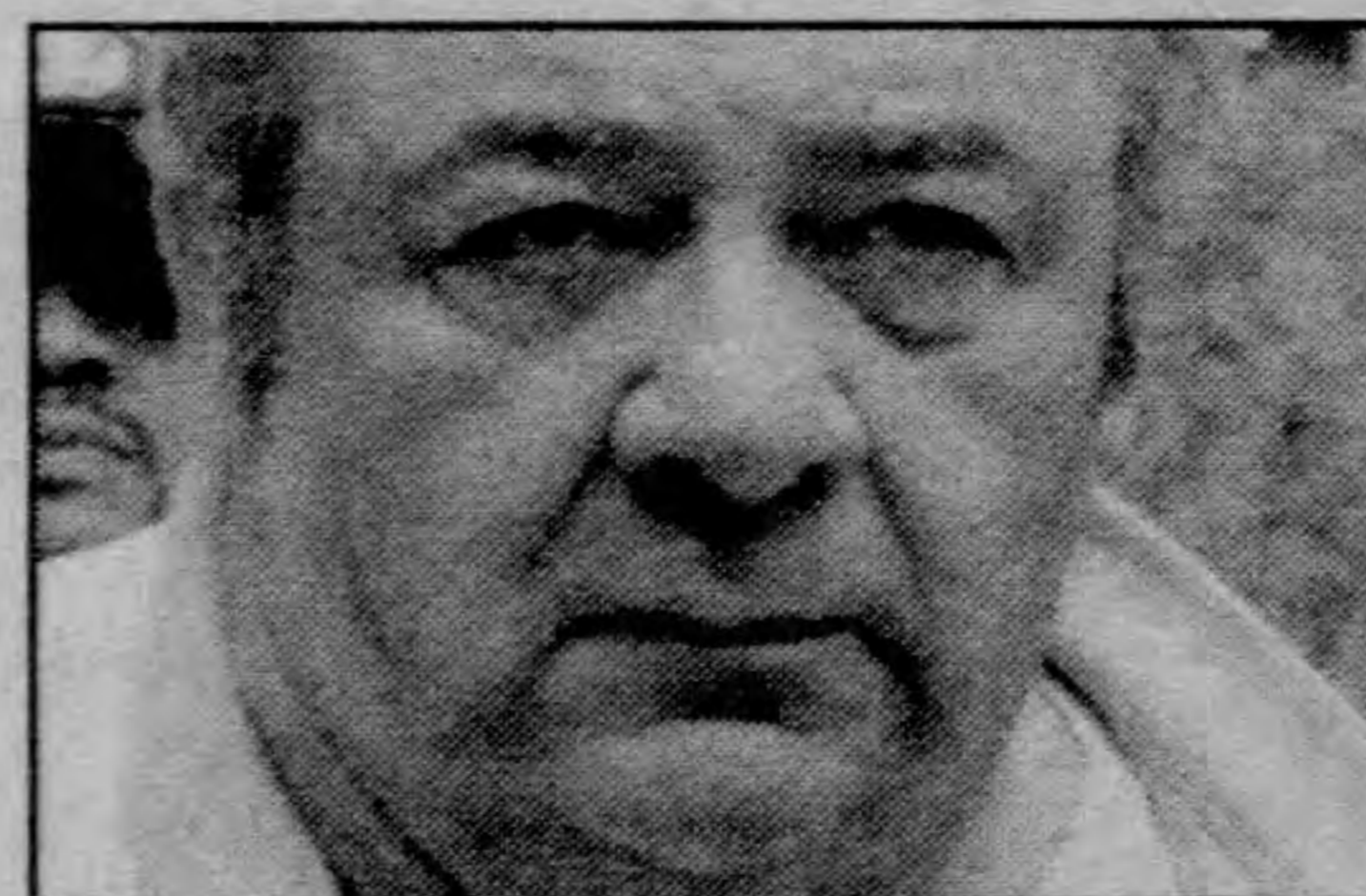
At a Brooklyn news conference, Nassau District Attorney Kathleen Rice said that a 2006 tip from an informant led her staff to implicate Gioeli and Dino Calabro, 41, of Wantagh, in the two homicides. "We have evidence to show they were actively and intimately involved in these murders," Rice said.

Federal agents made one arrest in the case in Los Angeles, where Orlando Spado, 63, was picked up on charges that he and Christopher Curanovic, 26, carried out a push-in robbery.

Benton Campbell, U.S. attorney for the Eastern District, said the arrests were the latest in a long string of blows to the Colombo family. Beset by wars and infighting since the early 1990s, the group has lost members and leaders through numerous prosecutions. Current boss Carmine Persico is serving a life term for his 1986 conviction in the federal mob Commission Case. In December, Persico's



