

FDNY MEDAL DAY 2010



*Honoring the Courage, Commitment and Compassion
of FDNY Fire & EMS Members*

MEDAL DAY 2010

Salvatore J. Cassano
Fire Commissioner

Edward S. Kilduff
Chief of Department

Francis X. Gribbon
Deputy Commissioner
Office of Public Information



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EDITOR
Janet Kimmerly

GRAPHICS/PRODUCTION
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Photo Credits

Cover

Brooklyn Box 75-800, 376 Palmetto Street, March 24, 2009, the incident for which FF Giovanni A. Martinez, Ladder 124, is awarded the Walter Scott Medal.
photo by Queens Dispatcher Joseph Epstein

Opposite and Back Cover

Manhattan Box 55-0132, 22 James Street, February 24, 2009, the incident for which Lieutenant JonPaul Augier, Ladder 1, is awarded the Hugh Bonner and Honor Legion Medals, FF Joseph B. Jurgens, Ladder 1, is awarded the Emily Trevor/Mary B. Warren Medal and Ladder Company 6--Lieutenant Michael Pietracatella (Bn-6) and FFs Michael F. Cahill, Sean M. Cahill (Engine 9), Keith C. Johnson, Patrick J. O'Grady and Joseph M. Scott, III--is awarded the Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Medal.
photos by Vic Nicastro



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*Deputy Assistant Chief of
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Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

It is a great pleasure to welcome all those attending the New York City Fire Department's Medal Day ceremonies.

As a New Yorker, I've witnessed firsthand the courage and compassion of our Bravest. These dedicated men and women sacrifice so much to ensure the safety and well-being of their fellow residents, performing their duties exceptionally well, even under the most stressful and dangerous of circumstances. Today's ceremony is a wonderful opportunity to honor them for their incredible acts of bravery and heroism during the past year and I'm proud to join everyone gathered in applauding their outstanding work.

I am honored to congratulate Paramedic Margaret Vega of Station 20, who is being awarded the Christopher J. Prescott Medal, and Marine Company 1, which is receiving the World Trade Center Memorial Medal. And, a very special congratulations to Firefighter Michael Czech of Ladder 142 in Queens, who is being awarded the James Gordon Bennett Medal--the Department's top medal. All of these honorees represent the very best that the FDNY has to offer and I commend them for their commitment to giving back to their communities and improving the quality of life in our City.

On behalf of all New Yorkers, please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable event and continued success.

A handwritten signature of Michael R. Bloomberg in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned at the bottom center of the page.



Salvatore J. Cassano
Fire Commissioner

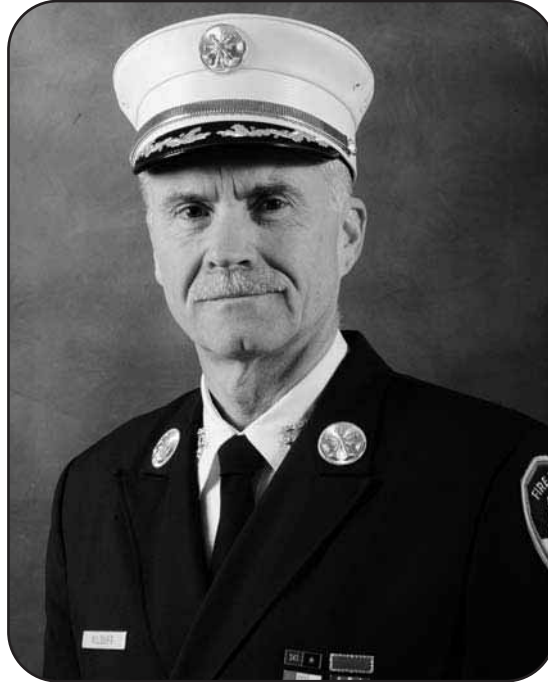
Medal Day is the premier celebratory event on the Department calendar, not just for the companies and members who are awarded medals, but for all of us in the FDNY as we praise the many courageous and selfless acts that Firefighters, Fire Officers, Fire Marshals and Emergency Medical Service personnel perform every day.

This year, we'll celebrate an achievement the Department has not seen since 1905--the James Gordon Bennett Medal will be awarded to a member of the same unit two years in a row. Since the Bennett Medal was established in 1869, this uncommon event has occurred only three times in FDNY history: 1869/1870--Engine 9; 1899/1900--Ladder 14; and 1904/1905--Ladder 4. Now, FF Michael Czech and Ladder 142 join this rarefied club, truly a remarkable milestone for the entire company.

Congratulations also to Paramedic Margaret Vega of Station 20, who is awarded the Christopher J. Prescott Medal, the top EMS award. This represents a historic turning point for the Department and EMS because it is the first time that a woman has been selected for the most prestigious EMS medal.

Since teamwork is the hallmark of our job, I also want to highlight the three fire companies that are being recognized today. Engine Company 22's aggressive engine operations under wind-driven fire conditions facilitated the rescue of five trapped occupants from a 42-story, high-rise multiple dwelling. Ladder Company 6's members worked under severe conditions during a five-alarm fire in Chinatown, rescuing numerous victims. And, Marine 1 members, recipients of the World Trade Center Memorial Medal, are being honored for their efforts on January 15, 2009, rescuing 20 passengers from the plane that landed miraculously on the frigid Hudson River.

All of New York is thankful to have such dedicated, well-trained and brave first responders. As your Commissioner, I am proud of you all.



Edward S. Kilduff
Chief of Department

One of the most unusual aspects of this year's Medal Day is the number of water rescues that occurred in 2009. When we consider that there are 560 miles of New York City waterfront for FDNY to protect, perhaps eight water rescues are not so out of the ordinary after all.

These water rescues certainly run the gamut--from the *Miracle on the Hudson*, the incident for which Marine 1 is awarded the World Trade Center Memorial Medal, as well as Firefighters Brian McLaughlin (Hispanic Society Memorial Medal) and Michael Povolny (Holy Name Society Medal--Brooklyn/Queens), both from Ladder 21, for their individual efforts at the same incident, to the more "typical" water rescues of someone in the river or lost swimming in the surf.

How fortunate, then, that our new fireboat, *Three Forty Three*, arrived in New York in May and will be placed in service as Marine 1. *Fire Fighter II* will follow in a few months and go into service as Marine 9, as will a 64-foot "fast response boat," which will be assigned to Marine 6.

Turning to land-based heroics, when the call comes in for a member of service (MOS), a different mindset takes over the first responder--whether Firefighter or EMT. This was the case at the October 24, 2009, accident in Brooklyn when Engine 236 and Ladder 107 collided, resulting in multiple injured Firefighters. Emotions were set aside and professionalism and skill took over, as exemplified by the numerous EMS personnel who are awarded the Tracy Allen-Lee and Chief James Scullion Medals for their outstanding and rewarding efforts at this incident.

Congratulations to all Medal Day recipients and thank you for making all of us at FDNY--and, indeed, all of New York City and the entire fire service--proud of your accomplishments.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward S. Kilduff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

FIRST DEPUTY COMMISSIONER



DANIEL SHACKNAI

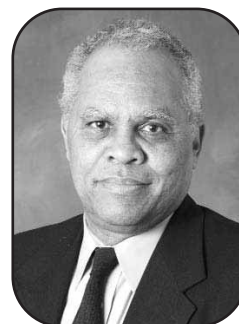
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*Battalion Chief,
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Brooklyn*



James E. Esposito
*Assistant Chief
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*Deputy Assistant Chief
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Battalion Chief
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Haz-Mat Operations

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Acting, Division 1



Deputy Chief
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Division 3



Deputy Chief
Raymond M. Stanton
Division 6



Deputy Chief
James F. Mulrenan
Division 7



Deputy Chief
Richard J. Howe
Division 8



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Division 11



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Division 13



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Robert A. Hannafey
Chief EMS Division 3



Michael J. Fitton
Chief EMS Division 4



Albert T. Gehres, Jr.
Chief EMS Division 5

THE JAMES GORDON BENNETT MEDAL WINNERS

The James Gordon Bennett Medal was established in 1869 and, for years, it was the sole decoration awarded for valor in the Fire Department of the City of New York. As a result of its seniority among medals, it is awarded annually for the most outstanding act of heroism after the consideration and deliberate judgment of the members of the Medal Board of the NYC Fire Department.

- 1869--Lieutenant Minthorne D. Tompkins (L-1)
 Captain Benjamin A. Gicquel (E-9)
- 1870--Lieutenant Charles L. Kelly (E-9)
- 1871--Firefighter Ambrose L. Austin (E-15)
- 1872--Lieutenant Thomas Henry (L-6)
 Firefighter Thomas Hutchinson (L-1)
- 1873--Battalion Chief William H. Nash (Bn-7)
 Firefighter Alfred Conner (L-10)
 Lieutenant Henry Schuck (E-34)
- 1874--Captain William Mitchell (E-10)
- 1875--Lieutenant James Horn (E-11)
- 1876--Firefighter Joseph McGowan (E-6)
- 1877--Firefighter Thomas J. Dougherty (L-1)
- 1878--Captain Daniel J. Meagher (L-3)
- 1879--Firefighter Paul Bauer (L-4)
- 1880--Firefighter John Levins (L-2)
- 1881--Firefighter Michael Connerford (E-12)
- 1882--Firefighter John L. Rooney (L-10)
- 1883--Firefighter William B. Kirchner (E-11)
- 1884--Firefighter John Binns (E-32)
- 1885--Captain Peter H. Short (L-1)
- 1886--Firefighter Michael Brady (E-34)
- 1887--Lieutenant Samuel Banta (L-10)
- 1888--Lieutenant William Quirk (E-22)
- 1889--Firefighter William Reilly (L-12)
- 1890--Captain Thomas J. Ahern (E-5)
- 1891--Firefighter Patrick F. Lucas (E-30)
- 1892--Firefighter Patrick H. Aspell (L-4)
- 1893--Firefighter John Walker (L-6)
- 1894--Firefighter Denis Ryer (L-15)
- 1895--Firefighter William H. Behler (E-35)
- 1896--Firefighter Martin M. Coleman (L-3)
- 1898--Firefighter James Pearl (L-7)
- 1899--Firefighter John Hughes (1) (L-14)
- 1900--Firefighter William Clark (L-14)
- 1901--Firefighter Thomas J. McArthur (E-29)
- 1902--Firefighter Richard Nitsch (E-35)
- 1903--Firefighter Charles F. Douth (L-3)
- 1904--Firefighter James R. McAvoy (L-4)
- 1905--Firefighter Michael J. Stevens (L-4)
- 1906--Firefighter Cassimer C. Wodzicki (E-17)
- 1907--Firefighter Michael Nicklaus (L-4)
- 1908--Firefighter John T. Oakley (L-11)
- 1909--Battalion Chief George L. Ross (Bn-7)
- 1910--Firefighter John R. Harcke (L-12)
 Firefighter Frank C. Clarke (L-24)
- 1911--Firefighter Richard J. Condon (2) (E-12)
- 1912--Firefighter Robert J. Boyle (L-10)
- 1913--Engineer of Steamer Seneca Larke (E-20)
- 1914--Firefighter John F. Mooney (1) (L-4)
- 1915--Captain Thomas W. Smith (E-2)
- 1916--Firefighter James T. Daniels (L-26)
- 1917--Firefighter John Walsh (1) (L-1)
- 1918--Firefighter Patrick R. O'Connor (L-14)
- 1919--Lieutenant Francis Blessing (R-1)
- 1920--Firefighter Timothy F. O'Leary, Jr. (E-15)
- 1921--Firefighter Frank J. Costello (L-12)
- 1922--Firefighter Jacob F. Ferber (E-239)
- 1923--Captain Edwin A.A. Quinn (E-14)
- 1924--Hon. Medical Off. Harry M. Archer, MD
- 1925--Captain Thomas J. O'Toole (E-27)
- 1926--Firefighter William G.R. Mitchell (E-18)
- 1927--Firefighter Michael McInerney (L-12)
- 1928--Captain James A. Walsh (1) (E-234)
- 1929--Firefighter George W. Reilly (L-19)
- 1930--Firefighter Edward V. Conroy (L-1)
- 1931--Captain Albert B. Carlson (E-66)
- 1932--Firefighter Vincent J. Hyde (R-3)
- 1933--Captain Cornell M. Garety (R-1)
- 1934--Firefighter Rudolph F. Musil (L-12)
- 1935--Firefighter George J. Wolken (E-60)
- 1936--Firefighter Joseph E. Smith (2) (E-211)
- 1937--Firefighter James P. Nevin (E-201)
- 1938--Firefighter Charles G. Roscher (L-1)
- 1939--Firefighter Daniel J. Sullivan (L-3)
- 1940--Firefighter Charles A. Merz (L-168)
- 1941--Firefighter Thomas F. Brennan (L-111)
- 1942--Captain John W. Heaney (Hdq.)
- 1943--Firefighter John Colgan (L-2)
- 1944--Firefighter Harvey W. Crook (R-3)
- 1945--Captain George H. Winter (L-3)
- 1946--Firefighter Arthur L. Speyer (L-24)
- 1947--Firefighter Anthony J. Riccardi (L-26)
- 1948--Captain Patrick T. Green (R-1)
- 1949--Firefighter James S. Norton (L-163)
- 1950--Firefighter Wilbur J. O'Donnell (L-111)
- 1951--Firefighter Victor F. Rossi (L-120)
- 1952--Lieutenant John F. McGlynn (L-10)
- 1953--Firefighter Angelo Michelinini (E-97)
- 1954--Deputy Chief John T. Oakley (2) (Hdq.)
- 1955--Firefighter Bernard F. Curran (E-92)
- 1956--Firefighter Michael J. O'Driscoll (L-28)
- 1957--Firefighter William Von Diezelski (L-4)
- 1958--Firefighter Nicholas Sharko (L-11)
- 1959--Captain Arthur J. O'Connor (SQ-4)
- 1960--Firefighter William V. Russo (E-254)
- 1961--Firefighter Joseph G. Peragine (L-14)
- 1962--Firefighter Joseph E. Almon (L-35)
- 1963--Firefighter Lawrence F. Duenas (E-59)
- 1964--Firefighter David Crowley (L-14)
- 1965--Firefighter James E. Bowler (R-2)
- 1966--Firefighter Robert E. Farrell (L-31)
- 1967--Firefighter Thomas D. Ferraiuolo (L-28)
- 1968--Firefighter Gene P. Dowling (L-25)
- 1969--Firefighter James N. Temprow (E-217)
- 1970--Firefighter Charles Varner (L-55)
- 1971--Lieutenant Richard R. Hamilton (R-2)
- 1972--Firefighter Steven C. DeRosa (L-102)
- 1973--Firefighter Raymond G. McCann (L-40)
- 1974--Firefighter Gilbert J. Murtha (L-108)
- 1975--Firefighter Thomas J. Neary (L-31)
- 1976--Firefighter Martin McGovern (L-114)
- 1977--Captain Frederick W. Gallagher (R-2)
- 1978--Firefighter James H. Battillo (L-152)
- 1979--Firefighter John J. Pritchard (R-2)
- 1980--Lieutenant Thomas J. Neary (L-28)
- 1981--Lieutenant Howard R. Kennedy (L-154)
- 1982--Firefighter Joseph H. Dirks (L-103)
- 1983--Firefighter Kenneth L. Connelly (L-111)
- 1984--Firefighter Robert Merkel (L-42)
- 1985--Firefighter James A. Sollami (E-62)
- 1986--Captain James F. McDonnell (L-42)
- 1987--Lieutenant William F. Maloney (L-34)
- 1988--Firefighter John J. McDonnell (L-28)
- 1989--Captain Richard Jacquin (L-59)
- 1990--Lieutenant Gerard M. Murtha (R-3)
- 1991--Firefighter William E. Jutt (L-22)
- 1992--Firefighter Michael M. Dugan (L-43)
- 1993--Firefighter Albert J. Gonzalez, Jr. (L-18)
- 1994--Lieutenant John M. Fox (SQ-1)
- 1995--Firefighter Gregory J. Smith, Jr. (L-108)
- 1996--Firefighter Gerard J. Triglia (L-132)
- 1997--Firefighter John K. Duddy (L-28)
- 1998--Firefighter Stan J. Sussina (R-1)
- 1999--Captain John J. Pritchard (E-255)
- 2000--Firefighter Stephen P. Fenley (L-78)
- 2001--Firefighter John F. South (L-44)
- 2003--Battalion Chief James Marketti (Bn-48)
- 2004--Firefighter James F. Mills (L-176)
- 2005--Firefighter Victor J. Rosa, Jr. (L-138)
- 2006--Captain Christopher J. Joyce (E-318)
- 2007--Firefighter James T. Byrne (L-121)
- 2008--Lieutenant James F. Congema (Bn-19)
- 2009--Firefighter Anthony M. Romano (L-142)

James Gordon Bennett Medal NYS Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal

FIREFIGHTER MICHAEL A. CZECH, JR. *LADDER COMPANY 142*

January 27, 2009, 0453 hours, Box 75-2143, 97-12 93rd Street, Queens

Assigned to the FDNY on May 5, 2002. Previously assigned to Ladder 173. Uncle, Captain Kevin Cassidy (now deceased) was retired from Engine 320. Attended St. John's University, studying business management. Resides in Woodhaven, Queens, with his wife, Danielle.



Firefighting is a team effort and rare is the rescue that is effected solely due to the efforts of just one person. Most rescuers are quick to laud the contributions made by others who facilitated the rescue. This theory proved true in the early-morning hours of January 27, 2009, when the tones sounded in the quarters of Engine 285/Ladder 142, directing them to respond first-due to a phone alarm for a fire at 97-12 93rd Street.

On arrival, the members found heavy fire on the second floor of a three-story, 20- by 60-foot, Class 3, multiple dwelling with three apartments, one per floor. The fire was venting from the rear windows and the windows on the Exposure #4 side and auto-exposing to the third floor.

FF Michael A. Czech, Jr., Ladder 142, was assigned the outside vent position for the tour and he began assisting the chauffeur in setting up the tower ladder bucket. Heavy smoke was venting from the second and third floors and visibility was near zero, making it difficult to position the bucket. Once positioned, FFs Czech and Edward Rissland, Ladder 142, entered the bucket as civilians were screaming that there were children trapped in the front bedrooms.

When the bucket reached the third-floor windows, FF Czech began taking the right window and child guard gate and FF Rissland did the same to the other window and gate. While the outside team was forcing entry, Captain Kenneth Fink, Ladder 142, transmitted an *urgent* message that there was heavy fire in the rear of the second floor and it was moving toward the front of the building. The Officer called for a second hand-line for the fire floor. It took two hand-lines to extinguish the fire on the second floor.

When FF Czech vented the window and removed the child gate, he was driven back by a blast of heat and smoke. At this time, heavy fire and smoke were venting from the second-floor windows below Ladder 142's bucket. The Firefighter entered the bedroom on the third floor and immediately was faced with thick, black smoke and high heat. He dropped to his knees and began searching to the right, following the wall.

FF Czech quickly located a bed and made a sweep of the top of it, where he located the still body of Dylan Montero,

a six-year-old boy. FF Czech transmitted the 10-45. Simultaneously, FF Rissland, who followed FF Czech into the third floor, found 10-year-old Carlos Montero on a bed across the room and transmitted a 10-45. The two Firefighters then brought the children back to the window.

FF Czech handed FF Rissland (now in the bucket) the two victims. At this time, Battalion Chief Joseph Donlevy, Battalion 51, transmitted a report that four people were trapped on the top floor. After the two children were in the bucket, FF Czech continued his search in the difficult conditions on the floor above.

He retraced his search and found the door to the bedroom, where he had located the six-year-old boy, exited the bedroom and went deeper into the apartment. In the hallway outside the bedroom, FF Czech located 28-year-old Veronica Montero. He transmitted the 10-45 and started dragging her to the window.

FF Rissland helped guide FF Czech back to the window. At the window, FF Czech straddled the victim from behind and with a bear-hug grip, lifted her to the window. The heat forced the Firefighter lower to the ground and he was losing his grip of the unconscious victim. FF Rissland reached into the window from the bucket and grabbed her upper body. FF Czech then grabbed the woman from the lower part of her body and helped FF Rissland get her into the bucket. Once all three victims were in the bucket, FF Rissland lowered them to the ground.

FF Czech remained in the apartment and continued his search for the missing occupants. After handing the three victims to other Firefighters, FF Rissland rejoined FF Czech to assist with the search.

