



TAXICAB, LIMOUSINE &  
PARATRANSIT ASSOCIATION

Representing taxicab, limousine, sedan, airport shuttle, paratransit, Medicaid & non-emergency medical fleets worldwide.

## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

For further information, please contact:  
Al LaGasse, TLPA Executive Vice President, (301) 946-5701  
Joseph Cirruzzo Sr., (718) 227-5666

### **Joseph A. Cirruzzo, Sr., President, A Elegant International Limousine, Staten Island, New York, Is Named TLPA 2004 Limousine & Sedan Operator of the Year**

A Elegant's International Affiliate Network  
Gives Hundreds of Small Limousine Operators Added Exposure, Income

KENSINGTON, MD — Joseph A. “Joey” Cirruzzo, Sr., president of A Elegant International Limousine in Staten Island, New York, has been named the Taxicab, Limousine & Paratransit Association’s 2004 Limousine & Sedan Operator of the Year. He was presented with this award on Thursday, November 4, at the Opening General Session at TLPA’s 86th Annual Convention & Trade Show in Orlando, Florida. With over 1,000 member companies from which to choose, TLPA’s Awards Committee selected Mr. Cirruzzo to receive this prestigious annual award because of his dedication to his company, his affiliates and the limousine industry,

Joey Cirruzzo was born in Manhattan, N.Y., and served in the U.S. Army from 1956 to 1959, where he was in charge of the motor pool. After he left the Army, he used the knowledge of vehicles he’d gained to build and drive race cars. After the birth of his daughter Julia in 1960 and son Joseph in 1967, Joey accepted a chauffeur position with a large New York City area limousine company.

“After gaining experience in chauffeuring, dispatch and office managing, I decided to start my own company in 1968 with one Cadillac stretch limousine,” Joey says. Today he has a fleet of over 60 vehicles ranging from sedans and Town Cars to vans and SUVs. In 1991, he and two other experienced limousine operators — John Patti of Buffalo and the late Jon Chester of San Diego — began pulling their work together and referring business, and established the Elegant Limousine Services (ELS) network of affiliates that now consists of over 350 companies worldwide.

The majority of affiliates in ELS are small operators. “They’re dedicated,” Joey says. “They get the job done. They are the backbone of the organization.” He also knows what it is like to grow a small business, and wants to give others the opportunity to grow their companies as well. “If you never forget where you came from,” he says, “you will always be successful.”

**MORE**

## 2004 TLPA Limousine & Sedan Operator of the Year Joseph A. Cirruzzo, Sr.

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A Elegant International Limousine is a family affair. Joe Jr. handles the overall operation from the New York office, training the staff on taking reservations, customer service, dispatching, the computer system, and the national and worldwide affiliate program. Julia handles the accounting office and her staff, payroll and a few specialized clients. Joey's grandson, Michael, works taking reservations and dispatching vehicles.

Joey credits the company's family atmosphere with contributing to its success. "Training and working alongside the staff and treating them as family is our biggest asset to having a successful office operation," he says. "It keeps everyone involved with service to our clients and affiliates. We treat every client as we would like to be treated. Every one of them is high priority and important."

A Elegant International Limousine provides a policies and procedures manual to office staff and chauffeurs, describing in detail what is required of them. The company also does drug testing and state and nationwide background checks. Drivers undergo an in-house training program that involves driving skills, a written test on familiarity with the five New York boroughs, airport procedures, and major restaurants, hotels and historical locations.

Joey Cirruzzo is active in the industry, serving on the TLPA Board of Directors and the TLPA Limousine & Sedan Steering Committee. He is on the board and several committees of the National Limousine Association, and is a member of the New England Livery Association, the New Jersey Limousine Association, the Florida Limousine Association and the National Ground Transportation Association.

In response to being named this year's TLPA Limousine & Sedan Operator of the Year, Joey says, "I'm very excited and fulfilled, especially when I realize we are only the second company after my late, dear friend, Jon Chester of Limousines by Linda, that has not only been honored with an Operator of the Year Award, but also a Chauffeur of the Year Award." Joey, along with TLPA Limousine & Sedan Steering Committee Co-chair Michael Fogarty, worked with the Taxicab, Limousine & Paratransit Foundation to create the Jon Chester Memorial Fund earlier this year. Chester passed away in 2003 after a long battle with cancer.

In honor of his dedication to his company, his affiliates and the limousine industry, TLPA is very proud to honor Joey Cirruzzo as the TLPA 2004 Limousine & Sedan Operator of the Year.

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*The Taxicab, Limousine & Paratransit Association is the industry association representing taxicab, limousine, sedan, airport shuttle, paratransit, Medicaid, and nonemergency medical fleets worldwide. In existence since 1917, the association makes its headquarters in Kensington, Maryland, a suburb of Washington, D.C. TLPA has over 1,000 corporate members that operate over 100,000 passenger vehicles and transport over 2 million passengers each day. TLPA's Annual Operator of the Year Awards recognize excellence and exemplary practices among its membership.*

**Trade Press:** Please note we have this press release in several formats, as well as a high-resolution photo of Mr. Cirruzzo, available for download on our web site at [www.tlpa.org](http://www.tlpa.org).

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