



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

September 16, 2009

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the invitation to be an Honorary Judge for the Pigeon Fanciers of Connecticut exhibit at the Orange Country Fair on September 19, 2009. Unfortunately, I have a scheduling conflict that prevents my attendance.

I must admit, my knowledge of pigeons and pigeon fanciers was sparse before I received your invitation. But having done a little research on the hobby, I came across some fascinating facts about these birds. It surprised me to learn that, throughout history, pigeons have been admired and even worshipped, held sacred in some cultures. They are commonly seen as symbols of peace (which I knew) and often used as a source of food (which I could have guessed). From recreational pets to feathered soldiers, I discovered that the history of the pigeon is vastly diverse. Interestingly, it was a pigeon that delivered the results of the very first Olympics back in 776 B.C. And it was a Black Check Cock carrier pigeon, Cher Ami that succeeded in delivering the message that saved 194 soldiers of the "Lost Battalion" of the 77th Infantry Division of the United States Army during WWI.

For millennia, the pigeon has been credited with saving thousands of lives as a messenger in wars from ancient Egypt to America. How times have changed since the first Olympics! Whether raised for carrying messages, racing, or show, it is clear to me that pigeons are remarkable birds. With the exception of the potentially misunderstood Rock Dove that can be found in New York City, they continue to be popular in today's society for many hobbyists across the World.

Next month, Faircount Pigeon & Dove Club will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of its inception. For half a century, you have succeeded in providing a place for hobbyists to share their passion for these birds and continue the traditions of Pigeon Fanciers from generations of ancestors.

Congratulations on reaching this milestone, and good luck to all the contestants at the Orange Country Fair!

Sincerely Yours,

Michael Fedele
Lieutenant Governor