In his endorsement of the report of meritorious act for FF Czech, Deputy Chief Paul Ferro, Division 13, wrote, *In 27 years in the FDNY, I can honestly say this was the best rescue I have ever witnessed. The sight of the motionless bodies coming out of the windows, a mother and her two sons, without one second to spare, was inspiring to say the least. FF Czech did an outstanding job under horrendous conditions.* The Board of Merit agreed and FF Michael A. Czech, Jr., is honored today with the James Gordon Bennett and NYS Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medals.--NG



FF Michael Czech with the members of Ladder 142, following the rescue of victims. photo by Danny Iudici



Brooklyn Citizens Medal/ FF Louis Valentino Award

LIEUTENANT THOMAS M. CARRERA *LADDER COMPANY 168*

September 8, 2009, 1313 hours, Box 75-2892, 73 Bay 26th Street, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on October 15, 1995. Previously assigned to Engine 209 and Ladder 102. Member of the Columbia Association. Recipient of two unit citations. Resides on Staten Island with his wife, Jeanine, and their children, Madeline, Jenna and Vincent.

The challenge of firefighting requires resourcefulness and an extraordinary capacity for initiative. These attributes were commendably exemplified by Lieutenant Thomas Carrera at Box 2892, Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, as he effected the rescue of two trapped teenagers.

The pleasant afternoon did not portend the events that soon would unfold rapidly and change two young lives. Receipt of the alarm indicated fire in a two-story multiple dwelling. Ladder 168, with Lieutenant Carrera at the helm, arrived to a chaotic scene, characterized by a number of panicked civilians. Lieutenant Carrera focused on deciphering the anguished reports of children trapped and was informed that a 10-year-old girl was in need of rescue on the second floor.

As the Lieutenant approached the entrance to the building, he glanced down the exposure #2 side and caught a glimpse of a male teen gasping for air in a smoke-filled window. Several immediate command decisions were necessary to accomplish at least two known objectives with minimal manpower. Lieutenant Carrera ordered his outside vent firefighter, FF Andrew Provost, to place a portable ladder to the rear window on the exposure #2 side. Ascending the stairs, he ordered his forcible entry firefighter, FF Michael Ellia, to search the second floor for the young girl.

Intent on reaching the teen in the window to prevent him from jumping, Lieutenant Carrera was met with fire in the kitchen at the entrance to the apartment. He ordered his extinguisher firefighter, FF Anthony Watts (detailed from Engine 243), to keep the fire at bay as he slipped beneath the rolling flames. He crawled down the hallway to the

rear and upon entry to the room, recognized the presence of two male teen victims: one struggling for air and panicking in the choking smoke, and the second semi-conscious on the floor. He also recognized that the absence of a door on the room prevented him from isolating the area from the fire.

With increasing volumes of smoke, he managed to guide the ambulatory victim to the window and pass him off to FF Provost who was on the portable ladder. The second victim proved more challenging, particularly due to verbal reports from FF Ellia that the extinguisher was depleted and flames now were entering the hallway. Still without the benefit of a charged hose-line and with no viable means of egress, it was imperative to accomplish the rescue immediately.

With great effort, Lieutenant Carrera managed to hoist the shirtless teen to the window where he was lowered to the street by FF Provost. The Lieutenant then contacted FFs Ellia and Watts, determined that the search of the second floor was complete with negative results and ensured that all members of the inside team safely exited the building.

At this incident, Lieutenant Carrera was faced with challenges on several levels, including the need to set objectives, anticipate the need for a ladder at the second floor, orchestrate a coordinated team effort under dire conditions and personally effect a difficult rescue without the benefit of a charged hose-line. In the performance of these actions, Lieutenant Thomas Carrera demonstrated that he is, indeed, worthy of recognition by the Fire Department and is awarded the Brooklyn Citizens Medal/FF Louis Valentino Medal.

--JF

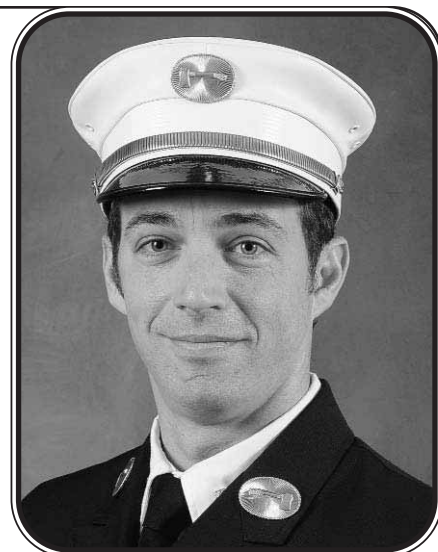


Ladder 168 operates at Brooklyn Box 75-2842, 7421 18th Avenue, January 19, 2008.

Hugh Bonner Medal Honor Legion Medal LIEUTENANT JONPAUL AUGIER *LADDER COMPANY 1*

February 24, 2009, 0348 hours, Box 55-0132, 22 James Street, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on January 26, 1997. Previously assigned to Ladder 14. Grandfather, FF Charles McCarren (now deceased), was retired from Engine 13; father, Lieutenant Louis I. Augier, is retired from Battalion 45; uncles, Captain Charles McCarren, is retired from Engine 319 and Lieutenant Richard McCarren, is retired from Battalion 51; cousins, FFs Daniel McCarren is assigned to Engine 53, James McCarren is assigned to Engine 298 and Steven McCarren is assigned to Engine 308; and cousin, Paramedic Charles McCarren, is assigned to EMS Battalion 46. Resides in St. James, Long Island, with his wife, Ligia, and their children, Sophia and Oliver.



Ask Firefighters where the most seriously exposed position on the fireground is located and almost all will state the apartment directly above the fire. Time is a critical factor and adds to the extreme dangers of this position. The clock ticks toward a point where fire will break out between floorboards, potentially triggering a floor collapse. Faced with the assignment of the floor above, at an advanced fire in a heavily occupied building, Lieutenant JonPaul Augier, Ladder 1, understood the dangers involved. With a high probability of people trapped upstairs, he also knew what he had to do to get to them.

On February 24, 2009, at 0348 hours, Ladder 1 received a phone alarm for 22 James Street. Immediately on arrival, Lieutenant Augier gave a 10-75 to Battalion Chief Robert Norcross, Battalion 1, for heavy smoke pushing from the fifth floor.

Lieutenant Augier and his forcible entry team--FFs Joseph Jurgens, with the irons, and Erik Rivera, with the extinguisher--entered the lobby and went down the long corridor to the stairs in the rear of the building. Simultaneously, dozens of terrified occupants were running past the rescuers to escape the fire. When Lieutenant Augier reached the second floor, he found a very heavy smoke condition.

Members of Ladders 1 and 6 began donning their masks when fire erupted from the open doorway of the fire apartment. Flames raced over their heads and up the open interior stairs. High heat in a narrow public hall forced both companies off the fire floor. Engine 6 members then brought a line up the stairs and pushed the fire back down the hall. Lieutenant Augier evaluated the conditions and decided that he and his team would make a push to the floor above. Immediately upon getting above the fire, the Lieutenant ordered his team to force a door for refuge in case conditions turned on them.

Lieutenant Augier and Ladder 1 members then turned their attention to the apartments above the fire. They searched the apartment on the exposure #4 side and

all searches were negative. Lieutenant Augier and his forcible entry team then entered the apartment on the exposure #2 side. The apartment was banked to the floor with heavy smoke. While he went straight ahead, the Lieutenant ordered FF Jurgens to search to the left.

The Lieutenant felt the heat intensifying and he vented a window to relieve conditions. He then fell back to his knees to get away from the intensifying heat in the upper portion of the room. When he crawled a little deeper into the kitchen, he found an unconscious woman, 19-year-old Jin Ru Lin, curled up in the corner. He transmitted a 10-45 and almost simultaneously, FF Jurgens found an unconscious male in the apartment.

Conditions were deteriorating rapidly and high heat enveloped the kitchen. Fire had burned through the floor and taken over the room next to the kitchen. Lieutenant Augier knew there was no hose-line on the floor with him yet, so time was critical. He had to get Ms. Lin out of this apartment before the whole apartment lit up.

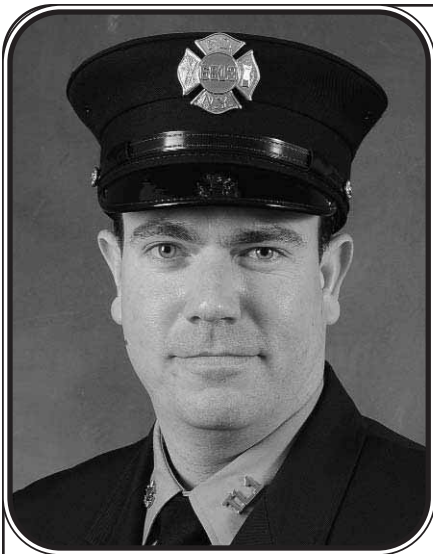
Without the protection of a charged hose-line, using great strength and determination, Lieutenant Augier dragged Ms.

Lin to the front door, while protecting her with his body from the growing fire near the kitchen. He and FF Rivera then dragged the woman into the public hall. After ensuring FF Jurgens also had exited the apartment with the male victim, the Lieutenant closed the apartment door behind them. With the help of FF Rivera, Lieutenant Augier removed Ms. Lin from the building to a waiting ambulance. Suffering from respiratory arrest, she was transported to Beth Israel Hospital. Surviving her ordeal, Ms. Lin later was transferred to Jacobi.

Lieutenant JonPaul Augier's actions are emblematic of the great traditions of the New York City Fire Department. For this reason, he is recognized today with the Hugh Bonner Medal/Honor Legion Medal.--CB



Members at Manhattan Box 55-0132, 22 James Street, February 24, 2009. photo by Vic Nicastro



Emily Trevor/ Mary B. Warren Medal

FIREFIGHTER JOSEPH B. JURGENS

LADDER COMPANY 1

February 24, 2009, 0348 hours, Box 55-132, 22 James Street, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on February 2, 2003. Cousins, FFs Matty and Joseph Tuohy, are retired from Ladder 53 and Engine 313, respectively, and Andrew Tuohy is assigned to Engine 43. Recipient of a Class A and Hero of the Month award, from the Daily News. Attended Nassau Community College and Arizona State University. Resides in Monroe, New York, with his wife, Steffanie, and their son, Jack Thomas.

The silence of the freezing-cold winter morning of Tuesday, February 24, 2009, was shattered, as fire was reported coming from the second floor of 22 James Street, Manhattan. On arrival, the members of Tower Ladder Company 1 were met with a well-advanced fire that already had forced occupants to jump from the building. Lieutenant JonPaul Augier knew that getting water on the fire would be an issue due to the freezing temperatures. As the inside team, consisting of probationary FF Erik Rivera, the extinguisher Firefighter, and FF Joseph Jurgens, irons Firefighter, entered the second-floor public hallway, they immediately encountered high heat and blackout smoke conditions.

Members were forced to lay flat on the floor as Engine 6 personnel directed their hose stream down the public hallway in an attempt to darken down the fire coming from the rear apartment. With the hose-line in place, Lieutenant Augier crossed the hall and ascended the open interior stairs to the floor above, despite the fact that the fire was extending down the second-floor public hallway and up the open interior staircase to the third floor.

Ladder 1's inside team braved the untenable conditions in the stairway to make the third-floor hallway landing. Ultimately, this action placed them in the most dangerous position of this or any fire operation--at the floor above an advancing fire. Once these determined Firefighters made it past this swiftly moving fire, they immediately gained entry to a front apartment, securing an area for refuge.

The entire inside team then crawled to the rear of the building by way of the third-floor public hallway. As the team reached the rear of the building, FF Jurgens forced entry into a rear bedroom apartment. The floor of this apartment was hot to the touch and the entire flat was charged with blinding, black smoke.

FF Jurgens made a quick check behind the apartment door and then started a search along the left wall of the kitchen. He then crawled down an interior hallway that led to the bedrooms in the front of the apartment. There, FF Jurgens discovered a male victim,

face down and motionless. He rolled the man over and determined that he was unconscious and unresponsive. Simultaneously, Lieutenant Augier discovered an unconscious woman in the far corner of the kitchen.

FF Jurgens and Lieutenant Augier knew their only chance to save these fire victims was to remove them quickly from the third-floor fire area. Unfortunately, high heat had entered in the kitchen and visible flame now could be seen entering the kitchen from the rear of the apartment, as the fire from below now burned through the flooring of the third-floor rear apartment.

As FF Rivera depleted his 2¹/₂-gallon water extinguisher, the fire was freely burning in this third-floor rear apartment. Without the protection of a charged hose-line, this inside team was in danger and the narrow public hallway--measuring 34 inches wide--made rescue efforts extremely difficult. Once in the narrow stairwell with their victims, both members were alarmed by radio transmissions from a Chief Officer on the second floor, reporting problems with advancing the primary hose-line to the fire.

Faced with a limited chance for escape since the fire was burning up through the second floor, the inside team of Ladder 1 continued removing both victims from the third floor, which now was free-burning. FF Jurgens successfully removed Wei Lin, who was in respiratory arrest, and brought him to the street in front of the fire building. The Firefighter initiated rescue breathing on Mr. Lin before turning patient care over to EMS personnel. Mr. Lin then was transported to Beth Israel Hospital and, some days later, he was released.

As of this date, Mr. Lin is still receiving out-patient medical treatment. He survived due to the highly professional and textbook manner in which FF Joseph Jurgens operated. While each member of this inside team is receiving a medal this year, FF Jurgens gave accolades to the outside Firefighters--Mike Casey and Mike McEwen--too. For these reasons, he is presented with the Emily Trevor/Mary B. Warren Medal and takes his place among the numerous Ladder 1 Medal Day winners.--PWB



Ladder 1 removes several people to safety. photo by Vic Nicastro

Thomas E. Crimmins Medal

FIREFIGHTER EDWARD B. RAMILO LADDER COMPANY 125

October 18, 2009, 0316 hours, Box 22-4909, 156-07 71st Avenue, Queens

Appointed to the FDNY on February 2, 2003. Holds a BS degree in Business Administration from SUNY College at Old Westbury. Resides in Dix Hills, Long Island, with his wife, Jane.



Queens Box 4909 was transmitted for a structural fire on the fifth floor at 153-03 71st Avenue, with Ladder 125 assigned as the first-due truck on October 18, 2009, at 0311 hours. At 0316 hours, Ladder 125 arrived at the reported address, a seven-story, 100- by 100-foot, fireproof, occupied multiple dwelling. The inside team of Lieutenant Joseph Fernicola and FFs Edward B. Ramilo, with the irons, and a detail from Engine 298, Leo Nishimori, with the extinguisher, made their way to the fifth floor. They found no conditions indicating a fire.

This information was transmitted to Battalion Chief Paul Tauber, Battalion 50, and a 10-7 (verify address/location) was requested. As soon as Lieutenant Fernicola finished his transmission, he received an *urgent* message from his chauffeur, FF Pete Grandazza. While en route to his position, the chauffeur discovered a fire on the fifth floor of a similar attached building.

Lieutenant Fernicola and the forcible entry team quickly made their way to the fifth floor of the fire building. The correct address turned out to be 156-07 71st Avenue. The fire was in apartment 5A. The building is part of the Pomonok Houses housing project. The Lieutenant and FFs Ramilo and Nishimori arrived at the fire apartment just as FF Peter Grandazza and the outside vent Firefighter from Ladder 152 were removing two victims from the fire apartment after forcing the door.

Lieutenant Fernicola and the inside team entered the fire apartment where they encountered a heavy smoke and high heat condition and zero visibility, due to the fire extending from the living room into the hallway. The fire was being drawn across the apartment hallway by an open window on the other side of the apartment. The Officer ordered FF Nishimori to use the extinguisher to hold back the fire so that he and FF Ramilo could search for additional occupants.

Soon after beginning his search, Lieutenant Fernicola found a third unconscious victim in the dining area, which

was across the hallway from the living room. He transmitted a 10-45 and began to remove the victim. FF Ramilo continued his search down the hallway and crawled past the fire, furniture and other debris in the hallway. At the end of the apartment, he found a bedroom with a locked door, which meant that it was likely someone was inside.

At this time, FF Nishimori informed Lieutenant Fernicola and FF Ramilo that the extinguisher was almost empty. A charged hose-line was not yet in position to protect the inside team of Ladder 125 and the heat condition at the end of the apartment was increasing. Engine 315 members were stretching a 1³/₄-inch hose-line. Nevertheless, using his Halligan tool, FF Ramilo proceeded to force the door to the bedroom and encountered clothing, shoe boxes and other debris behind the door and in the bedroom.

After moving the debris, FF Ramilo located a fourth unconscious person, who was covered by some of the contents in the bedroom. He transmitted a 10-45 and began to remove Jinosv Goczowskyki by dragging him by his belt. FF Ramilo knew that in order to remove the victim, he would have to pass the furniture and other obstacles in the hallway.

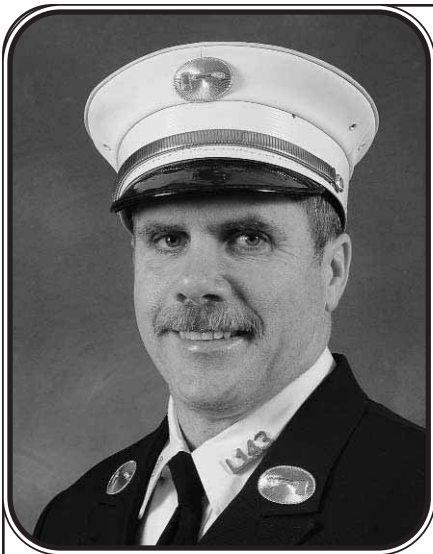
As FF Ramilo was removing Mr. Goczowskyki, he got caught on something and some of the debris in the hallway fell on the pair. FF Nishimori heard FF Ramilo's 10-45 transmission and he met up with him to guide him and the victim out of the apartment and to the safety of the public hallway. The

victim suffered second- and third-degree burns to his arms and face.

After the victim was removed to the public hallway, FF Ramilo returned to the fire apartment to complete his primary search. He searched the second bedroom, opposite where he located the victim, and the results were negative. For acting alone and without benefit of a protecting hose-line and passing the fire to reach the victim, FF Edward B. Ramilo is officially recognized by the FDNY with the Thomas E. Crimmins Medal.--NG



FF Edward B. Ramilo with the members of Ladder 125.



Thomas A. Kenny Memorial Medal

LIEUTENANT MICHAEL J. FITALL

LADDER COMPANY 143

January 27, 2009, 0453 hours, Box 75-2143, 97-12 93rd Street, Queens

Appointed to the FDNY on August 11, 1991. Previously assigned to Engine 263 and Ladder 154. Great uncle, FF Hugh Simonis (now deceased), was retired from Engine 283. Member of the Emerald Society and the FDNY Lacrosse team. Holds a BA degree in Natural Science from Dowling College. Resides in Islip, Long Island, with his wife, Moira, and their daughter, Brigid.

On the morning of January 27, 2009, the Queens Communications Office received numerous calls reporting a fire and people trapped at 97-12 93rd Street. At 0453 hours, Ladder 143, commanded by Lieutenant Michael J. Fitall, was assigned to Box 2143 as the second-due truck. While en route, Queens dispatch updated the responding units that there now were reports of several people trapped on the floor above the fire.

On arrival, the signal 10-75 was given by Lieutenant Brian Santosus, Engine 285, for a fire on the second floor of a three-story, non-fireproof multiple dwelling that measured 20- by 60-feet. Along with his inside team, Lieutenant Fitall proceeded into the fire building. After reaching the second-floor landing, Lieutenant Fitall and his Firefighters were met with high heat and zero visibility conditions because the fire apartment door had been left open.

Simultaneously, Battalion Chief Joseph Donlevy, Battalion 51, reported over the handie-talkie to all units that he had civilians in the street, reporting two adults and two children trapped on the floor above the fire. Captain Kenneth Fink, Ladder 142, the first-due truck company, informed Lieutenant Fitall that Engine 285 members were still stretching their hose-line.

Knowing the severe conditions of the fire apartment and that there was no hose-line in place, Lieutenant Fitall and his inside team still proceeded to the third floor. Reaching the landing, the Officer realized the door to the apartment had been left open, allowing the heat and smoke from the fire apartment to spread rapidly to the apartment above. Knowing that time was paramount, he ordered his inside team to

search toward the rear of the apartment as he searched toward the front.

Lieutenant Fitall quickly discovered an unconscious woman in the hallway and immediately transmitted the signal 10-45, indicating a victim located. Operating on his hands and knees due to the difficult conditions, the Lieutenant dragged the victim down the hallway to the third-floor landing. He was met by Ladder 143's chauffeur, FF Doug Caffarone, who assisted in dragging the woman past the fire apartment where the first-due hose-line had been put into operation to the first floor.

At this point, realizing the victim was in full cardiac arrest, the members, with the assistance of FF Jason Griffiths, Ladder 143, detailed to Engine 294, immediately began CPR. FF Griffiths established a viable airway for her. Suffering from second-degree burns, the woman spent two months at New York Cornell Medical Center.