Dino Calabro of Wantagh



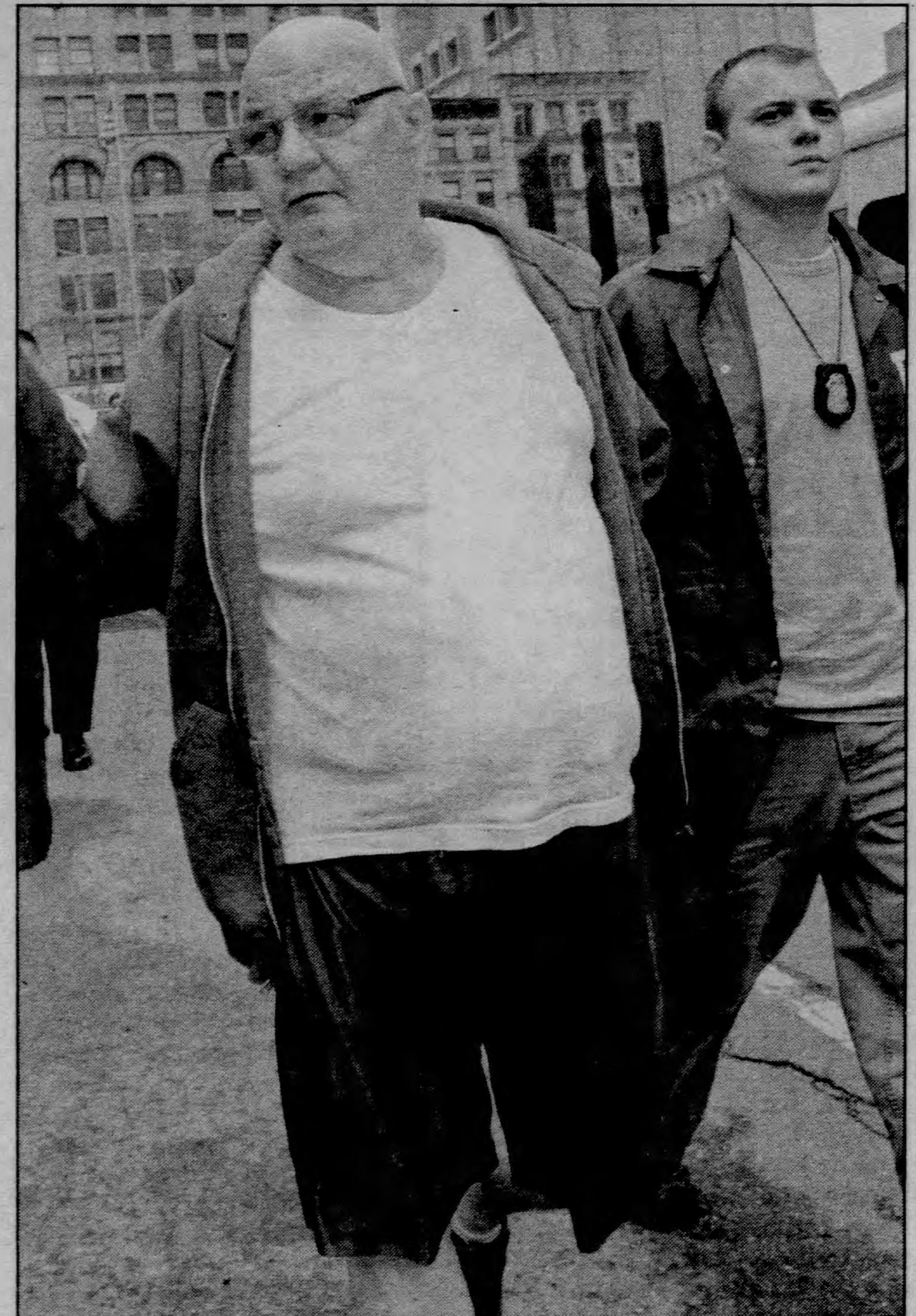
Joseph DiGorga of Oceanside

son Alphonse, 53, once the acting Colombo boss, was convicted of racketeering murder.

"Our goal is simple: to prosecute and convict the members of the Colombo organized crime family until that organized crime group is out of business," Campbell said.

Among the extortions charged in the case is one in 2003 involving the Cujini Due Pizzeria in Albertson, officials said. In a memorandum filed in court, prosecutors said Angelo Giangrande, a reputed Colombo associate from Mineola, paid Michael Catapano, 42, of Franklin Square, so that Catapano could use his mob ties to coerce two owners of the pizzeria to sell it at a discount.

Franzese, Catapano and Joseph DiGorga, 67, of Oceanside, were charged in the extortion.



Thomas Gioeli is led to arraignment yesterday in Manhattan.

### Nervous neighborhood

In N. Massapequa, few talk about 1992 killings

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NOW ONLINE

See photos of the Colombo crime family members on their way to arraignment.

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Arc Liu, 19, is reunited with Boy.

## A little dog, a big journey

BY CARL MACGOWAN  
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If only Arc Liu's dog could talk. The 6-year-old Chihuahua might tell a fascinating tale of life on the run after escaping Monday from a Brooklyn backyard.

Most of all, the pooch, named Boy, might explain how the heck he got from Sunset Park all the way to Holbrook, where he was found Tuesday.

Boy was reunited with Liu yesterday after spending Tuesday night with the family of Sue Pierce, who took him in after he was discovered by Pierce's Holbrook neighbors, Dino and Teri Vassino.

But nobody knows how the four-legged wayfarer made the nearly

60-mile journey.

"He's really cute," Pierce said. "He seems to be in good health, except his feet on the underside seem to be cut up."

Boy got lost Monday afternoon after Liu, 19, of Bensonhurst, and his girlfriend, Erica Chan, 18, stopped at a friend's house in Sunset Park. Boy was left in the friend's fenced backyard "for five minutes and he was gone," Liu said. "We were driving around for two days straight looking for him."

The Vassinos found the dog Tuesday evening on the street in their neighborhood and called Pierce, thinking it might be hers. It wasn't.

Pierce took him to a Selden animal hospital, which found an identifica-

tion microchip embedded between Boy's shoulders. Pierce called Liu, who was convinced by descriptions of the dog that it was Boy.

By coincidence, Pierce and her daughter, Kristen, 17, had named the dog Jack before contacting Liu.

"He said, 'Please don't call me Arc. Call me what my friends call me,'" Pierce said. "My friends call me Jack."

Boy licked Liu's face after Liu, Chan and Boy's 7-year-old sister, Girl, drove to a Holbrook service station yesterday for the happy reunion.

Liu guessed someone may have picked up Boy "and went the wrong way."

"I think everything was coincidence maybe," Liu said.