



## *A CAP Aerospace Education Moment*

Did you know?

One of the people involved with creating Civil Air Patrol was the Mayor of New York City, Fiorello La Guardia, who had been appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to be Director of Civilian Defense. This gave him the power to make the organization that Gill Robb Wilson had already created for the state of New Jersey into a National organization under Civilian Defense. The old CAP emblem was a blue disk with a white triangle in the center and a red three-bladed propeller in the triangle. Actually, it was the Civilian Defense emblem with the propeller replacing the initials CD.

LaGuardia was a popular figure in New York City. He was born there, the son of Italian immigrants. He spoke both Italian and Yiddish fluently and also knew other European languages spoken by immigrants. He worked as an interpreter at Ellis Island while studying law at NYU Law School. Once he became a lawyer, he got involved in politics. He was serving as a congressman when the US got involved in World War I. Congressman La Guardia had voted for war and took a leave of absence from Congress to join the Army. He had taken flying lessons from Giuseppe Bellanca and was commissioned as a lieutenant and sent to Italy in charge of a batch of young Americans to fly Caproni Ca.5, three-engine, fabric-covered, bi-plane bombers with the Italians against their enemies in Austria. (It should be noted that in WWI, the Italians were on the same side as the US, British, French, and Russians.) When not flying in training or on combat missions, La Guardia would visit various Italian cities to make speeches, giving a pep-talk and telling people that many more Americans would be coming to help them. He also encouraged his own men to go to town in their uniforms to show the Italian public that the Americans were really there.

La Guardia would serve more terms in Congress and was elected for 3 terms as Mayor of New York. He supported Roosevelt's "New Deal" while in Congress and Roosevelt supported Mayor La Guardia's efforts to make New York City a better place for all its citizens. Proud of his Italian heritage, La Guardia hated Italian gangsters whom he felt were an insult to hard-working Italians. He did his best for immigrants, working men, women, and the unemployed, helped get the High School of Music and Art (now La Guardia High School) started. During a newspaper strike, he read the Sunday comics over the radio. La Guardia Airport is named after him as is a community college in Long Island City. A Broadway musical, *Fiorello!*, about his life won three Tony awards, a Pulitzer Prize, and got good reviews. The original cast album was a hit, too.

### **NEARLY EVERY UNIT IN NY WING GAVE THE NEW POA SYSTEM A TRY!**

The NY Wing Aero Ed staff is very proud of the Groups and Squadrons that participated in this new system. We are certain that National is pleased by this level of cooperation especially since everyone was confused when the new Plan of Action was initially revealed.

Thank you, Commanders and AEO's for, once again, doing a great job.

### **NATIONAL IS STILL WORKING ON GETTING STEM KIT ISSUED MODEL AIRCRAFT REGISTERED**

Many units and Aerospace Education Members had applied for and received STEM kits with either quadcopters or fixed-wing radio-controlled models. These models **may not** be flown outdoors until National tells us that the situation is resolved. Also note that some towns and counties are making laws against models.