Lieutenant Fitall then raced back to the third-floor apartment to continue his search and rejoin his inside team. By this time, the fire had auto-exposed in the rear bedroom. However, the Officer continued the primary search of the floor above.

Without the protection of a charged hose-line in place at

the fire apartment and operating on the floor above the advanced fire, Lieutenant Fitall exhibited courage and aggressiveness, which led to the rescue of Sarah Chink (aka Montero and the mother of the woman rescued by FF Michael Czech, Ladder 142, during the same incident). In keeping with the highest traditions of the FDNY, Lieutenant Michael J. Fitall is presented with the Thomas A. Kenny Memorial Medal.--SI



Lieutenant Michael Fitall (third from left) and his Ladder 143 crew.

Walter Scott Medal

FIREFIGHTER GIOVANNI A. MARTINEZ LADDER COMPANY 124

March 24, 2009, 0800 hours, Box 75-800, 376 Palmetto Street, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on February 2, 2003. Member of the Hispanic Society. Holds a BA degree in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Resides in Woodhaven, Queens, with his wife, Marcy.



Generally, when dispatchers transmit a Box for a fire, they provide as much information possible. On this particular morning, Ladder 124 received only a teleprinter message stating, *private dwelling*, with no other particulars given. While en route as the second-due truck, a radio transmission stating, *people trapped*, was transmitted. Within seconds, the first-due truck, Ladder 112, transmitted the 10-75 for Box 800.

Actually, the fire was located in a multiple dwelling at 376 Palmetto Street is a three-story, 20- by 60-foot, class 4, wood frame, corner building. Fire was issuing from the second- and third-floor windows and spreading to the vinyl siding. This gave off dense, black smoke and high heat, which could be felt from the street. The wind was blowing the fire across the fire escape, preventing anyone from entering or exiting the building from this exterior access. The chauffeur of Ladder 124 positioned the apparatus on the Ridgewood Place side of the building.

FF Giovanni Martinez, the outside vent Firefighter, had entered the tower ladder basket. He was preparing to position the basket on the leeward side of the fire escape (Exposure #1/4 side) when the ladder company chauffeur (LCC) informed him that someone was at the top-floor window on the Exposure #1/2 or windward side.

FF Martinez expertly maneuvered the basket through the dense smoke and high heat, placing himself in a very precarious position in order to reach the person(s) trapped. As he was maneuvering the basket, Engine 271 stretched a second handline and provided a water curtain between the basket and the fire escape, allowing the Firefighter to remove the child window guard from the window. This was not a simple task due to the heat and smoke issuing from below.

Once the window guard was removed, FF Martinez assisted the two adult victims (Yenraira Lopez, who was pregnant, and Jorge Padiller) from the window into the basket. The Firefighter had the presence of mind to ask if there were any other individuals still trapped inside. One of the victims told FF Martinez

that another person who had tried to exit through the stairs could still be inside.

FF Martinez advised the two victims to stay low in the basket and he proceeded to remove the entire window and frame. Once this was done, the Firefighter entered the room, but was driven to the floor by the intense heat. (Unknown to FF Martinez was that the roof skylight and scuttle had been tarred over, which caused a delay in ventilation and a build-up of heat intensity.) Realizing there was no secondary means of egress (the fire escape sill was engulfed in flames) and the interior stair also was burning intensely, the rescuer crawled deeper into the interior of the apartment, searching for the missing adult.

While searching the second room (kitchen), FF Martinez located the burned, semi-conscious male, Hector Rodriguez, lying on the floor. Drawing on his reserve strength, the rescuer began to drag this 180-pound man back through the kitchen to the bedroom he had entered, toward the window and tower ladder basket.

The Firefighter notified Battalion Chief Joseph Schiralli, Battalion 28, that he had three 10-45s who needed immediate first aid. Again, FF Martinez called upon his reservoir of strength, lifting and assisting Mr. Rodriguez over the windowsill and into the basket of the tower ladder. At the request of this worried victim, FF Martinez went back into the fray, to secure the man's personal papers, including a green card.

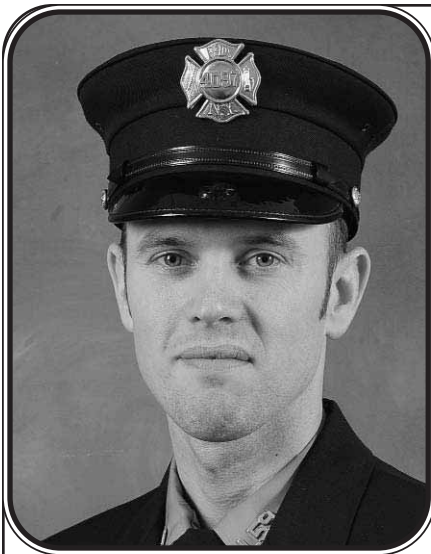
FF Martinez operated alone, above a heavy fire condition with only an outside line keeping the fire away from his only means of egress. He showed great strength and determination

in the removal of the window guard, assisting the pregnant woman and male into the basket and then searching two rooms to locate and drag a third victim to safety, up over the windowsill and into the tower ladder basket.

FF Giovanni Martinez displayed outstanding courage and tenacity in his efforts to save these lives. His actions were in keeping with the traditions of the Fire Department and, today, he is proudly accepting the Walter Scott Medal for valor.--JTV



FF Martinez is in the basket with two rescued victims.



John H. Prentice Medal

FIREFIGHTER ALFRED J. RONALDSON

LADDER COMPANY 59

July 16, 2009, 0010 hours, Box 75-4797, 102 West 183rd Street, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on May 6, 2001. Previously assigned to Ladder 33. Grandfather, Captain Herbert Ronaldson (now deceased), was retired from Ladder 82; father, FF Alfred Ronaldson, Rescue 3, was killed in the line of duty on March 5, 1991; cousins, FFs Bill Kuhens and Mike Kuhens, are assigned to Ladder 59 and Ladder 149, respectively; cousin, Lieutenant Tom Clair, is assigned to Rescue 5; brothers-in-law, FFs Mike Pucci and Antony Quagliata, are assigned to Ladder 28 and Engine 62, respectively; and uncle, FF Sean Nelson, is retired from Rescue 3. Member of the Emerald Society. Resides in Montgomery, New York, with his wife, Jessica, and their children, Alfred J., Jr., and Ava.

Firefighter Alfred J. Ronaldson, Ladder 59, was assigned the forcible entry position on the evening tour of July 15, 2009. The evening had been uneventful, but FF Ronaldson knew that could change at any moment. Just 10 minutes after midnight, Ladder 59 members were called to action when Box 4797 was transmitted from a pull box.

The first-due companies were operating at another fire, leading to a longer than normal response time and giving the fire a head start. While en route to the location, the alarm was filled out due to a second source reporting a stove fire on the second floor of 102 183rd Street in apartment 2-C.

Ladder 59 was the first unit to arrive on the scene. As the company pulled up in front of the six-story multiple dwelling, an isolated building on the corner of 183rd Street and St. Andrews Avenue, FF Ronaldson saw fire lapping out of one window and heavy, black smoke billowing out of two others. Because of the building's isolated position, FF William Kuhens, the Ladder 59 chauffeur, placed the aerial in front of the building and positioned the ladder to the roof.

Due to the transverse stairs in the building, Ladder 59's roof Firefighter, FF Christopher Redmond, used the aerial to reach the roof and recommended that the second-due roof Firefighter do the same. FF Paul Denver had the outside vent position and dropped the fire escape ladder. He swiftly ascended to the second-floor balcony.

The inside team of Lieutenant Michael Fagan and FFs Ronaldson and Robert Blake (detailed from Ladder 46) were about to enter the building when they spotted a group of people excitedly pointing upward at the corner of the building. Lieutenant Fagan went to their location and observed heavy smoke also pouring from several windows on the St. Andrews side of the building. Going back to the entrance, he raced into the building with the two Firefighters. They immediately sped to the second floor, where they saw acrid smoke emanating from the fire apartment door. FFs Ronaldson and Blake quickly forced the locked door, but were forced to the floor by the high heat and black, acrid smoke that rapidly

enveloped them.

Lieutenant Fagan and FF Blake searched to the left, while FF Ronaldson went to the right. Using the thermal imaging camera in the zero visibility, Lieutenant Fagan located the fire in the kitchen and relayed that information to the Officer of Engine 43, whose members were still stretching a line. FF Blake used the extinguisher to hold back the fire, while FF Ronaldson crawled past it to search the other rooms.

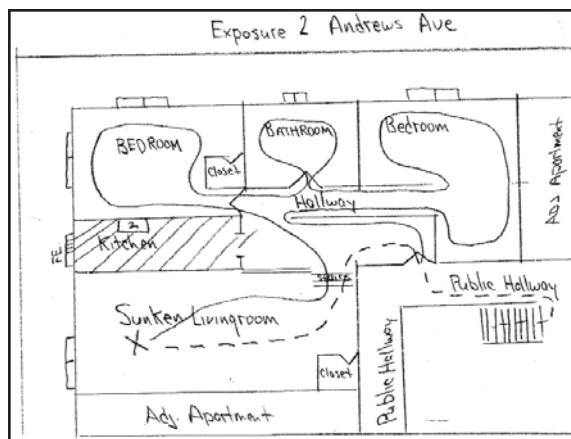
After searching two bedrooms and a bathroom, but finding no victims, FF Ronaldson again passed the fire still growing in the kitchen to reach the sunken living room. With several pieces of overturned furniture blocking his path and relying on his sense of touch to search, the Firefighter persevered, without benefit of a charged hose-line in place, until he located the unconscious form of a 72-year-old male, prostrate in the middle of the room.

Transmitting a signal 10-45, FF Ronaldson began to drag the victim toward the front door and out of harm's way. After using the last of his extinguisher on the kitchen fire, FF Blake assisted FF Ronaldson in removing the victim and the furniture that blocked their way. Joined by FF Paul Denver, Ladder 59, who had entered from the fire escape, they were able to get the man to the front door.

FF Blake rejoined Lieutenant Fagan while FFs Ronaldson and Denver carried the victim to the lobby to check his vital signs. FF Ronaldson was able to detect a pulse, but noted that the man's breathing was very labored. With no third-due engine or EMS personnel on-scene, FF Ronaldson retrieved the

resuscitator from Ladder 59's apparatus. By applying oxygen to the victim, he was able to bring him to a semi-conscious state by the time EMS personnel arrived to take over medical care and transport the victim to Jacobi Hospital. The victim was treated for smoke inhalation and second-degree burns.

Were it not for FF Alfred J. Ronaldson's bravery, perseverance and quick thinking, this man would not have received a second chance at life. FDNY is proud to present him with the John H. Prentice Medal.--JT



Route taken by FF Ronaldson during his rescue operation.

Christopher J. Prescott Medal

November 23, 2009, 1042 hours, Box 4178, Throgs Neck Bridge, Queens

PARAMEDIC MARGARET VEGA

STATION 20

Appointed to EMS as an Emergency Medical Technician on March 13, 1995. Previously assigned to Station 15. Member of the Hispanic Society. Recipient of numerous pre-hospital saves. Working toward an RN degree. Resides in the Bronx and has two children--Brandon and Alexis.



Paramedics Margaret Vega and German Delrio started their tour much like they do any other day. On the morning of November 23, 2009, they conducted the regular inventory of their ambulance and received and checked their equipment before going out on the road. While en route to their assigned response area, they received their first assignment of the day--an unconscious patient on the Throgs Neck Bridge. An unconscious patient is not an unusual call type for a Paramedic unit. However, accessing the patient proved not only challenging, but dangerous for one of the Paramedics.

As the unit pulled up to the Throgs Neck Bridge, the bridge workers flagged them down. They advised the Paramedics that one of their coworkers had fallen approximately 30 feet onto the scaffolding below the bridge. Paramedic Vega looked over the railing, but could not see the patient from her vantage point. The bridge workers assured her that the rescue Firefighters on-scene had located the patient.

Paramedic Vega did not know the extent of the patient's injuries at this time, but did know that a patient who had fallen 30 feet needed immediate medical attention. Without knowing the patient's exact location and minus the advantage of rescue training, Paramedic Vega slung her medical bag over her shoulder, climbed over the railing and began her descent down a ladder toward the patient. This ladder faced the open side of the bridge, she had no safety harness and was encumbered by the weight of her trauma bag, yet Paramedic Vega successfully made the descent and accessed the patient.

Paramedic Vega completed a quick assessment of the patient, a 44-year-old male, who was found to be conscious, but suffering excruciating pain as a result of the fall. She

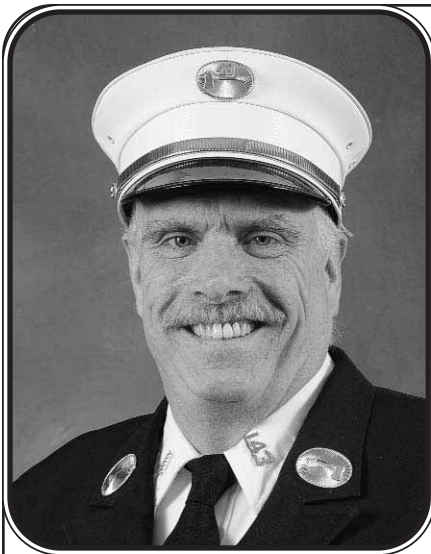
radioed her partner for the medical supplies needed to prepare the patient for removal to the ambulance. A patient sustaining a fall of this magnitude requires immobilization and the removal must be handled carefully to prevent further injury.

Paramedic Delrio diligently supplied Paramedic Vega with all of the necessary equipment requested. With the assistance of the three Firefighters who were on the scaffolding with her, Paramedic Vega immobilized the man, who then was placed onto a stokes basket. The patient was hoisted up to the bridge level and Paramedic Vega climbed back up the ladder she had used to reach the man.

The man was successfully transferred into the waiting ambulance where patient care was continued. Although the patient sustained multiple trauma, while en route to the hospital, he repeatedly thanked Paramedic Vega and all those involved in the rescue for saving his life. The patient arrived at the emergency room in stable condition.

Doctors often refer to the *golden hour* for trauma patients. To increase a trauma patient's chance of survival, he/she should be at the emergency room within an hour of the event. Paramedic Vega's skilled and immediate intervention clearly contributed to the man's rapid assessment, removal and arrival at New York Hospital (Booth Memorial Hospital) of Queens within one hour.

Paramedic Margaret Vega is a credit to her profession, an asset to the Department and the first female member to receive the Christopher Prescott Medal, which is the Fire Department's highest Emergency Medical Service medal.--
DC



Henry D. Brookman Medal

LIEUTENANT GREGORY J. PRIAL LADDER COMPANY 43

March 3, 2009, 0230 hours, Box 75-1318, 333 East 108th Street, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on September 5, 1981. Previously assigned to Ladder 7. Father, FF Philip Prial, is retired from Rescue 1 and cousin, FF Steve Brooks, is retired from Ladder 112. Member of the Emerald and Holy Name Societies. Served with the U.S. Marine Corps from 1977 to 1981. Recipient of the Vincent Kane Medal in 2006, three Class As, a Class B and a unit citation. Resides in Warwick, New York, with his wife, Anne, and their children, Rebecca, Terence, Danny, Brigid and Jennifer.

The date was Tuesday, March 3, 2009; the time was 0229 hours. The members of Ladder 43, commanded by Lieutenant Gregory Prial, found themselves racing through the streets of Spanish Harlem to a reported fire on the top floor of 333 East 108th Street. The fire building was a six-story, non-fireproof, multiple dwelling, erected in 1900, which was completely renovated between 1997 and 1999. Ladder 43 was assigned first-due.

Arriving at the reported address with a response time of less than four minutes, Ladder 43 members were met by a handful of tenants reporting a fire on the sixth floor. The inside team, consisting of Lieutenant Prial and FFs John Hemsley (the extinguisher position) and John Haseney (the irons position), were ascending the stairs when they encountered more fleeing occupants, also reporting a fire on the sixth floor. Lieutenant Prial ordered his chauffeur to transmit a 10-75.

The inside team arrived at the sixth-floor landing and it was readily apparent from the soot around the edges of the door and heavy, black smoke pushing through the cracks of the door frame that the fire was in apartment 6B. Figuring there was a real possibility of someone being in the apartment, the fire-fighting team of Hemsley and Haseney made quick work of forcing open the locked apartment door. The Lieutenant then led the team into zero visibility and a significant heat condition. The renovations of this building included thermo-paned windows, which--at this point--had not failed, contributing to the harsh conditions encountered.

Faced with a rapidly deteriorating fire condition, Lieutenant Prial directed FF Haseney to search toward the front of the apartment, while he and FF Hemsley searched down the interior hallway. While searching, they found the living room fully involved and the main body of fire obstructing the entrances to the two bedrooms. The Officer directed FF Hemsley to use the extinguisher in an attempt to confine the fire. This action allowed Lieutenant Prial to

continue on through the burning living room and into the adjacent rear bedroom, where he discovered a victim.

Lieutenant Prial found Loria Cavicchi, unconscious and burned, lying face down on the bedroom floor. After transmitting a 10-45 to Battalion Chief John Hilley, Battalion 12, the Lieutenant found the bedroom window blocked by a gate, negating its use as a rapid egress to the fire escape. With the fire rapidly approaching the flashover stage and FF Hemsley down to the last available water from the extinguisher, Lieutenant Prial decided to drag the victim back through the living room's progressively worsening conditions.

The Officer dragged the victim approximately 30 feet down the apartment hall where he was joined by FF Haseney. With Lieutenant Prial in the lead, they removed the victim from the burning apartment into the public hallway and into the hands of the CFR Engine (Engine 35). These members worked to revive the now non-breathing and pulse-less Ms. Cavicchi. Once revived, EMS personnel transported her--with burns on her hands and face and suffering from smoke inhalation--to Cornell Burn Center.

Lieutenant Prial risked passing the fire to get to the rear bedroom, only to be forced to return through the same area again, with the unconscious victim, under worsening conditions. All of these actions took place prior to a hose-line being placed into operation. Division 3 Deputy Chief Daniel Donohue's investigative report reads:

Lieutenant Prial demonstrated...courage, ability and invaluable experience. Lieutenant Prial undoubtedly saved Ms. Cavicchi's life.

Lieutenant Gregory Prial's experience, aggressive search, disregard for his own safety and passing the fire without the protection of a charged hose-line twice all reflect the finest traditions of the FDNY. It is for his actions and those attributes that he is awarded the Henry D. Brookman Medal.--SM



Lieutenant Gregory Prial (second from left) is surrounded by the proud crew of Ladder 43.

M.J. Delehanty Medal

CAPTAIN WILLIAM J. GALLAGHER LADDER COMPANY 169

June 22, 2009, 2245 hours, Box 75-3608, 3091 Brighton 3rd Street, Brooklyn

Assigned to the FDNY on August 3, 1985. Previously assigned to Engine 231 and Ladders 120, 137, 147 and 169. Member of the Emerald Society and the Incident Management Team. Recipient of a Service Rating B and a unit citation. Holds an AS degree in Pre-Physician Therapy from Kingsborough College and a BS degree in Business Management from St. Francis College. Resides in Rockaway, Queens, with his wife, Karen.



Fires occurring at night in occupied multiple dwellings generally indicate that people might be trapped and in need of assistance. Such was the case on June 22, 2010, at 3091 Brighton 3rd Street, Brooklyn. The involved building is a six-story, H-type, 150- by 80-foot, non-fireproof, multiple dwelling, featuring 10 apartments on each floor.

At 2245 hours, numerous phone alarms were received at the Brooklyn Fire Communications Office for a fire in a building at Brighton 3rd Street. This information was transmitted to the local firehouses, including Ladder 169. Combining a fast turnout, quick response and heroic action would be necessary to lessen the severity of injuries, if there were any trapped occupants. Drawing on their training and experience, the members of Ladder 169 were up to this task.

On arrival, members saw that the large building was involved in fire and heavy smoke was emanating from windows on the upper floors. The Officer in command transmitted a 10-75 to notify responding units that they had a working fire at this location. The members of Ladder 169 sized up the situation and then raced toward the inferno, knowing the degree of difficulty involved in rescuing any trapped civilians in the apartments on the upper floor.

Captain William Gallagher was on duty this evening. An experienced Fire Officer, he was well aware of the problems that a top-floor fire presents in H-type buildings. As members of this truck company entered the lobby, they were informed by exiting occupants that the fire was, indeed, on the sixth floor.

Captain Gallagher and his forcible entry team raced up to the sixth floor to locate the exact location of the fire. The Officer transmitted this information to the first-arriving engine company. Given the layout of this structure, type of stairs, no well hole and the distance from a nearby hydrant to the fire apartment, the Captain realized it would take some precious time before an engine company could apply water on this fire.

