



A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

American Airlines Flight 587

On November 12, 2001, American Airlines Flight 587 from New York to the Dominican Republic ended in disaster. Minutes after takeoff, the plane went down and crashed in Rockaway, Queens. All 251 passengers, nine crew members and five people on the ground were killed. It was all the more tragic as it came just two months and a day after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, a time when our city was still reeling from an unimaginable loss.

Then as now, Hostos Community College and the South Bronx have a special connection to the Dominican Republic. The college's namesake, Eugenio María de Hostos, is buried in Santo Domingo. Many of our students are of Dominican descent. Also at the College, we have faculty, staff and administration members who are of the Dominican community.

This year, we wish to recognize the artist, Mr. Freddy Rodríguez who designed an outdoor memorial located in the borough of Queens. His artwork was dedicated to the victims who perished in the American Airlines Flight 587 crash in 2001. The mural was unveiled in Rockaway park in 2006 and was conceptualized with space for people to leave memories between inscriptions of the names of the victims. Mr. Rodríguez, a native of the Dominican Republic, recently passed away and was devoted to creating works that commemorated and celebrated the lives of Dominicans in New York City.

It seemed that everyone in this community was touched by the loss of Flight 587, either directly by losing a loved one or indirectly by knowing someone who did. Therefore, I ask that you join me in a moment of silence at 9:18am tomorrow, November 12 to honor those we lost on that cold autumn morning 21 years ago.

In solidarity,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President

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