



## SHAMONG TOWNSHIP

*Burlington County*  
105 Willow Grove Road  
Shamong, NJ 08088  
609.268.2377  
[www.shamong.net](http://www.shamong.net)

### **July 13, 2109 - Carranza Memorial - Shamong Mayor Michael S. Di Croce Opening Speech**

I am honored and happy to be here to remember Captain Emilio Carranza Rodriguez for the 91st annual memorial hosted by the American Legion Post #11 out of Mt. Holly. I wish to acknowledge the Ambassadors of Mexico from NY and Philadelphia, Mt. Holly Post #11, Shamong Councilman Cooney, Tabernacle Mayor Barton and all of our friends from Mexico and the relatives and friends of Captain Carranza.

91 years ago, a young man not yet 23 years old, took off from Mexico City in a small plane bound for Washington DC and NY. In Washington DC he was greeted by President Calvin Coolidge and thousands of well-wishers.

From there he flew nonstop to NY and landed at Roosevelt Field in Long Island where he was given a hero's welcome and ticker tape parade to celebrate the amazing accomplishment of his 4,300 solo mile flight. By himself, no radio, no radar, no gps.

After several days in NY, having been delayed because of bad weather, he took off at around 7 o'clock at night to start his long journey home. Only three people at the airport knew that had had taken off. On his way, which by the way was like flying round trip to California, he encountered one of our powerful Pinelands thunderstorms where his plane crashed not far from this very site.

He was found by citizens of Chatsworth and members of the Mt. Holly American Legion Post #11. Eventually his body was returned to NY where there was a memorial service where more than 200,000 people stood in silence to honor him, and more than 10,000 US soldiers and airmen came to show their love and respect.

We stand before the memorial which was built from the pennies of the Mexican children.

This is my 11<sup>th</sup> time to be here and I come, as I know you do, to pay our respect to this brave and courageous man. His father said it best when he said "The tribute which the people of the United States gives to my son are given to him not only because he was a soldier but, because he was a servant who was on a mission to unite our two countries in goodwill, never before and never since".

We honor Captain Emilio Carranza, his family, the people of Mexico and we thank you for coming out to show your love and respect to this hero.

God Bless Captain Carranza, the people of Mexico and God Bless America.

Mayor Michael S. Di Croce