Arriving at the sixth floor,

members of Ladder 169 encountered a heavy smoke condition in the hallway and smoke pushing out around the door frames of apartment 6J. Captain Gallagher realized that this apartment most likely would be occupied, given the time of day. His Firefighters would have to make entry without waiting for the first hose-line to be put in place.

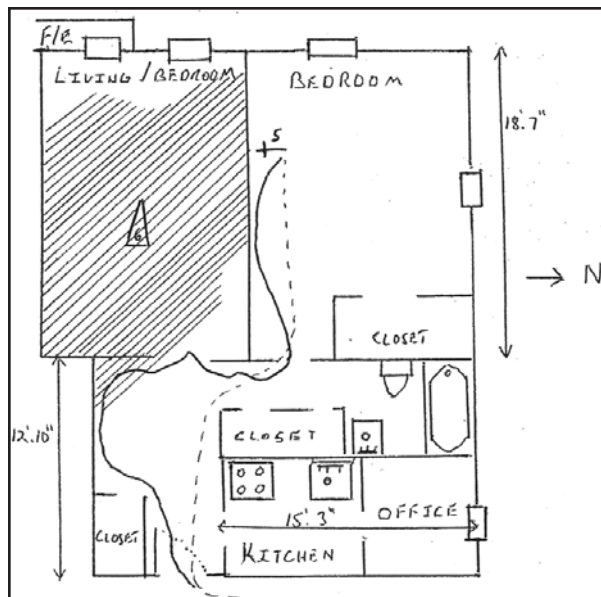
As they forced entry into 6J, the three members were met with a high heat condition and dense, black smoke, negating all visibility. They immediately came across the first seriously injured occupant, who was quickly removed by a member of Captain Gallagher's team. After supervising the removal of this victim, his mission then was to search for the main body of fire and locate any additional victims. This had to be accomplished without the protection of a charged hose-line.

While crawling into the apartment, he came across a rapidly extending fire in a bedroom/living room area. Captain Gallagher directed his extinguisher Firefighter to hold the fire in check, while he searched other rooms. In order to accomplish this search, he bypassed the fire, endangering himself.

The experienced Officer was up to the arduous task before him. On hands and knees as he groped his way into a bedroom, he found a 72-year-old, unconscious female on the bed. While removing this victim, a series of explosions intensified the

fire. However, Captain Gallagher continued to drag her through this hostile environment, toward the safety of the public hallway. (The Bureau of Fire Investigation determined that these explosions were caused by rupturing butane cylinders that were used to refill lighters.)

Captain Gallagher's courage and selfless actions in a dangerous situation, without the protection of a charged hose-line, gave life to this victim. For his initiative, bravery and perseverance, without regard for his own safety, the Fire Department is proud to honor Captain William Gallagher with the M.J. Delehanty Medal.--EB



Rescue route taken by Captain William Gallagher.



William F. Conran Medal

FIREFIGHTER JAMES J. SENK

LADDER COMPANY 47

September 30, 2009, 1622 hours, Box 75-3054, 1418 Zerega Avenue, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on December 5, 2004. Member of the Emerald and Holy Name Societies. Recipient of a unit citation in 2006. Holds a Bachelor degree from SUNY, Albany. Resides in the Bronx.

In the early afternoon of September 30, 2009, Ladder 47 was dispatched to Box 3054, Tratman and Zerega Avenues in the Bronx. The original UCT call was for a fire on the third floor. As the company turned out, the Bronx dispatcher had received multiple calls for smoke and fire on the third and fourth floors, as well as people trapped. The additional information indicated an address of 1418 Zerega Avenue, a large, five-story, H-type multiple dwelling.

As Ladder 47 pulled into the block, Lieutenant Frederick Ill, 3rd, observed numerous people self-evacuating on the fire escape and heavy smoke emanating from three windows on the fourth floor. He immediately ordered the chauffeur, FF Anthony Caterino, to position the aerial and the outside vent Firefighter, FF James J. Senk, to place the drop ladder on the fire escape.

Lieutenant Ill was met by civilians as he approached the building. They stated that a small child was still trapped in the apartment. Looking closely, a small arm could be seen waving through the heavy smoke from the window off the fire escape on the fourth floor. The Lieutenant immediately relayed this information to FFs Caterino and Senk and advanced to apartment 4H with his forcible entry team.

FF Senk, after releasing the drop ladder, quickly ascended the aerial and found a small boy trapped behind a window gate. He quickly determined that the window gate was not the only thing preventing this rescue. A bunk bed was placed in front of the window, preventing the rescuer from entering. As the options raced through the Firefighter's mind, the boy slipped back into the apartment,

which was charged with thick, black smoke.

Reports from Lieutenant Ill indicated that the primary search from the interior would be delayed due to the tremendous fire that had met the units at the door. Understanding the deteriorating conditions in the apartment and the closing window of opportunity to save the boy, FF Senk reached across the open expanse from the tip of the aerial to the fire escape and pulled himself onto the balcony. Once on the balcony, he donned his full personal protective gear, entered the window and began an aggressive search for the youngster.

FF Senk located the unconscious child 15 feet from the window where he was last seen. He made the proper radio notifications. Due to the intense heat in the fire apartment, FF Senk removed the boy to the fire escape. He was met by FF Andrew Dick, Squad 61, who carried the child through the apartment on the floor below to the street. FF Senk then re-entered the apartment to continue the primary search.

FF Dick ultimately handed the youngster over to the care of EMS personnel. The four-year-old, Ganesh Ramcharran, was admitted to Jacobi Medical Center for smoke inhalation and elevated carbon monoxide in his blood.

If not for the determination and personal initiative of FF James J. Senk, the young boy certainly would have perished in that apartment. The Firefighter offered accolades for all the members of Engine 64 and Ladder 47 for their efforts, which facilitated the rescue. For his brave actions in the face of extreme fire conditions and operating without the protection of a hose-line, FF Senk is honored today with the William F. Conran Medal.--CF



FF James Senk is entering the window from Ladder 47's aerial, where the youngster he saved had been trapped behind a window gate. photo by FF Richie Massa, Engine 64

Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia Medal

FIREFIGHTER VICTOR J. MILUKAS LADDER COMPANY 142

February 3, 2007, 1315 hours, Box 22-6034, 95-86 113th Street, Ozone Park, Queens

Appointed to the FDNY on April 30, 1997. Promoted to Lieutenant since incident. Now assigned to Battalion 33, UFO Ladder 159. Holds a BBA degree in Accounting from Baruch College. Resides in Valley Stream, Long Island, with his wife, Jennifer, and their daughters, Chloe and Ivory.



When the Department's 9/11 memorial at Engine 10/Ladder 10 was dedicated in 2006, Chief of Department Peter E. Hayden said, *Firefighters knowingly and willingly place themselves in harm's way to save others.* This willingness has left a great legacy of heroism for all to see. Such was the case for FF Victor J. Milukas, Ladder 142, who, on February 3, 2007, added another page to this great FDNY history of courage and daring.

At approximately 1315 hours, Ladder 142 was assigned as second-due truck for a fire at 95-86 113th Street in Ozone Park. While en route, Queens Dispatch reported numerous calls for trapped occupants on the second and third floors of this three-family building. FF Milukas, adrenaline flowing, was responding to the street where he grew up and where his mother still lives. Arriving in approximately four minutes, Ladder 142 found a heavy fire condition from the second floor and heavy smoke pushing from the third.

Several civilians already had jumped from the building and the company's inside team raced into the building, only to find the stairs blocked by heavy fire on the second floor. FF Milukas, assigned to the outside vent position, made his way to the rear of the building by use of a side alley. Carrying his tools and a 24-foot extension ladder, the Firefighter negotiated over several fences to get to the rear of the building.

Once behind the building, he found a male civilian calling for help and trapped at a window on the third floor. Simultaneously, a large sliding glass door on the second floor self-vented, sending heavy fire and smoke at the desperate civilian (which forced him back into the burning room). FF Milukas transmitted a 10-45 signal, as well as the fire conditions to his Officer, Lieutenant Michael Stackpole. The Lieutenant responded to this message by stating that the interior stairs also were blocked by fire.

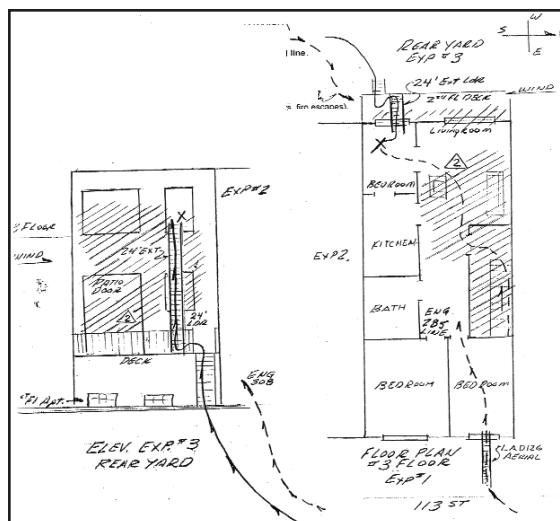
By this time, FF William Hughes, Ladder 142, had accessed the yard and assisted FF Milukas with placement of the portable lad-

der. Meanwhile, members of Engine 308 had completed a hose stretch to the rear of the building and opened up. This provided FF Milukas with a water curtain as he ascended the ladder to rescue the trapped civilian. However, due to the high winds that afternoon, FF Milukas had to dive into the room to avoid being burned by the still-unchecked fire.

Diving into the room, FF Milukas injured his neck and back, but continued with his mission. Crawling to the victim, the Firefighter realized the man was in bad shape and needed to be removed quickly. In order to improve the victim's chances, FF Milukas began sharing his facepiece. The rescuer then informed Lieutenant Stackpole he was with the victim and conditions were worsening.

By this time, Lieutenant Stackpole and the other members of the inside team had made the third-floor stairwell. FF Milukas was told they would remove the victim via the interior staircase. Despite his injuries, FF Milukas moved the victim to a position for quick removal. He soon was joined by Lieutenant Stackpole and, because of the victim's size, both rescuers were needed to effect the victim's removal. Once safe, the man was taken to Cornell Burn Center to be treated for burns over 50 percent of his body. Unfortunately, he ultimately succumbed to his injuries.

In his report of the incident, Battalion Chief Stephen Browne, Battalion 51 covering, wrote, *FF Milukas put himself at...risk by ascending the portable ladder while being directly exposed to fire venting out of the second-floor rear windows below him and entered the third-floor window to effect the rescue...(he) was faced with a high heat and smoke condition on the third floor and chose to put himself at even greater risk by removing his facepiece to supply air to the victim. FF Milukas showed great initiative and bravery in effecting this rescue.* For these reasons, the Fire Department is proud to honor FF Victor J. Milukas today with the Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia Medal.--DJH



FF Victor Milukas' path to the victim is depicted. In spite of the Firefighter's best efforts, the victim succumbed to his injuries.



Chief John J. McElligott Medal/ FFs Fitzpatrick and Frisby Award

FIREFIGHTER ADAM J. RIVERA

ENGINE COMPANY 10

August 21, 2009, 2200 hours, Box 556,
14th Street/Union Square Subway Station, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on July 1, 2008. Attended Hunter College. Resides in Manhattan.

There is a belief that being a Firefighter is not just a job, but a calling. Often, this characteristic is exhibited whenever a member of FDNY performs an extraordinary act when off-duty. FF Adam J. Rivera, Engine 10, performed such an act, without the benefit of his fellow Firefighters or equipment, but with the determination and knowledge that someone was in trouble and needed immediate help. Fortunately, that selflessness saved the life of a 45-year-old man.

On Friday, August 21, 2009, at approximately 2200 hours, off-duty FF Rivera was waiting for a northbound N subway train at the busy Union Square Station. While waiting for his train to arrive, FF Rivera heard cries for help coming from some people standing across the platform on the far end of the southbound side of the station. FF Rivera went to observe what the commotion was about, so he moved to the edge of the platform. He saw a man sprawled out and apparently unconscious on the southbound tracks.

FF Rivera then saw a northbound train approaching the station and realized that this train would block his view and any access to the injured man. As a Firefighter, he was fully aware of the many dangers faced by this injured man. FF Rivera jumped down the 4½ feet to the bed of the northbound track, which was energized and had a train rapidly approaching.

Relying on his knowledge and training as a Firefighter, FF Rivera carefully stepped over the deadly third rail on the northbound track and then had to step over the third rail for the southbound track. Once away from the electrified rails, he and the victim now faced an even more dangerous situation because a southbound train was approaching the station and them.

FF Rivera knew he had to act quickly to help this victim and prevent himself from being injured or killed. He approached the severely injured Marco Delemo, who was lying in the middle of the track bed. FF Rivera had no options as there was no area of refuge that to which he or the victim

could move.

Faced with the headlights of the approaching southbound N train, FF Rivera gathered up all his strength and, with much difficulty, was able to lift the 180-lbs. victim's upper torso. Thankfully, two civilians jumped down from the platform to the track bed after FF Rivera reached the victim and they helped to lift Mr. Delemo's legs. Together, the three lifted the injured man up to the platform to an awaiting woman who identified herself as a doctor. After making sure everyone was safe, the physically drained Firefighter managed to pull himself up from the track bed to the platform.

With his work still not finished and without any medical equipment present, FF Rivera then assisted the doctor with patient assessment and treatment of Mr. Delemo's injuries. When EMS personnel arrived, Mr. Delemo's care was turned over to them for further treatment and transportation to St. Vincent's Hospital. Mr. Delemo was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit at the hospital for several days to recover from the severe injuries--specifically, a skull and spine fracture and associated head trauma--he suffered. The victim had suffered a seizure that caused him to fall onto the subway tracks.

FF Rivera put himself in danger to save Mr. Delemo's life. Without the benefit of any FDNY communications, equipment or assistance, the rescuer sprung into action without any hesitation. He crossed over two live third rails, faced two oncoming subway trains, made the dangerous descent and ascent to the platforms and treated the injured patient without any protective equipment.

Deputy Chief Robert Carroll, Division 1, stated in his letter of endorsement that the actions of FF Rivera--who was only fifth grade at the time of this incident--exemplified his dedication and professionalism as an FDNY Firefighter. It is with extreme pride and honor that FF Adam J. Rivera is awarded the Chief John J. McElligott Medal/FFs Fitzpatrick & Frisby Award for saving Mr. Delemo's life.--AP



FF Adam Rivera with Engine 10 apparatus.

Thomas F. Dougherty Medal

FIREFIGHTER EDWARD K. RISSLAND

LADDER COMPANY 142

January 27, 2009, 0453 hours, Box 75-2143, 97-12 93rd Street, Queens

Appointed to the FDNY on September 8, 1991. Brother; FF Fred Rissland, is assigned to Ladder 169; brother-in-law, FF Russ Weissheier; is assigned to Ladder 133; and nephew, FF Andrew Dolce, is assigned to Ladder 20. Recipient of a unit citation. Resides in Franklin Square, Long Island, with his wife, Jill, and their children, Breann, Kurt and Kaleigh.



In the early-morning hours of January 27, 2009, Ladder 142 was assigned first-due to Box 2143 for a reported fire at 97-12 93rd Street, Queens. While responding, the Queens dispatcher notified Ladder 142 of numerous calls and reports of people trapped on the third floor. As the members arrived at the scene, they found heavy fire on the second floor of a three-story, Class 3 multiple dwelling. Fire was venting from the windows from the exposure #3 and #4 sides.

FF Edward Rissland, Ladder 142's chauffeur, quickly maneuvered and positioned the rig in line with the front of the fire building. He dropped the tormentors between parked cars. FF Michael Czech was operating as Ladder 142's outside vent Firefighter and was told by the neighbors and EMS that there were people trapped on the third floor above the heavy fire and that they heard screaming. He relayed that information to Battalion Chief Joseph Donlevy, Battalion 51, and that assistance was needed, due to the possibility of multiple victims.

Chief Donlevy instructed the LCC from Ladder 143 to man the turntable of Ladder 142 and ordered both FFs Czech and Rissland into the bucket, to act as a team and proceed to the third-floor windows for vent, entry and search (VES). Visibility was zero in the front of the building due to superheated smoke and fire venting from below. This made positioning very difficult as FF Rissland manned the controls. When close enough, FF Rissland began taking the right window and child guard.

While working, FF Rissland heard an *urgent* message from the Officer of Ladder 142, advising that two lines were needed because the fire was overtaking members on the fire floor. Fire now had taken control of the entire second floor. Knowing that there was little time and the floor had to be searched for the reported missing occupants, FF Rissland rolled into the window and faced punishing heat and smoke. Dropping to his knees, he began his search, moving to the right, following the wall.

During his search, FF

Rissland came in contact with a bed. He began to feel along the entire bed and it was then that he came upon an unconscious victim, a 10-year-old boy, and promptly transmitted the 10-45 to Command. FF Rissland held the child and began to make a move through the high heat and zero visibility of the heavy smoke condition. He made his way back to the window where he met up with FF Czech and a five-year-old, unconscious victim, whom he was attempting to remove.

FF Rissland placed the 10-year-old boy on the floor of the bucket and then climbed over the windowsill and re-entered the bucket. FF Czech then handed the other child out of the window to him. With heavy fire and dense, black smoke venting just below the bucket, FF Rissland moved the bucket away, attempting to shield the unconscious children from the horrendous conditions below.

Moments later, FF Czech transmitted another 10-45 for the mother of the two boys. When he returned to the window with the mother, FF Rissland moved the bucket back to the window and helped the Firefighter get the mother into the bucket. The victims were all removed to the street, where Firefighters and EMS personnel were waiting. They began resuscitating and reviving the family. These victims, suffering from respiratory arrest and smoke inhalation, eventually were transported to Cornell Hospital.

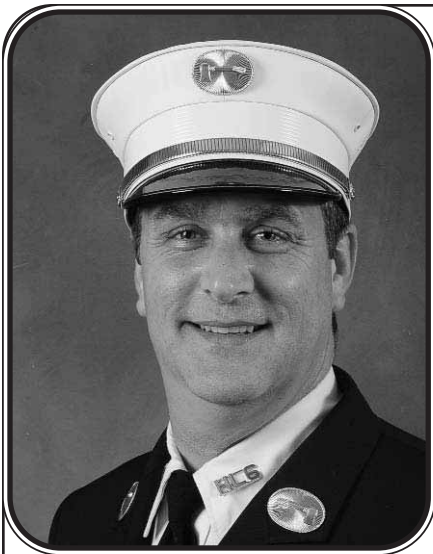
Chief Donlevy states that *if not for FF Rissland's actions, the Montero family would not have survived. There was not a moment to spare and his quick and decisive actions were directly responsible for three members of the same family being alive today.*

Quick to laud the teamwork of Ladders 142 and 143, Engine 285 and the other units that responded to this Box, FF Edward Rissland's actions are a credit to him and in keeping with the finest traditions of the Fire Department of the City of New York. He is honored today and presented with the Thomas F. Dougherty Medal.--TW



FF Edward Rissland, in the bucket, after handing off a victim to EMS personnel.

photo by Danny Iudici



Albert S. Johnston Medal

LIEUTENANT JOSEPH R. STACH, JR.

LADDER COMPANY 6

July 4, 2009, 0313 hours, Box 75-316, 147 Elizabeth Street, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on October 21, 1990. Previous assignments include Engine 48 and Ladder 56. Member of the Company Officers Association and is a UFOA Delegate for Battalion 4. Cited for bravery on two previous occasions. Holds a BS degree in Business Management from St. Thomas Aquinas College. Resides in Valley Cottage, NY, with his wife, JoAnn, and their children, Darren, 20, Corrin, 14, Kayla, 13, Ryan, 11, and Tyler, 10.

The conversation in the firehouse kitchen earlier in the night tour revolved around the fact that the next day was the Independence Day holiday. Lieutenant Joe Stach and the other Ladder 6 *Dragon Fighters* were excited at the prospect of barbecues, picnics and a promising summer day. However, all these thoughts were pushed aside when, in the wee hours of the morning, the alarm tones sounded and the company was directed to an unknown condition on Elizabeth Street.

Lieutenant Stach knew that in the Chinatown/Little Italy community, an alarm in the dead of night usually indicated a strong possibility of a fire. Additionally, the Lieutenant knew that the normally first-due truck was replaced by a relocated company that might not know the fastest way to respond. The Officer realized Ladder 6 might arrive before any other ladder company and prepared his crew to operate accordingly; especially in light of the fact that no additional information was received during their response.

When Ladder 6 arrived at the location in fewer than five minutes, many of the five-story, non-fireproof tenement's residents had fled into the street. Because of language difficulties, it was impossible to communicate with the civilians and obtain any information. The residents merely pointed the Firefighters to the inside of the structure.

As Lieutenant Stach entered the first floor, a light haze was evident and the smell of smoke permeated the atmosphere. Additionally, a fleeing resident was able to advise that there was a fire on the third floor. As the Officer and his inside team--FFs Jose Ortiz with the irons and John Schmitt, Engine 9, with the extinguisher--rushed to the third floor, Lieutenant Stach received a report from the outside vent Firefighter, FF Michael Egan, that fire was lapping out a window on the third floor. Seconds later, after reaching the fire floor, the Lieutenant observed fire around an apartment door.

Furthermore, a neighbor reported that the resident was still inside the flat.

Because heavy fire had caused a kitchen cabinet to fall and block the door to the studio apartment, it was necessary to attack the hinges. Although this freed the door, it broke into two pieces, allowing fire to extend into the public hall. By this time, Engine 9 arrived with a hose-line. However, water was not yet flowing and Lieutenant Stach, knowing there was a potential victim still trapped, unhesitatingly dropped to his belly and proceeded into the burning apartment.

After crawling 15 feet under the rolling flames into the bedroom area, the Lieutenant located an unconscious, 43-year-old man. More than a dozen plastic storage containers of various sizes and shapes had melted on and around the victim, adhering him to the floor and rendering him unable to be moved. Knowing that time was critical, Lieutenant Stach worked rapidly and, using his Officer's Tool, freed the victim. Simultaneously, water began flowing from the hose-line, facilitating the Officer's ability to drag the man out of the apartment.

When Lieutenant Stach reached the public hallway, members of Ladder 6 helped bring the victim to the street and started CPR. In cardiac arrest and suffering from severe burns, the victim was transported to the hospital. Additionally, Lieutenant Stach was placed on medical leave

because of a burn injury, as well as neck and shoulder injuries.

Although the man subsequently succumbed to his injuries, this does not diminish the effort made by Lieutenant Stach. He reacted swiftly and decisively in directing his company, as well as demonstrating personal courage by entering a hostile environment in a lifesaving effort. By operating in the highest tradition of the fire service to rescue another person, the FDNY proudly awards Lieutenant Joseph R. Stach, Jr., the Albert S. Johnston Medal.--BDG



Ladder 6 operates in Manhattan.

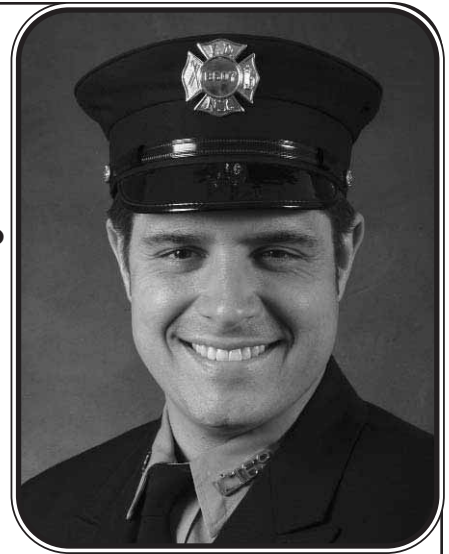
Ner Tamid Society/ Franklin Delano Roosevelt Medal

FIREFIGHTER JOSEPH P. ROGGENKAMP

LADDER COMPANY 169

June 22, 2009, 2245 hours, Box 75-3608, 3091 Brighton 3rd Street, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on May 31, 2005. Holds a Bachelor's degree in History from Dominican College. Resides in Rockaway, Queens, with his wife, Lynette.



By late June, Brighton Beach is awash with summer activities and good times. Whatever the season, for almost 115 years, this community has been guarded from the dangers of fire by the members of Ladder 169. At 2243 hours on June 22, 2009, FF Joseph P. Roggenkamp and other members of this historic company sprang into action when a fire was reported on the top floor of 3091 Brighton 3rd Street, a six-story, 150- by 60-foot, class three residential structure.

Ladder 169, with FF Roggenkamp assigned the irons positions, arrived at the building as the first-due ladder company within three minutes. Arriving alongside them was Engine 246. A preliminary size-up was performed while a hand-line was stretched to the front door because of the fire's reported location. Entering the lobby, FF Roggenkamp forced the door and, along with Captain William J. Gallagher and FF Daniel Saalfrank with the extinguisher, proceeded to the top floor.

Reaching the top floor, Captain Gallagher transmitted a 10-75 signal as the team found heavy smoke emitting from the doorjamb of apartment 6J. Because of the time of night, the team believed the apartment to be occupied. Additionally, because the building had only one stairway with no well hole, the rescuers could not wait for a hose-line. (Ultimately, it took 13 lengths of hose to reach the fire apartment.)

Working quickly, FF Roggenkamp forced the door and was met by high heat and smoke. However, even though the door was forced, there was something inside the apartment, blocking the door from being opened fully. Knowing that time was critical, FF Roggenkamp squeezed past the partially open door and jamb and into the apartment. Once inside, the Firefighter, moving on his hands and knees, found a victim wedged behind the door (the reason it could not be opened completely).

Due to the growing fire, there was no

room for the other members of the forcible entry team to enter the apartment. Thus, FF Roggenkamp had no choice but to close the door so the victim could be moved, thereby allowing the door to swing open. Once he had moved the victim, the Firefighter opened the door and Captain Gallagher and FF Saalfrank assisted him in the removal of the victim into the public hallway.

Once the victim was safe, a second 10-45 call was made from inside the apartment. While FF Saalfrank worked to hold back the fire with the extinguisher, FF Roggenkamp quickly returned to the apartment and crawled 20 feet down the hallway, past the fire, to assist Captain Gallagher in the removal of the second victim. During this removal, several explosions occurred that intensified the worsening conditions. Fire Marshals later determined these explosions were due to the presence of several butane canisters in the apartment. By the time the second victim was safely in the public hallway, members of Engine 246 had completed their hose stretch and aggressively knocked down the fire. FF Roggenkamp was quick to laud Engine members' efforts because the incident would have deteriorated dangerously.

In the report of this incident, the Officer noted, *(FF Roggenkamp) entered the fire (area) twice without the protection of a charged hose-line. His first entry involved the removal of the victim from behind the entrance door, which necessitated him closing the door to remove the victim. (He) then entered the apartment a second time to assist his Captain, who had found a second victim. FF Roggenkamp distinguished himself at this operation in a manner in the highest traditions of the Fire Department.* For his actions, the Fire Department of the City of New York takes great pride in honoring FF Joseph P. Roggenkamp with the Ner Tamid/Franklin Delano Roosevelt Medal.--DJH



FF Roggenkamp practices his rope evolutions at the Training Academy.



Tracy Allen-Lee Medal

October 24, 2009,
Ashford Street/Hegeman Avenue, Brooklyn

PARAMEDIC JAMES V. CRISPINO 39R2

Appointed to EMS as an Emergency Medical Technician on October 5, 1992. Recipient of several pre-hospital saves and a unit citation. Holds a BBA degree in Marketing from Hofstra University. Resides in Mount Sinai, Long Island, with his wife, Stephanie, and their sons, Nicholas and Jonathan.

When an EMS call comes in for a member of service, the heart beats a little faster, the blood flows a little more quickly and the adrenaline starts to flow. Such became the case on October 24, 2009, for Paramedics James Crispino and Walter Hochbrueckner when the Brooklyn EMS radio came alive with *urgent* calls for assistance at the scene of a motor vehicle accident--Engine 236 and Ladder 107 had collided with each other while responding to a reported gas leak--at the intersection of Ashford Street and Hegeman Avenue.

The force of the impact caused Engine 236 to leave the roadway and strike a brick wall. Ladder 107 rolled on its side and slid about 100 feet down Ashford Street, coming to rest against a large tree, pinning both the Officer and chauffeur in the cab of the apparatus. On arrival, EMS members were met with a chaotic scene--multiple injured and trapped Firefighters. Due to the scope of the incident, the Incident Command System was established, with Medical Branch activities directed by EMS Chief Frances Pascale, Division 1, and EMS Deputy Chief Albert Gehres functioning as the Deputy Medical Branch.

The triage process identified a total of 10 patients with varying injuries, the most significant of which were the trapped Officer and chauffeur of Ladder 107. Although the Officer was the more seriously injured, the chauffeur's leg was pinned between the overturned apparatus and the roadway. With this finding and subsequent removal of the Officer, it became clear that a protracted disentan-

PARAMEDIC WALTER HOCHBRUECKNER 39R2

Appointed to EMS as an Emergency Medical Technician on October 31, 1988. Recipient of a unit citation, pre-hospital save and excellent duty award. Served in the Navy, 1982-1987. Resides in Mineola, Long Island, with his wife, Kim, and their children, Ali and Timmy.

glement and extrication process would be necessary and dictated the services of a Rescue Medical Task Force to medically manage the chauffeur's injuries as he was becoming symptomatic of crush syndrome.

Paramedics Crispino and Hochbrueckner entered the entrapment area several times throughout the disentanglement phase of the operation to render advanced medical care, preventing additional metabolic injuries from occurring. The pair administered intravenous fluids and medications to the patient. Following approximately two hours of intricate and determined efforts, the trapped chauffeur of Ladder 107 was successfully removed by Firefighters from the overturned apparatus and taken via ambulance to the trauma center at Brookdale Hospital.

Throughout the entire operation, members of the Medical Branch operated inside and in proximity to the overturned apparatus, which was leaking fuel and hydraulic fluid. This hazardous situation was further complicated by Hurst tool exhaust and trip hazards, as well as the hazards of active cutting tools and exposed metal shards and glass.

In recognition of their expertise and crucial contributions to successfully extricating a Firefighter who was trapped in his apparatus and while operating under hazardous conditions, the Department is pleased to honor Paramedic James Crispino and Paramedic Walter Hochbrueckner with the Tracy Allen-Lee Medal.--AG



Thanks to the skilled efforts of Paramedics James Crispino and Walter Hochbrueckner, rescued Firefighter gives the thumbs-up sign, following his successful extrication from Ladder 107.

photo by Queens Dispatcher Joseph Epstein

Third Alarm Association Medal

LIEUTENANT KEVIN T. FLANAGAN

LADDER COMPANY 28

January 18, 2009, 0625 hours, Box 75-1643, 140 Bradhurst Avenue, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on December 17, 1977. Previously assigned to Ladder 42 as a Lieutenant and Engine 61, Ladder 59 and Rescue 3 as a Firefighter. Sons, FFs Brian Flanagan and Daniel Flanagan, are assigned to Engine 92 and Engine 58, respectively; father, FF Thomas Flanagan (now deceased) was retired from Rescue 3; grandfather, FF John Flanagan (now deceased) was retired from Ladder 47; father-in-law, FF Philip Spiro (now deceased) was retired from Ladder 50; nephew, FF Phil Spiro, is assigned to Ladder 34; and uncle FF Wallace Bjorness (now deceased) was retired from Engine 220. Member of the Holy Name and Emerald Societies, Honor Legion and the Company Officers Association. Recipient of the Hugh Bonner Medal in 2006, two service rating As and one service rating B and two unit citations, as well as the New York Daily News Hero of the Month in March 2009. Holds a BA degree in Physical Education from Herbert Lehman College. Resides in Pearl River, New York.



Ladder 28--one of the busiest trucks in the FDNY--under the command of 32-year veteran, Lieutenant Kevin T. Flanagan, arrived just before 0630 hours to a reported apartment fire on Bradhurst Street in the central Harlem neighborhood of Manhattan. Statistically, reported fires to dispatchers during early-morning phone calls are more likely to be serious fires, especially in the dead of winter, and this response was no exception.

As the ladder company pulled up to the address, Lieutenant Flanagan observed smoke from a fourth-floor window and transmitted the signal for a working fire at a six-story apartment building. Then, he headed through the lobby toward the stairs with his inside team--FFs Richard A. Zaikowski, who had the forcible entry position, and John A. McCormack (detailed from Engine 80), who was the extinguisher Firefighter. As the inside team members made their way up the stairs, Ladder 28's outside team set up exterior ladders for window entry and roof ventilation.

On his way up the stairs, Lieutenant Flanagan met a civilian who told the Officer that someone was trapped in the fire apartment, 4K, on the fourth floor. Even without reports of trapped occupants, the inside team would have performed an extensive search of the apartment, but a confirmed victim is essential information as Firefighters develop a mental picture of the fireground. When FFs Zaikowski and McCormack forced open the fire apartment door under Lieutenant Flanagan's supervision, the three men were met with blinding, black smoke that quickly filled the fourth-floor hallway.

The first engine company on-scene, Engine 80--temporarily sharing quarters with Ladder 28 and Engine 69--had not yet positioned their hose to the apartment entrance. The truck's inside team, now in a precarious position, started their search into what they later learned was a studio apartment. Lieutenant Flanagan led his two Firefighters down the main

hallway in a zero-visibility environment, pulling them deeper into the apartment and closer to the source of the raging fire.

As he reached the end of the hallway, Lieutenant Flanagan found the occupant, Frances Murphy, 79, unconscious, on the floor. The heat was so intense near the victim that even with his protective clothing,, the Lieutenant was forced to drop as close to the floor as possible. To give them the precious few seconds needed to remove the victim so close to the fire, Lieutenant Flanagan ordered FF McCormack to hold back the flames with the narrow stream from the 2¹/₂-gallon extinguisher. It gave the Lieutenant just enough time to gather Ms. Murphy and drag her toward the front door.

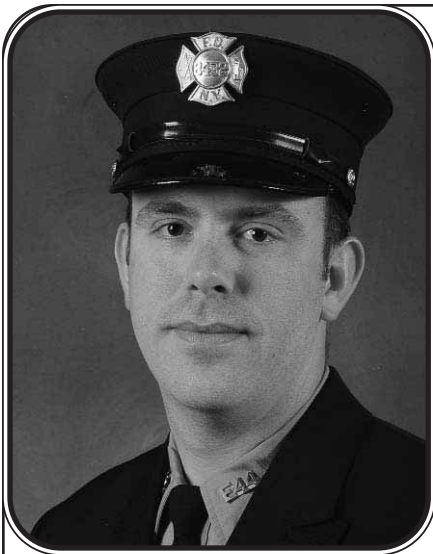
In the public hallway, Lieutenant Flanagan found members of Engine 80 as they were completing their line placement. He transferred patient care to members of the engine, who performed CFR-D and brought Ms. Murphy down to the street to EMS personnel, while simultaneously finishing their hose stretch.

Passing off victims to members in the public hallway is a common tactic, which allows the rescuing Firefighter, who has the best understanding of the apartment layout and the progress of searches, to re-enter the apartment to complete the search. Lieutenant Flanagan crawled back into the apartment, but the fire had become so intense in the few moments since he left, that the inside team could not finish their search until Engine 69 moved in and extinguished most of the fire.

Due to injuries from smoke inhalation, Ms. Murphy spent 20 days in Harlem Hospital until she recovered and went on to rehab for a month. The Lieutenant's bravery, determination and leadership, under punishing conditions and without the protection of a charged hose-line, exemplify the highest traditions of the FDNY. For his actions, Lieutenant Kevin T. Flanagan is awarded the Third Alarm Association Medal.--SN



Lieutenant Kevin Flanagan is flanked by his Firefighter sons--Daniel on the left and Brian on the right.



Vincent J. Kane Medal

FIREFIGHTER DESMOND C. WALSH

*ENGINE COMPANY 44 (ASSIGNED),
ENGINE COMPANY 250 (DETAILED)*

December 16, 2009, 2139 hours, Box 75-2539, 1866 47th Street, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on March 8, 2005. Previously assigned to Engine 274. Stepfather, Captain Michael Barry, is retired from Engine 263. Member of the Emerald Society and the New York City Fire Riders. Holds a BA degree in Accounting from Queens College. Resides in Franklin Square, Long Island, with his wife, Chrissie, and their son, Luke.

The engine company is the basic unit of service in this Department. Usually, the first-arriving engine company to a structural fire will have more influence on the outcome of a fire operation than any other unit to arrive. The manner in which orders are given and assignments are made sets the tone for the entire engine company operations at a fire. Engine company Officers who are serious about training and expect a high level of professionalism from the members of their company will see it reflected in their unit's performance at fires.

Due to the combustible nature of both interior and exterior building materials, fire can spread rapidly within a private dwelling. The unprotected, open interior stairwell to the upper floors acts as a natural flue for fire spread. Small rooms and narrow stairs commonly are found in these buildings. Private dwelling fires challenge the expertise of firefighting forces and require a coordinated team operation. Seventy percent of all fire deaths occur in private dwellings. Thanks to the positive influence that Firefighters made on this December night in Kings County, this deadly statistic was not met.

On December 16, 2009, Engine 250 was given the heads-up by the FDNY dispatchers that they were going to work at a private dwelling fire in which a child was reported missing on the ground floor of 1866 47th Street, Brooklyn. On arrival, the members found a heavy smoke condition and were advised by residents outside the building that a child was still in the fire structure. Confronted with every first responder's worst nightmare--a serious fire and a confirmed child as a life hazard--these members relied on their training to overcome a potential tragedy.

Under the direct supervision of Lieutenant Brian Siegel, (detailed from SOC), the chauffeur, FF James Collins (detailed from Engine 165), positioned and hooked the apparatus up to the nearest operating fire hydrant.

Subsequently, Lieutenant Siegel instructed FFs Nicholas Dorman (detailed from Engine 165), Michael Tenteromano (detailed from Engine 165) and Christopher McCormack (detailed from Engine 283) to stretch a 1³/₄-inch hose-line, while Desmond

Walsh (detailed from Engine 44) and the Lieutenant entered the building to begin a valiant search for the missing child.

Entering the front door, they were met by an exiting civilian, confirming that a three-year-old girl named Itta Friedman did not get out of the ground-floor living room that was on fire. As Lieutenant Siegel and FF Walsh began their search at the front door, they were forced to lay flat on their stomachs due to high heat and pulsating smoke from a fully involved living room fire. Undaunted, FF Walsh advanced his way past the seat of the fire to reach the youngster, now unconscious and severely burned from the fire, now in its free-burning state of combustion.

Faced with a life-and-death decision, FF Walsh knew his only chance to save this child was to remove her quickly from the fire area. Unfortunately, this required him to remove the unconscious victim past a now-advancing and uncontrolled serious fire, without the protection of a charged hose-line. Upon hearing the radio report of a found fire victim, Lieutenant Siegel immediately headed toward FF Walsh's location. Simultaneously, FFs Dorman, McCormack and Tenteromano began to advance the charged hand-line to facilitate the unfolding rescue.

Blinded and disoriented by pulsating smoke and driving heat, FF Walsh relied on Lieutenant Siegel's voice to guide him back toward the front door of the dwelling. By shielding the child from the scorching heat with his own body, FF Walsh tested his endurance by removing the unconscious child past the seat of the fire and to a place of refuge outside the dwelling.

As of this date, young Itta Friedman is still receiving outpatient medical treatment at Staten Island University North's Burn Center as a result of second- and third-degree burns covering 50 percent of her body. Her life, however, is looking infinitely brighter as she makes a remarkable recovery, thanks to the unselfish and brave actions of a New York City Firefighter named Desmond C. Walsh, Engine 44. He is presented with the Vincent J. Kane Medal.--PWB



The father of young Itta Friedman is among those to congratulate FF Desmond C. Walsh for his rescue efforts.

Brummer Medal

FIREFIGHTER JAMES M. RIORDAN

LADDER COMPANY 55

June 21, 2009, 2342 hours, Box 75-2538, 1132 Clay Avenue, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on May 31, 2005. Brother-in-law, FF Kevin McAdams, is retired from Ladder 45. Member of the Emerald Society. Resides in Pearl River, New York, with his wife, Bernadette, and their children, Kristen, Tyler and Sean.



Tuesday night, June 21, 2009, was warm and clear. The night was a quiet one for Ladder 55. That quickly changed as midnight approached. At 2342 hours, Ladder 55 responded second-due to Box 2538. The dispatcher reported that there were numerous calls and reports of people trapped. The peaceful night was over.

As the truck company pulled into the block, FF James Riordan saw a five-story apartment building at 1132 Clay Avenue, its windows full with people forced there by the smoke boiling out from above their heads. Originally three buildings, they had been renovated and now formed one 100-by 60-foot structure, with the entrance in the original middle building. Inside were two stairways.

The first-due engine, Engine 41, transmitted a 10-75, reporting that fire was in the public hall on the second floor. Ladder 55's inside team--Captain Joseph Brosi and FFs Gerard Weihe (detailed from Engine 71) and Riordan--entered the building and climbed the A stair to the second floor. They were met with heavy heat, smoke and fire in both the hall and stairway. Battalion Chief Joel Gerardi, Battalion 26, informed Captain Brosi that someone was reported to be trapped in the stairway on the floor above.

The Captain notified the engine Officer of his intent to go above the fire. Despite the heavy smoke, heat and fire, the forcible entry team pushed up the stairs to the third floor. No hose-line was in place to protect them and FF Weihe had to use the water extinguisher to darken down the flames on the walls and floor as they initiated their primary search.

During this search, FF Riordan heard sounds coming from the floor above. Someone was trapped up there and, in these conditions, survival time would be minimal. After notifying his Officer of the situation, FF Riordan ascended the smoke-filled stairway, forced to his knees by the flames and heat. Ever conscious of the fact that he had no protective line with him

and that there was no line on the floor below him, FF Riordan crawled down the hallway. Conditions were severe. The smoke was banked down to the floor and the temperature was increasing as he felt his way, alone, down the hall. He found 25-year-old Elizabeth Clay on the floor, crumpled up against the smoke stop doors. Apparently, she had attempted to make it through the door to safety and failed.

After transmitting the 10-45, announcing that he had found a victim, FF Riordan notified his Officer of his location, packaged the victim with webbing and then dragged her back down the hallway in rapidly deteriorating conditions to the stairwell. There, he was met by Captain Brosi and FF Weihe. Together, they carried the unconscious woman down the stairs, four stories to the lobby. She no longer was breathing.

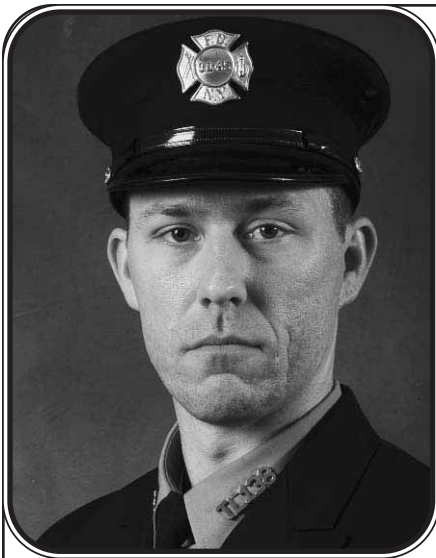
With no ambulance on-scene yet, FF Riordan initiated CPR. Engine 71 members assisted with ventilations while FF Riordan and the members of Ladder 55 took turns performing compressions. When their efforts revived the woman, they secured her to a board and carried her out to the arriving ambulance. The now-breathing victim, with burns over 90 percent of her body, was placed in the ambulance and transported to Bronx Lebanon Hospital.

Despite deteriorating conditions and the knowledge that there was no hose-line to protect him, FF Riordan decided on a course of action that he knew would put him alone and in danger, above the fire. He endured severe conditions, found, packaged and transported the victim to the stairway. He initiated CPR, restored the victim's heartbeat and transferred her

to the care of the ambulance crew. Although she ultimately died as a result of her injuries, his initiative, persistence, skill and willingness to accept risk to his own life gave Ms. Clay a chance at life. For these reasons, FF James M. Riordan is presented with the Brummer Medal for acting in accordance with the finest traditions of the Department.--FCM



Left to right are FFs Gerard Weihe, Joe Wills, Doug Gollogly and Medal Day winner, Jim Riordan, and Captain Joe Brosi.



Frank W. Kridel Medal

FIREFIGHTER BRIAN V. MORITZ

LADDER COMPANY 138

June 27, 2009, 0921 hours, Box 75-7942, 83-28 Dongan Avenue, Elmhurst, Queens

Appointed to the FDNY on September 14, 2003. Holds an AS degree in Science from Nassau Community College. Resides in East Northport, Long Island.

Right after the start of the day tour on June 27, 2009, Ladder 138 was assigned as the only truck on Queens Box 7942 for a fire at 83-28 Dongan Avenue, a three-story, 20- by 80-foot, class 3, peaked-roof multiple dwelling. The first-due engine, Engine 287, gave a 10-75 for a fire in the rear of the second floor and reported jumpers in the rear.

FF Brian Moritz, Ladder 138, was assigned the outside vent position for the tour and teamed up with FF Matt Rodden, the roof Firefighter. FF Moritz grabbed the tools and began to perform a perimeter survey, while FF Rodden grabbed a portable ladder off the apparatus. When FF Moritz reached the rear yard, he encountered a distraught, pregnant woman, lying on top of a one-story, five- by 10-foot setback, screaming that her husband was still trapped inside the attic apartment. The husband had helped his wife escape via the third-floor (attic) window, but then was overcome by the heavy smoke condition and unable to escape.

FF Moritz knew that there was an imminent life hazard and he decided to use the civilian ladders that were in the rear yard instead of waiting for FF Rodden to bring the ladder from the apparatus. A civilian had separated the two sections of a 24-foot extension ladder and placed one ladder to the setback and the other to the attic window. The civilian ladder was at a precarious climbing angle, not butted or spiked into the roof and close to the edge of the pitched-roof setback.

Without hesitating, FF Moritz climbed the first ladder onto the one-story setback and calmed down the female victim, Jackie Ontaneda. He then climbed up the sec-

ond ladder from the setback roof to the attic, passing flames and black smoke coming out the second-floor window. At the top of the ladder, FF Moritz donned his facepiece, climbed into the wall of black smoke pushing from the attic window and entered the floor above the fire.

FF Moritz began his search of the kitchen by himself in high heat and zero visibility. While conducting his search, the Firefighter located the unconscious body of 250-pound Kris Fuller and transmitted a 10-45. FF Moritz initially dragged the victim to the window to provide him with some fresh air.

Simultaneously, Engine 287 was beginning to put water on the fire and FF Moritz decided that it was best to remove the victim down the interior stairs. As he was dragging the victim to the apartment door, he was met by Ladder 154 members, from the second-due truck, and they assisted in removing the man from the apartment and getting him to the stairs.

Once the victim was at the stairs, several members helped carry him down the stairs and out into the street. The victim, suffering from burns and smoke inhalation, was turned over to EMS personnel. He was transported to Elmhurst Hospital where he was admitted for seven days. Jackie Ontaneda also

was taken to Elmhurst Hospital where she was treated for contusions and released.

For his initiative and bravery in rescuing a man trapped on the floor above the fire while operating without a hose-line in place, FF Brian Moritz is honored by the FDNY with the Frank W. Kridel Medal.--NG



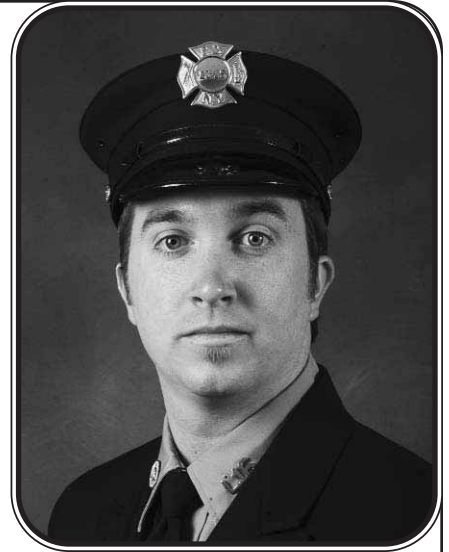
One of many FDNY Firefighters deployed to New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, FF Brian Moritz operates hose-line on one of the many fires.

Emerald Society Medal

FIREFIGHTER JUSTIN T. McNALLY

LADDER COMPANY 16

August 17, 2009, 1216 hours, Box 1018,
East River in the vicinity of 61st Street, Manhattan



Appointed to the FDNY on September 25, 2005. Recipient of the Liberty Mutual Lifemark Award in 2009. Holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Stony Brook University. Resides in Flushing, Queens.

Just after noon on a hot summer day, the members of Ladder Company 16 were returning from a subway incident and en route to resuming building inspection duty. FF Justin McNally was hoping that there would be a minute or two to wash up and change clothing because of the extreme heat conditions encountered on the train ride back from Queens. However, that was not to be the case.

The company was assigned as the "water rescue" unit and directed to respond to East 72nd Street and the FDR Drive for a reported person in the water. While the company was on the way, the dispatcher advised that numerous calls had been received for someone in the water in the vicinity of the old heliport. Ladder 16 stopped at the entrance to the highway at 60th Street and the members, in their stocking feet, proceeded to investigate. They did not have time, after removing their boots, to put on shoes.

As soon as the apparatus came to a halt, FF McNally grabbed his cold water rescue suit from the truck's outside compartment. As soon as he had it on, he sprinted across four lanes of rapidly moving highway traffic, scaled an eight-foot, chain-link fence and ran 100 feet to the sea wall, where other members of his company pointed out the location of a man in the

water.

After having a rope affixed to his wet suit and with complete disregard for his own safety, FF McNally jumped off the 20-foot sea wall and plunged into the strong and rapidly flowing southbound current. Summoning his strength, the Firefighter swam against the flow, a distance of 70 feet, until he reached a lethargic 24-year-old victim, whose face was in the water.

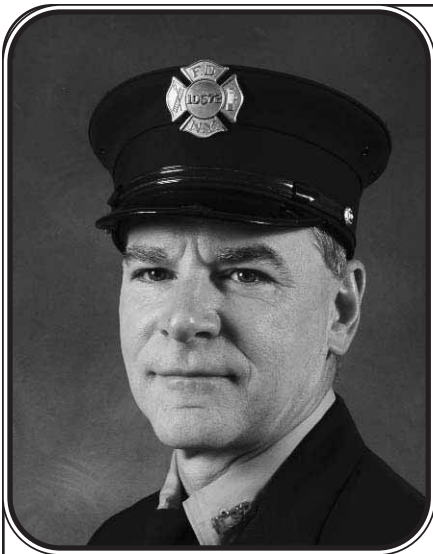
FF McNally gained control of the man and grabbed a life ring that had been tossed to him. He then secured the drowning man in the ring, turned him on his back and, as he was reeled in by the members of Ladder 16, guided the victim to a 20-foot ladder that had been placed into the water against the sea wall. Once the Firefighter and victim were out of the water, they were evaluated and treated by members of Engine

39 and EMS. Subsequently, both were transported to the hospital.

There is no question that FF McNally's decisive, swift and unhesitating action, without regard for his own safety, saved the life of the young man. Therefore, it is with extreme appreciation for his meritorious effort that the Emerald Society Medal is proudly awarded to FF Justin T. McNally.--BDG



FF Justin McNally, with the members of Ladder 16, following the water rescue.



Chief Wesley Williams Medal

FIREFIGHTER ROBERT R. RUFH

LADDER COMPANY 32

July 3, 2009, 0125 hours, Box 75-3576, 3524 Hull Avenue, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on July 16, 1989. Previously assigned to Ladders 54 and 30 and Rescue 1. Resides in Greenville, New York, with his wife, Charmaine.

It was a hot summer evening on July 2, 2009, for FF Robert R. Rufh and the members of Ladder 32 in the Bronx, but as night passed to early morning, it was about to get a lot hotter. The computer spat out an alarm for Box 3576, reporting a fire at 3524 Hull Avenue. Responding with their usual alacrity, FF Rufh and the rest of the company were on their way to the location when they received reports of multiple phone calls reporting fire on the third, fourth and fifth floors. Assigned the outside vent position, FF Rufh knew that a fire in this advanced stage would make his job a lot more difficult.

As the company chauffeur, FF Donald Morris, pulled up in front of the class 3 multiple dwelling, Lieutenant Vic Leeber (covering) transmitted a 10-75 for fire lapping out of one window and heavy, black smoke billowing out of four others. With the fire apartment located in the throat of the building and without a fire escape, FF Morris positioned the apparatus and raised the aerial to the window.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Leeber and the forcible entry team entered the building lobby to make their way up to the third floor. Inside the building, tenants reported that there were two children trapped in the fire apartment, a fact that was quickly transmitted to the Incident Commander, Battalion Chief Christopher Rearer, Battalion 27, and other members. FF Rufh knew that with children trapped, he had to move as swiftly as possible to find and remove them.

After FF Morris had positioned the ladder, FF Rufh quickly ascended the aerial to reach the fire apartment window. FF Morris climbed the aerial behind him. Normally, FF Rufh would wait for a hose-line to be in position before venting the window and drawing the fire in his direction. But this was a life-and-death situation. With a child's life in the balance and his Officer's permis-

sion, the Firefighter quickly vented the thermopane windows and expertly removed the child guard gate. He entered the apartment to search.

The high heat condition caused FF Rufh to immediately drop to the floor in the heavy, acrid smoke. He twisted his ankle in the process. Despite his pain, the rescuer pressed on with his search. In zero visibility, the Firefighter had to rely on his sense of touch to search for the missing children. As he crawled and felt his way toward the front door, he located four-year-old Jamal English, unconscious on his bed. Transmitting a 10-45 signal, FF Rufh grabbed the boy and started toward the front door, only to realize that his exit was blocked by the flames advancing in his direction.

At this time, the forcible entry team forced open the front door, but there was no charged line in place to quell the flames. FF Rufh yelled to FF Christos Sakellariou, Ladder 32, to use his extinguisher to hold back the rapidly approaching flames, while he shielded the youngster with his body and raced out the front door.

Descending to the next landing, FF Rufh passed Jamal and his care to a CFR-D engine. He then returned to the fire apartment to try to locate the other child, in spite of the injury to his ankle. It was learned later that the other youngster

already had exited the apartment. Jamal was taken to Montifiore Hospital and treated for severe smoke inhalation.

It took a full week in the hospital for Jamal to recover from his injuries, but were it not for FF Rufh's bravery and perseverance, without the protection of a hose-line, he never would have had that chance. In recognition of his courage and fortitude in making this rescue, the Fire Department is proud to present the Chief Wesley Williams Medal to FF Robert R. Rufh.--JT

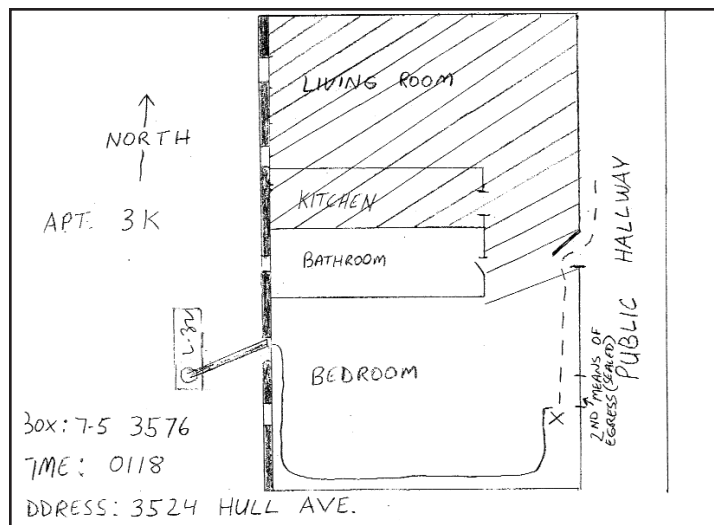


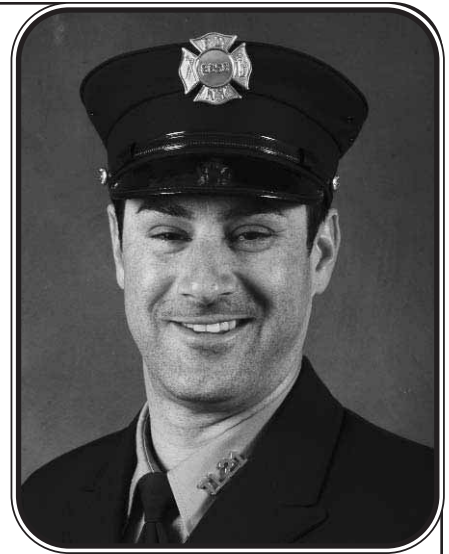
Diagram depicts the route taken by FF Robert Rufh during his rescue of young Jamal English.

Holy Name Society Medal (Brooklyn/Queens)

FIREFIGHTER MICHAEL C. POVOLNY *LADDER COMPANY 21*

January 15, 2009, 1524 hours, Box 22-0868, Hudson River, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on May 4, 2003. Grandfather, Lieutenant Richard Povolny (now deceased), was retired from Engine 256 (now closed) and father, FF Charles Povolny (now deceased), was retired from Rescue 4. Holds a bachelor's degree in Criminology from Florida State University. Resides on Long Island.



The Ides of March was a famous date on the ancient Roman calendar. January 15, 2009, will enjoy equal fame in FDNY history as a new term entered the American lexicon: *The Miracle on the Hudson*. Pilot Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger landed a commercial jetliner in the frigid Hudson River after a bird strike knocked out both engines of his Airbus. While everyone will remember this event, FF Michael Povolny will have a unique perspective compared to most everyone else. He was assigned to Ladder 21 on that frigid afternoon in January and his actions, as well as those of many other first responders, contributed to one of the most miraculous rescues in the history of New York City.

At 1534 hours on January 15, 2009, FF Povolny responded with Ladder 21 to Box 868 for a report of a downed plane at 55th Street and the Hudson River. As the company was nearing 12th Avenue, Rescue 1 gave a preliminary report of a 747 in the Hudson River. As the ladder company reached 43rd Street on 12th Avenue, Captain Paul Lawlor, Officer in command of Ladder 21, saw the plane and viewed numerous people standing on the wings.

As Ladder 21 pulled into the Circle Lines parking lot at 43rd Street, Battalion Chief John Joyce, Battalion 9, gave the 10-60 and Captain Lawlor gave an *urgent* to Manhattan CO to notify responding units that the plane was at 43rd, not 55th Street. Captain Lawlor estimated there were at least 50 to 100 people on the wings of the plane and in the water.

Captain Lawlor commandeered a Circle Line boat and removed the passengers. On the way out to the downed aircraft, they saw the crews of the ferries getting people off the wings. The Captain was monitoring handie-talkie transmissions and under the impression that there were up to 100 people unaccounted for, with about 10 to 15 people left on the wings.

FFs Povolny and Brian McLaughlin donned the cold water rescue gear that they had brought aboard the boat and prepared to enter the jet fuel-saturated water. When Ladder 21's vessel was approximately 20 yards from the plane, FFs

Povolny and McLaughlin jumped into the water with additional flotation devices for airplane passengers. Immediately, water began to seep into their cold water gear and a numbing cold sensation shot through them.

When the two Firefighters were approximately 10 feet from the plane, there were 15 people in ankle-deep water on the wing. The water was getting rough due to the wind, boat traffic and hovering helicopters. FFs Povolny and McLaughlin threw the flotation devices to the passengers who immediately donned them. Simultaneously, a Coast Guard boat arrived at the wing and began to remove the passengers. The Firefighters immediately turned their attention to the plane's fuselage.

The plane was obviously sinking, with the tail fully submerged. FFs Povolny and McLaughlin noticed a hatch near the cockpit. They made eye contact with FFs Steven Beers, Engine 34, Stefan Artz, Ladder 20, and Steve Leible, Ladder 21, on the boat, who were manning the life lines, and motioned to them they were going to enter the plane. Immediately upon entering the plane, the cockpit was above the water and they made a primary search. The search of this area was negative and they entered the main compartment.

FFs Povolny and McLaughlin made their way toward the rear of the plane until they reached a point where water was up to their necks. All the while, they searched in the murky water with their hands and feet. An NYPD SCUBA team arrived via the rear door and performed a search, which proved negative. The two Firefighters then retraced their steps to the cockpit. FFs Povolny and McLaughlin climbed out of the cockpit and began to swim back to their boat. FFs Beers, Leible and Artz pulled the struggling men to the boat with safety lines and assisted them up the ladders.

The courageous actions of FF Michael Povolny under brutal conditions contributed to the successful removal of 155 passengers from the icy-cold waters of the Hudson River. He is duly recognized for his brave actions with the Holy Name Society (Brooklyn/Queens) Medal.--CB



Inflated hose was readied for water rescue of victims. photo by Captain Paul Lawlor, Ladder 21



Hispanic Society Memorial Medal

FIREFIGHTER BRIAN E. McLAUGHLIN *LADDER COMPANY 21*

January 15, 2009, 1524 hours, Box 22-0868, Hudson River, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on February 8, 1998. Previously assigned to Engine 34 and rotated through Ladder 117 and Engine 276. Uncle, Battalion Chief John "Jack" McLoughlin, is retired from Battalion 19; cousin, Lieutenant Blake McLoughlin, is retired from Ladder 39; cousin, FF Robert McLoughlin, is retired from Division 14; and cousin, FF Gregg McLoughlin, Engine 302, died in the line of duty. Member of the Emerald Society. He is retired from the Navy. Studied computers at Queensboro College. Resides in Levittown, Long Island.

The *Miracle on the Hudson* was an act that will not be forgotten by the American people. Pilot Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger landed a commercial jetliner in the frigid Hudson River after a bird strike knocked out both engines.

There were other heroes that day, too. Many were FDNY members, including FF Brian McLaughlin. His actions contributed to one of the most miraculous rescues in the history of New York City.

At 1534 hours, January 15, 2009, FF McLaughlin responded with Ladder 21 to Box 868 for a report of a downed plane at 55th Street and the Hudson River. As Ladder 21 was nearing 12th Avenue, Rescue 1 gave a preliminary report of a 747 in the Hudson River. As the ladder company reached 43rd Street on 12th Avenue, Captain Paul Lawlor, Ladder 21, saw the plane and viewed numerous people standing on the wings of the plane.

As Ladder 21 pulled into the Circle Lines parking lot at 43rd Street, Battalion Chief John Joyce, Battalion 9, gave the 10-60 and Captain Lawlor gave an *urgent* to Manhattan CO to notify responding units that the plane was at 43rd, not 55th Street. Captain Lawlor estimated there were at least 50 to 100 people on the wings of the plane and in the water.

Captain Lawlor commandeered a Circle Line boat and removed the passengers. On their way out to the disabled aircraft, the FDNY members saw the crews of the ferries getting people off the wings. The Captain was monitoring handie-talkie transmissions and under the impression that there were up to 100 people unaccounted for, with about 10 to 15 people left on the wings.

FFs McLaughlin and Michael Povolny, also Ladder 21, donned their cold water rescue gear and prepared to enter the jet fuel-saturated water. When Ladder 21's vessel was approximately 20 yards from the plane, FFs McLaughlin and Povolny jumped into the water with

additional flotation devices for passengers. Immediately, water seeped into their cold water gear, initiating a numbing cold sensation in them.

When the Firefighters were approximately 10 feet from the plane, there were still 15 people in ankle-deep water on the wing. The water was getting rough due to the wind, boat traffic and hovering helicopters. FFs McLaughlin and Povolny threw the flotation devices to the passengers who immediately donned them. Simultaneously, a Coast Guard boat arrived at the wing and began to remove the passengers. The Firefighters then turned their attention to the plane's fuselage.

The plane was obviously sinking, with the tail fully submerged. FFs McLaughlin and Povolny noticed a hatch near the cockpit. They made eye contact with FFs Steven Beers, Engine 34, Stefan Artz, Ladder 20, and Steve Leible, Ladder 21, on the boat, who were manning the life lines, and motioned to them that they were going to enter the plane. Immediately upon entering the plane, the cockpit was above the water and they made a primary search. The search of this area was negative and they entered the main compartment.



FFs McLaughlin and Povolny enter fuselage in cold water suits to search for any possible victims.
photo by Captain Paul Lawlor, Ladder 21

FFs McLaughlin and Povolny made their way toward the rear of the plane until they reached a point where water was up to their necks. All the while, they searched in the murky water with their hands and feet. An NYPD SCUBA team arrived via the rear door and performed a search, which proved negative. The Firefighters retraced their steps to the cockpit. They climbed out of the cockpit and began to swim back to their boat. FFs Beers, Leible and Artz pulled the struggling rescuers to the boat with safety lines and assisted them up the ladders.

Under extreme conditions, FF Brian E. McLaughlin's heroic actions contributed to the successful removal of 155 passengers from the icy-cold waters of the Hudson River. He is being honored with the Hispanic Society Medal today.--
CB

Chief James Scullion Medal

October 24, 2009, Ashford Street/Hegeman Avenue, Brooklyn

DEPUTY MEDICAL DIRECTOR DOUGLAS A. ISAACS, *MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF TRAINING, ASSOCIATE MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF RESCUE/HAZ TAC*
EMS DIVISION CHIEF FRANCES PASCALE, *EMS DIVISION 1*
EMS DEPUTY CHIEF ALBERT T. GEHRES, JR., *EMS DIVISION 5*
EMS CAPTAIN JOHN J. SCOTCH, II, *EMS DIVISION 3*
EMS LIEUTENANT THOMAS SCHULZ, *HAZ TAC*
PARAMEDIC KENNETH JOHNSON, *STATION 39*
PARAMEDIC BRENDAN KONRAD, *STATION 39*



Deputy Medical Director
Douglas A. Isaacs



EMS Division Chief
Frances Pascale



EMS Deputy Chief
Albert T. Gehres, Jr.



EMS Captain
John J. Scotch, II



EMS Lieutenant
Thomas Schulz



Paramedic
Kenneth Johnson



Paramedic
Brendan Konrad

The quiet of October 24, 2009, was interrupted when the Brooklyn EMS radio came alive with *urgent* calls for assistance at the scene of a motor vehicle accident at the intersection of Ashford Street and Hegeman Avenue. Engine 236 and Ladder 107 had collided with each other. The force of the impact caused Engine 236 to leave the roadway and strike a brick wall. Ladder 107 rolled on its side and slid about 100 feet down Ashford Street, coming to rest against a large tree, pinning both the Officer and chauffeur in the cab of the apparatus.

On arrival, EMS members--Captain John J. Scotch, II, Lieutenant Thomas Schulz and Paramedics Kenneth Johnson and Brendan Konrad--were met with a chaotic scene--multiple injured and trapped Firefighters. Due to the scope of the incident, the Incident Command System was established, with Medical Branch activities directed by EMS Chief Frances Pascale and Deputy Chief Albert Gehres functioning as the Deputy Medical Branch. With the arrival of Dr. Douglas Isaacs, a brief exchange of information regarding the patient condition was presented and the rescue group was implemented. The triage process identified a total of 10 patients with varying injuries, the most significant of which were the trapped Officer and chauffeur of Ladder 107.

Further assessment revealed that the chauffeur was the most seriously injured; his leg was pinned between the overturned apparatus and the roadway. With this finding and subsequent removal of the Officer, it became clear that a protracted disentanglement and extrication process would be necessary and dictated the services of a Rescue Medical Task Force to medically manage the chauffeur's injuries as he was becoming symptomatic of crush syndrome.

Successful management of patients with crush syndrome consists of two components. The first component is the administration of intravenous fluids and medications to the patient while he/she is still trapped. The second is hav-

ing physicians and Paramedics who are trained and equipped to perform these functions anywhere, anytime. The Fire Department of the City of New York has both.

Members of the Rescue Medical Task Force, which included Lieutenant Thomas Schulz as the Rescue Group Leader, were charged with the medical management and treatment of the trapped chauffeur. With the Rescue and Medical Branches of the operation expertly coordinated on the command level, Rescue Paramedics Johnson and Konrad, assigned to the care of the trapped Firefighter, continued their work in earnest. Firefighters removed the pinned member.

Following approximately two hours of intricate and determined efforts, the trapped chauffeur of Ladder 107 was successfully removed from the overturned apparatus and taken via ambulance to the trauma center at Brookdale Hospital. Throughout the entire operation, members of the Medical Branch operated inside and in proximity to the overturned apparatus, which was leaking fuel and hydraulic fluid. This hazardous situation was further complicated by Hurst tool exhaust and trip hazards, as well as the dangers of active cutting tools and exposed metal shards and glass.

While only a small number of EMS members are being formally honored, many members operated in hazardous positions integral to the successful outcome at this incident. Additionally, this operation would not have been possible without the members of the EMS Command and Fire Operations working together in a unified, coordinated approach, culminating in the successful treatment and transportation of 10 injured Firefighters.

For their exemplary rescue efforts, EMS Chief Frances Pascale, Deputy Medical Director Douglas A. Isaacs, Deputy Chief Albert T. Gehres, Jr., Captain John J. Scotch, II, Lieutenant Thomas Schulz, Paramedic Kenneth Johnson and Paramedic Brendan Konrad are presented with the Chief James Scullion Medal.--AG



Captain Denis W. Lane Memorial Medal

FIREFIGHTER MARC A. VICTORIO

LADDER COMPANY 30

January 15, 2009, 0526 hours, Box 22-1540, 154 West 132nd Street, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on February 3, 2003. Member of the Emerald and Holy Name Societies and the Columbia Association. Holds an Associate's degree in Business Management from SUNY at Cobleskill. Resides in Queens with his wife, Tara, and their children, Brendan and Aidan.

January 15, 2009, was a bitterly cold night in New York with blizzard-like conditions blanketing the City. At 0526 hours, Engine 59 and Ladder 30 responded from their shared firehouse to a report of a fire at 154 West 132nd Street. In an attempt to cut through the busy radio traffic on the Manhattan frequency, Lieutenant Jay Walsh, Officer of Engine 59, gave an *urgent* message and transmitted a signal 10-75 for heavy fire on the parlor (second) floor of a four-story brownstone.

As Ladder 30 arrived, the Officer, Lieutenant Michael Lyons, jumped from the apparatus and was greeted in front of the building by a frantic woman who told him that her daughter was trapped inside. The Lieutenant looked up and saw the 25-year-old victim climbing out of the top-floor window and onto the windowsill. Lieutenant Lyons directed the members of 30 Truck to simultaneously attempt to reach the trapped victim from the interior and exterior of the fire building.

At the same time, the chauffeur of Engine 59 transmitted over his handie-talkie that he was confronted with a frozen hydrant. That meant a delay in assuring a positive water supply. This factor, coupled with the occupant's attempt to extinguish the fire prior to calling the Fire Department, allowed the fire to grow unchecked. The blaze now was extending to the third and fourth floors.

Conditions were becoming extreme, with flames shooting up the outside of the building from the second- and third-floor windows and directly underneath the trapped victim. FF Marc Victorio, a six-year member of 30 Truck with fewer than two years of experience as a trained chauffeur, showed great calm and composure as he skillfully maneuvered the aerial ladder up, around and behind a lightpost located fewer than 10 feet from the apparatus. The chauffeur was forced to delicately position

the tip of the aerial ladder beside the victim through very heavy and obscuring smoke.

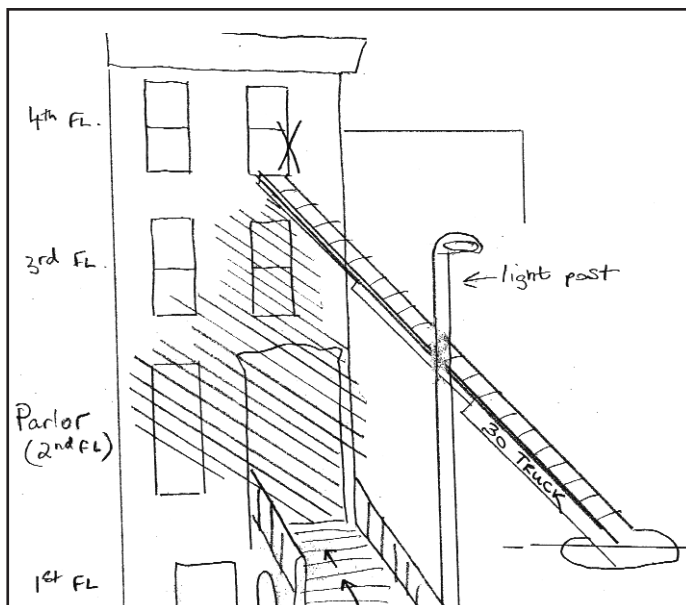
Shouting to the woman on the fourth-floor ledge to stay where she was, FF Victorio climbed the aerial ladder. With heavy fire blowing out the parlor-floor door, as well as the second- and third-floor windows, the flames were reaching Ladder 30's aerial, exposing both rescuer and victim to the same punishing and dangerous high heat and heavy smoke conditions.

Despite the danger to himself, FF Victorio made the calculated decision to pass the flames licking at the rungs and sides of the aerial ladder. With the added protection afforded by being completely donned in his personal protective equipment—including on-air SCBA—FF Victorio climbed toward the victim. As he approached the panicked and severely burned woman, she jumped toward him. Summoning all his strength, he struggled to keep the woman on the ladder and prevent her from falling four stories to her death. After successfully pulling the woman toward him and onto the relative safety of the ladder, FF Victorio shielded her from the encroaching flames.

With an aggressive push, the members of Engine 59 started

to extinguish the fire, allowing FF Victorio to assist the victim down the ladder, to the ground, and into the arms of the CFR engine and FDNY EMS. FF Victorio saved the life of this woman, who was transported to Harlem Hospital with severe burns over 70 percent of her body.

For his calm, quick, decisive and skillful actions under very difficult and dangerous fire and smoke conditions, FF Marc A. Victorio is awarded the Captain Denis W. Lane Medal for performing his duties in the highest traditions of the FDNY.--SM



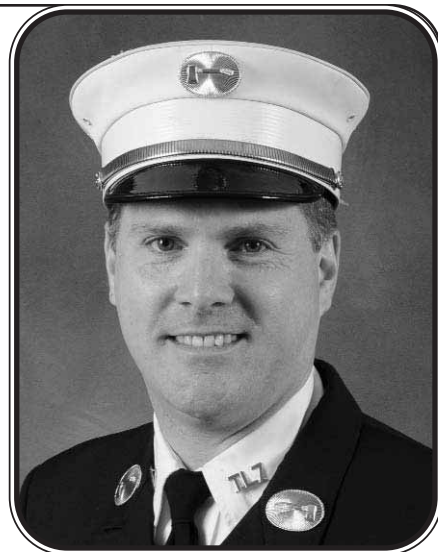
In spite of obstacles—such as the lightpost—FF Marc Victorio successfully rescued a woman.

Uniformed Fire Officers Association Medal

LIEUTENANT JONATHAN M. SHIELDS LADDER COMPANY 7

March 16, 2009, 1551 hours, Box 75-733, 58 West 36th Street, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on August 19, 1990. Previously assigned to Ladders 33 and 51. Brother, FF Patrick Shields, is assigned to Ladder 37 and uncle, Lieutenant Richard McKenna, is retired from Engine 66. Member of the Emerald and Holy Name Societies. Recipient of the Walter Scott Medal in 1999 and a Class III in 1998. Holds an Associate degree from SUNY, Delhi. Resides in Cold Spring, New York.



Operating above the fire without a charged hose-line in place is one of the most dangerous positions for a Firefighter. However, it was all in a day's work for Lieutenant Jonathan M. Shields, Ladder 7, assigned second-due to Box 75-733 for smoke from the third-floor window at 58 West 56th Street. The building in question is a five-story, 20- by 60-foot, class 3 brownstone with no fire escapes.

Making their way into the building, members of Ladder 7, led by Lieutenant Shields, observed fire blowing out the front windows on the third floor. When members reached the fire floor, they faced poor visibility and high heat. The occupant had left the apartment door open when she fled the fire apartment, exposing the open interior stairway and all floors above to super-heated gases and dense smoke. The Officer notified members operating on the fire floor, who were waiting for water, that Ladder 7 members were proceeding above the fire to begin primary searches and check for fire extension.

Reaching the apartment directly over the fire, Lieutenant Shields and his forcible entry team found the door open and the entire apartment fully charged with heavy smoke. The Lieutenant ordered his members not to vent the front windows because fire was still venting from the floor below and he did not want to risk auto-exposure of the fire.

The primary searches proved negative in apartment 3A on the fourth floor. Suddenly, Lieutenant Shields heard Ladder 43's roof Firefighter transmit that a woman was trapped on the windowsill on the top-floor rear apartment. Sensing the urgency and with a known life hazard, Lieutenant Shields and his inside team braved the brutal conditions and went to the top floor to search for the trapped woman.

Accessing apartment 4B on the fifth floor, once again, the rescuers were confronted with open doors, both to the bedroom and the one to the public hallway, causing noxious, black smoke and extreme heat that

mushroomed throughout the apartment. Searching through floor-to-ceiling dense smoke, the members of Ladder 7 stayed low and used the sound of the woman's cries for help as a beacon.

Lieutenant Shields made his way into the rear bedroom and made physical contact with the victim, who was trapped on the windowsill, gasping for air. The Officer pulled her back to safety. He tried to calm her as best he could, but it was difficult, due to a language barrier. Taking the woman down the open interior stairs and through the thick, black smoke and oven-like conditions was not a good option.

Although Rescue 1 and Ladder 43 Firefighters were preparing for a lifesaving rope rescue, Lieutenant Shields decided it was best to protect her in place until she could be removed safely. Ladder 43's roof Firefighter stayed outside the window and on the rope, keeping everyone near the window until the engine had a positive water supply and the fire was knocked down. If the Firefighters on the fire floor lost control of the fire apartment, the lifesaving rope could be used as a last resort. Meanwhile, Lieutenant Shields provided the victim with fresh air by removing windows from the window frame to vent the heavily charged, top-floor apartment. The Officer held her head out the window, below the smoke, so she could breathe fresh air, while simultaneously reassuring her that she was safe.



The brothers Shields--Patrick and Jonathan.

As soon as the fire was knocked down, Lieutenant Shields helped the woman to the street and transferred her care to EMS personnel. Suffering from smoke inhalation, the woman was transported and admitted to New York Presbyterian Hospital.

For rescuing a woman under extreme conditions without benefit of a charged hose-line in place, the FDNY proudly presents Lieutenant Jonathan Shields with the Uniformed Fire Officers Association Medal.--JK



Dr. Albert A. Cinelli Medal

FIREFIGHTER TODD A. FREDRICKSON LADDER COMPANY 43

March 16, 2009, 1553 hours, Box 75-0733, 58 West 36th Street, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on July 14, 1996. Member of the Holy Name and Emerald Societies, Honor Legion and the Vikings. Recipient of the Columbia Association Medal and two unit citations. Holds a BS degree in Psychology from Plattsburgh State University and an MS degree in Speech Language Pathology from Brooklyn College. Resides in Manhattan with his wife, Christa.

The lifesaving rope (LSR) is a critical piece of the roof Firefighter's equipment. While the roof other tools are essential in assisting in the overall mission of containing the fire as quickly as possible, the LSR is employed in the most dire situations. Such was the case confronting FF Todd Fredrickson and the members of Ladder 43 when they responded to a reported fire at 58 West 36th Street in Manhattan on March 16, 2009.

On this day, Ladder 43, *El Barrios Bravest*, was relocated to the quarters of Ladder 25 to cover medicals. FF Fredrickson was assigned to the roof position for the tour. Members were responding to a fire on the third floor of a five-story, converted brownstone, 20- by 60-foot multiple dwelling with the front stoop removed.

Arriving at the building in four minutes, a 10-75 was transmitted by Engine 26 as fire was emitting from two windows on the third floor. The members of Ladder 43 quickly jumped into action. The forcible entry team moved into the building, while the chauffeur raised the aerial so FF Fredrickson, with FF Paul Stuart, Ladder 7 roof Firefighter, immediately behind him, could gain access to the roof.

With his tools and LSR, FF Fredrickson quickly made his way up the ladder and once on the roof, proceeded to the rear of the building to search for fire extension and victims. Peering over the ledge, he saw a victim straddling a top-floor windowsill. The victim was in great distress and peril as heavy, black smoke was pushing out of the window from behind her. FF Fredrickson tried to communicate with the victim, but was unable to do so because of a language bar-

rier and her growing panic.

FF Fredrickson called to FF Stuart, who had just finished venting the scuttle, for assistance. Both agreed that immediate action was needed because the victim was in danger of jumping or falling from the window. With very little time to waste, they decided an LSR rescue was necessary. FF Fredrickson notified the Incident Commander, Battalion Chief Greg Bierster, Battalion 9, via his handie-talkie that a rope rescue was starting.

FF Stuart tied off to the aerial and made four turns on his safety harness. After FF Fredrickson hooked up his safety belt, he went over the parapet. By this time, other members were on the roof to assist with communications between FFs Fredrickson and Stuart.

As FF Fredrickson was reaching the window, Lieutenant John Shields, Ladder 7, made contact with the victim from the interior. FF Fredrickson entered the apartment and they decided not to continue with the LSR operation, even though *urgent* messages were being transmitted for water loss on the fire floor. FF Fredrickson and Lieutenant Shields stayed with the victim until it was safe to remove her via the interior stairway.

The woman was transported to New York Hospital/Presbyterian.

In his after-action report, Chief Bierster wrote, *FF Fredrickson's actions were without regard for his own personal safety (and his) display of initiative and personal bravery should be acknowledged.* Thus, the Fire Department of the City of New York is proud to honor FF Todd Fredrickson today with the Dr. Albert A. Cinelli Medal.--DJH



FFs Todd Fredrickson, Ladder 43, and Paul Stuart, Ladder 7, who collaborated in the safe removal of a female victim.

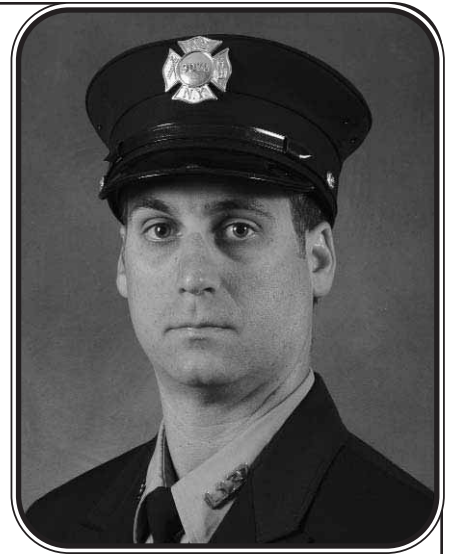
photo by Andrew Savulich, Daily News

Fire Chiefs Association Memorial Medal FIREFIGHTER CASEY E. SKUDIN

*ENGINE COMPANY 332 (assigned),
LADDER COMPANY 137 (detailed)*

**November 12, 2009, 0926 hours, Box 1347,
Beach 96th Street and Shorefront Parkway, Queens**

Appointed to the FDNY on January 15, 2006. Previously assigned to Engine 332. Valedictorian of his Proby class. Holds a Bachelor's degree in Marine Biology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Resides in Long Beach, Long Island, with his wife, Angela, and their son, Benjamin.



After receiving reports that a surfer had gone down in the water on November 12, 2009, at 0926 hours, the members of Ladder 137 responded to Box 1347, at Beach 96th Street and Shorefront Parkway. The extreme weather on this day significantly impacted Fire Department operations. Temperatures were in the low 40s, with scattered showers and wind gusts reaching 39 mph. The surf conditions included high, unpredictable waves, due to the aftereffects of tropical storm Ida. As a result, extremely strong currents, elevated sea heights and frigid water temperatures were reported.

When Ladder 137 arrived on the scene, the Firefighters observed a surfboard violently swaying back and forth amid whitecaps at the end of the jetty. The victim, Alessandro Barretto, was not visible and appeared to be held under by the leash of his surfboard and the strong surf pounding against the jetty.

Ladder 137 members immediately suited up for a rescue. At the direction of Lieutenant Abe Acosta, Ladder 137, FF Evan Davis, Rescue Swimmer, entered the water first. He was tethered to the shore in a cold water immersion suit with a rescue buoy. He inched closer to the victim at a slow pace, due to the high waves, buoyancy of the immersion suit and the drag of the tether.

Next into the water was FF Casey Skudin, Rescue

Surfer. He was not tethered because of the high risk of entanglement on the surf-pounded jetty. FF Skudin finally reached the victim, about 50 yards from the shoreline. He was able to release the rope attached to the victim's leg and pulled him up onto the rescue board, while fighting the current and surf.

FF Skudin had to fight to maintain balance on the rescue board with the victim atop it. FF Davis soon approached and helped FF Skudin stabilize the board. Together, the two Firefighters pulled the victim toward shore; simultaneously, FDNY land units pulled victim and rescuers toward the shore via the tether. Once on the beach, CPR was performed by FDNY members. EMS personnel then transported the victim to Peninsula Hospital. Unfortunately, Mr. Barretto eventually succumbed to his injuries.

Due to FF Skudin's courageous actions--entering the water untethered in such extreme conditions--Mr. Barretto was removed from the waves and brought back to shore. Employing his lifeguard skills, the Firefighter gave the victim his only chance to survive. For his bravery and putting his life at risk to save another person, FF Casey Skudin is honored by the FDNY and presented with the Fire Chiefs Association Memorial Medal.--RM



FF Casey Skudin (third from left) and the members of Ladder 137--FF Terrance O'Donnell, Lieutenant Abe Acosta and FFs Evan Davis, Dicky Ferrin and Austin Watts.



Fire Marshals Benevolent Association Medal

FIREFIGHTER ROBERT M. LAGNESE SQUAD COMPANY 270

June 29, 2009, 1428 hours, Box 4794, 172-06 Douglas Avenue, Queens

Appointed to the FDNY on May 4, 2003. Previously assigned to Engine 219. Member of the Emerald and Holy Name Societies. Holds a BS degree in Fire Administration from Empire State College. Resides in Hicksville, Long Island, with his wife, Stacey, and their children, Robert, Jr., and Nicholas.

The members of Squad 270 operated at a June 29, 2009, incident that required the full utilization of their technical rescue qualifications. With the cooperation of three additional FDNY units, FF Robert Lagnese effected the rescue of three individuals from a toxic confined space.

The members of Squad 270 are specially trained as Rescue Technicians and Hazardous Materials Technicians level II. In this capacity, Squad 270 responds with the required specialized equipment and individual qualifications to perform all technical rescue operations, including confined space. The qualifications are necessary due to the history of rescuers losing their lives at a high rate during confined space rescues. Squad 270 members train extensively--both at the Bureau of Training and in quarters--in preparedness for incidents requiring specialized tools and skills similar to those employed during this Douglas Avenue rescue.

At 1428 hours on June 29, 2009, Queens Box 4794 was transmitted for a report of three workers overcome in a manhole located at a garbage transfer facility at 172-06 Douglas Avenue. On arrival, the members of Squad 270 began to quickly gain situation awareness regarding the incident. Lieutenant Kevin Yoos determined that a confined space rescue was required immediately due to three civilians trapped and unconscious, 16 feet deep in a manhole. Two of the victims were floating in water at the bottom of the manhole; the third victim appeared viable.

The operation would require the rescuer being lowered through a three-foot-wide manhole that gradually increased to an area of six by six feet. Simultaneously, using intricate hazardous material meters,

FF Charles Minicozzi assessed the manhole. FF Minicozzi reported the presence of lethal hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), ranging from 30 parts per million at the top of the hole and 230 parts per million in the bottom of the hole.

Immediate rescue was necessary if there was to be any chance of saving these victims. With the assistance of Ladders 126 and 127, the members of Squad 270 constructed the rigging and tripods required to lower a Firefighter into the hazardous atmosphere. FF Lagnese donned his personal protective equipment and was lowered into the tight space where he operated for 20 minutes.

Using rescue webbing, FF Lagnese immediately tied the technical knots required on the first victim who showed the best capacity for survival. Additional Firefighters from the three companies raised the victim to the street for decontamination and pre-hospital medical care. This process was repeated two more times. FF Lagnese remained in the confined space until the three removals were completed.

At the conclusion of the three removals, FF Lagnese was lifted to street level where he remained in full personal protective

equipment until decontamination was completed. Regrettably, the three victims perished in spite of the professional care provided by FDNY Paramedics.

Courageously, FF Robert Lagnese operated for more than 20 minutes in an atmosphere that proved fatal to three victims. Although the outcome was not a positive one, this fact in no way diminishes what FF Lagnese tried to accomplish. He is honored for his individual efforts with the Fire Marshals Benevolent Association Medal.--RM

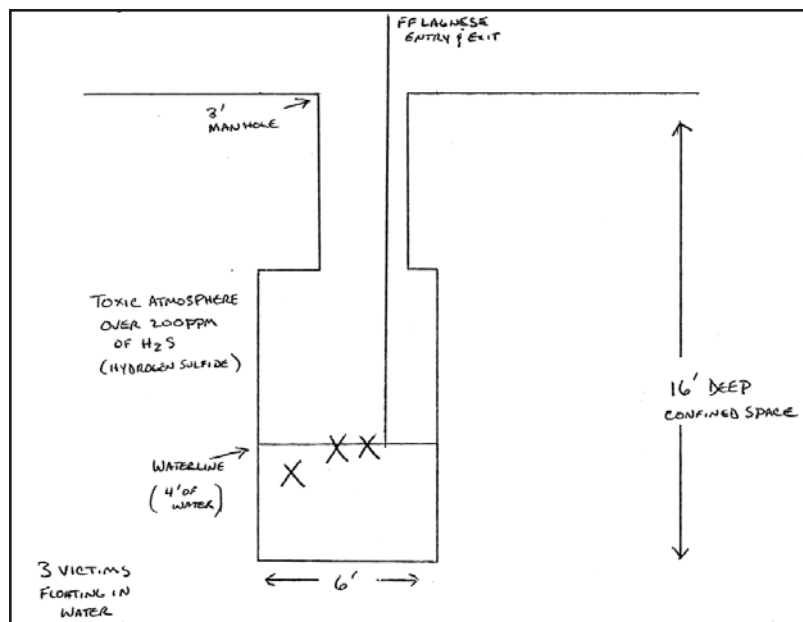


Diagram shows where FF Lagnese was lowered by rope into a manhole to effect removal of victims.

Community Mayors, Inc./ Lt. Robert R. Dolney Medal CAPTAIN DENNIS R. MURPHY *LADDER COMPANY 105*

December 23, 2009, 0247 hours, Box 75-1260, 392 Third Street, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on June 1, 1983. Previously assigned to Engines 216, 243 and 233 and Ladder 108. Brother; Lieutenant Kenneth Murphy, is retired from Division 13. Member of the Emerald and Holy Name Societies. Holds a degree in Business Administration from Saint Francis College. Resides in Brooklyn with his wife, Debbie, and their children, Danielle and Brendan.



Ladder 105 was assigned second-due to a fire on the top floor of a four-story, occupied multiple dwelling, located at 392 Third Street, Brooklyn, on December 23, 2009, at 0247 hours. A 10-75 was transmitted by Squad 1, while Ladder 105 responded. On arrival, members of Ladder 105 observed heavy fire venting out of the top-floor front windows of a building that had been converted from two brownstones into one building. Each floor consisted of two separate apartments.

The forcible entry team--FFs John Fischer with the irons and Ronald "Robbie" Mitchell with the extinguisher--led by Captain Dennis Murphy, ascended to the top floor via the interior staircase. When they reached the floor, Captain Murphy observed a charged hose-line going into the fire apartment and heavy smoke venting in the hallway. The Captain instructed the forcible entry team to force the door to the adjoining apartment.

Entering the apartment, Captain Murphy and the forcible entry team conducted a primary search, with negative results for fire extension or life. Completing the team's primary responsibilities, the Officer determined that additional initial operations in this adjoining apartment were unnecessary. He concluded in his size-up that due to the large size and complex layout of the fire apartment, (approximately 15 by 80 feet), the greatest potential for life hazard was in the fire apartment. Additional resources were required in the fire apartment to complete the complex searches required.

With his SCBA face-piece donned, Captain Murphy crawled into the fire apartment, followed by the forcible entry team, and advanced to the rear to augment the search initiated by Ladder 122 members. Approximately 15 feet down the interior hallway, in zero visibility, Captain Murphy came upon an unconscious

female, Kate Conway, lying on the floor in the supine position. He immediately instructed FF Fischer to transmit a 10-45 signal over the handie-talkie and, with the help of FFs Fischer and Mitchell, Captain Murphy removed the victim from the apartment.

When they reached the public hallway, the Captain instructed the two Firefighters to take the victim down to the street, while he re-entered the apartment to complete the search with Ladder 122 members. After advancing 20 feet, Captain Murphy came upon an unconscious male victim, identified as Michael Conway. With the help of FF Donald Campbell, Ladder 122, the victim was removed safely to the public hallway. The pair carried the man down to the third-floor landing. There, he was turned over to other members for removal to the street and Captain Murphy once again ascended the stairs to complete the search. No additional victims were found.

Suffering from serious injuries, the man and woman were sent to Cornell Burn Center for an extended stay.

Captain Murphy, fully aware of the greatest life hazard presented in the apartment, entered the fire area twice after the rescue of the first victim, saved another and ensured that all persons had been removed. Had it not been for Captain

Murphy and those members who assisted him, Kate and Michael Conway would have perished. His actions as a leader of this team exhibited bravery, initiative and capability. For these reasons, the Fire Department is proud to present Captain Dennis Murphy with the Community Mayors of New York State/Lieutenant Robert R. Dolney Medal.--RM



Ladder 105 operates at Brooklyn Box 75-1244, 108 5th Avenue, March 28, 2007.

photo by Seth Greenberg, NY Post



Battalion Chief Frank T. Tuttlemondo Medal CAPTAIN JOSEPH E. DRENNAN ENGINE COMPANY 259

May 23, 2009, 2040 hours, Box 75-7262, 47-29 37th Street, Queens

Appointed to the FDNY on November 24, 1979. Currently assigned to Division 8. Previous assignments include Engines 281, 265 and 206 and Ladders 147 and 135. Brother, FF Paul Drennan, is retired from Ladder 131 and cousins, Captain John Drennan, Ladder 5, was killed in the line of duty on May 7, 1994, and Lieutenant Michael Drennan, is assigned to Ladder 84. Member of the Emerald Society. Recipient of a Class A in 1988 and a Class III in 1990. Resides in Rockaway, Queens, with his wife, Marjorie, and their son, Joseph.

Bravery is defined as possessing or displaying courage. Most Firefighters possess courage; not all are afforded the opportunity to display it. On May 23, 2009, Captain Joseph Drennan possessed the courage and had the opportunity to display it, as he saved another person's life.

Engine 259 responded first-due to an alarm at 47-29 37th Street in Queens. On arrival, Captain Drennan transmitted a 10-75 for a fire on the first floor of an occupied multiple dwelling. The four-story building was of non-fire-proof, class 3 construction and measured 50- by 75-feet. The Captain ordered the chauffeur to hook up to a hydrant and members to stretch a 1³/₄-inch line.

While the line was being stretched, Captain Drennan entered the fire building to search for potential victims. Arriving at apartment 4A, he found heat and smoke pushing from behind the door. Without regard for his own safety and before the protective hose-line was in place and operational, he entered the smoke-filled apartment and began his search.

In Collyers' mansion-type conditions, groping systematically in the intense heat and dense smoke, he found an adult male, Luther Robinson, unresponsive and lying on the bedroom floor. With great determination and tremendous difficulty, Captain Drennan, shielding the victim with his own body, dragged, lifted and pulled Mr. Robinson from the rapidly expanding apartment fire into the public hall.

The Officer then ordered members in the public hall to initiate lifesaving procedures to Mr. Robinson, while he supervised the line placement and extinguishment of the fire. Mr. Robinson was transported to Jacobi Hospital.

According to Battalion Chief Charles Lamberta, Battalion 45, Captain Drennan used quick, decisive and aggressive action to save Mr. Robinson. Deputy Chief Mark Cuccurullo, Division 14, concurred with his remarks, *Captain Drennan entered the fire apartment under severe conditions, taking the initiative to begin searching without the protection of a hand-line, thus exhibiting personal bravery and initiative.*

Thanks to the determined efforts of Captain Joseph Drennan, Luther Robinson was rescued. Unfortunately, he later succumbed to his injuries. For his courageous actions, he is officially recognized and presented with the Battalion Chief Frank T. Tuttlemondo Medal.



Engine 259 operates at Brooklyn Box 10-10-0036, Greenpoint Terminal Market, Greenpoint, May 2, 2006. The company was one of the first to arrive and the last to leave. Inset photo, Captain Drennan takes up from a job.

Dr. John F. Connell Medal

FIREFIGHTER JOSEPH A. BARONE

LADDER COMPANY 2

March 5, 2009, 2154 hours, Box 10-77-893, 321 East 54th Street, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on May 5, 2002. Now assigned to Ladder 165. Attended Queens College, studying Communications. Resides in Massapequa Park, Long Island, with his wife, Jennifer.



For decades, the Fire Department has worked unceasingly to promote fire safety. One of its most important messages to the public is to remind them to close the door of the room where the fire is located to prevent it from spreading. While this message--on countless occasions--has slowed the advance of a fire, frequently, Firefighters find that they must go into a burning room and close the door behind them to effectuate search and rescue. Such was the case on the evening of March 5, 2009, for FF Joseph Barone, Ladder 2.

Shortly before 2200 hours that night, Ladder 2 was ordered to respond to a reported fire on the fourth floor of a 10-story building at 321 East 54th Street, a 75- by 105-foot, class two multiple dwelling. Arriving at Box 893 within two and a half minutes, the forcible entry team--Captain Kevin Harrison and FFs Barone with the irons and Frank Villanueva (Engine 8) with the extinguisher--hurried to the fourth-floor landing where they encountered heavy, black smoke pushing out from the door of apartment 4F.

FFs Barone and Villanueva immediately went to work and forced the door. However, when the door gave way, it opened only a few inches. FF Barone realized that a victim was lying on the floor, directly behind the door, which prevented it from opening completely. Using his body weight, FF Barone widened the opening and the hallway quickly filled with heavy, black smoke. Within a few seconds, he was able to push the door open far enough to gain entry into the apartment's narrow hallway.

Meanwhile, members of Engine 8 were coping with several standpipe cap outlets that had fused to the

threads due to dissimilar metals. Because there would be a delay in stretching a hose-line, FF Barone chose to squeeze through the opening and into the apartment.

Once inside, FF Barone found Collyers' mansion-type conditions, featuring a narrow (less than three-foot-wide) hallway, a bookcase and piles of debris. The additional material in the hallway had reduced the maneuverable area to only 16 inches.

With conditions worsening, FF Barone realized he needed to close the door and clear the area of debris so he could move the woman out of the door's swing. Captain Kevin Harrison and FF Villanueva remained outside while FF Barone closed the door. Because the apartment was a studio, there was no other doors to contain the fire. Thus, FF Barone was directly exposed to the advancing fire, without a charged hose-line in operation.

Moving quickly and under high heat and zero visibility conditions, FF Barone stayed low and cleared the debris in the apartment's foyer. Once this was accomplished, he was able to move the victim, open the door and remove the woman to the public hallway. She was transported with airway inhalation burns to Cornell Burn Center. Unfortunately, she expired.

In his report about the incident, Captain Harrison noted, *FF Barone's heroic efforts were solely responsible for saving the victim's life and he acted with bravery, skill and without regard for his own safety.* Therefore, the FDNY is proud to honor FF Joseph A. Barone today with the Dr. John F. Connell Medal.--DJH



FF Barone (left) helps back Ladder 2 into the truck room.



Lieutenant Kirby McElhearn Medal

March 13, 2009, 1222 hours, 1815 Prospect Avenue, Bronx

EMS LIEUTENANT MARK A. BONILLA *STATION 18*

Appointed to EMS on January 27, 1997, as an Emergency Medical Technician. Previous assignments include Stations 26, 19, 17 and 16. Resides in Manhattan with his son, Joshua.

In the pre-hospital setting, members of the FDNY Emergency Medical Service encounter patients with a vast array of medical and traumatic complaints. Not to be excluded from this list are patients who suffer from severe depression. On the morning of March 13, 2009, at 1157 hours, a suicidal patient, realizing that she did not want to die, placed a call to 911, expressing those exact words after cutting her own wrists. As if the desperation of this caller was not enough, this assignment would test the experience and training of a 13-year member of the Department.

EMS Lieutenant Mark Bonilla was having an uneventful tour on March 13, 2009, when he received the assignment for an emotionally disturbed patient. NYPD and a Basic Life Support unit also were assigned. On his arrival, Lieutenant Bonilla found only the BLS unit on-scene. The crew members of 26B2 advised the Lieutenant that they were informed by the police officers that the patient had left prior to their arrival. The police officers explained that their sergeant was at St. Barnabas Hospital and informed them that she saw the respective patient in the emergency room.

At this point, Lieutenant Bonilla could have closed out this assignment. However, he was troubled by the fact that access was never gained into the apartment. Lieutenant Bonilla advised the dispatcher that he was responding to St. Barnabas Hospital to confirm the patient's location. Arriving at the hospital, Lieutenant Bonilla discovered that the patient was not there. His concern grew as he considered the possibility of the patient being inside her apartment, but unable to answer the phone or open the door.

He immediately requested EMS and Fire units to respond

back to the Prospect Avenue location. The dispatcher was incessantly trying the call-back number as police were knocking on the door. Both received no response. Guided by his concern for the possible patient inside, his medical expertise and years of experience, Lieutenant Bonilla turned to the Firefighters and said, *take the door*.

Once the door to the premises was removed, the police officers entered the apartment first to ensure that the scene was safe. After securing the apartment, police advised Lieutenant Bonilla that, in fact, there was a patient inside the apartment. Lieutenant Bonilla began to approach the entrance to the apartment when the officers stopped him. The officers indicated that this assignment no longer was a medical emergency, but a crime scene because the patient was dead.

Again refusing to give up on his patient, Lieutenant Bonilla advised the officers that he wanted his Paramedic unit to assess the patient. The Paramedics of 26Y2 quickly assessed the patient and called out to Lieutenant Bonilla, *we got a pulse!* The patient was still alive, but barely, as she had sustained significant blood loss. With assistance from Engine 46 members, the Paramedics began aggressive treatment and quick transport. The aggressive treatment was continued by the hospital staff and the patient made a full recovery from her injuries.

In keeping with Lieutenant Bonilla's professionalism and dedication, he personally thanked the members of Engine 46 for their assistance. For his incredible professionalism and persistence, Lieutenant Mark Bonilla is awarded the Lieutenant Kirby McElhearn Medal.--JP

Fire Bell Club Medal

FIREFIGHTER RONALD F. LITTLEJOHN

*ENGINE COMPANY 48 (ASSIGNED),
LADDER COMPANY 56 (DETAILED)*

December 13, 2009, 0534 hours, Box 75-3399, 2819 Morris Avenue, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on November 14, 1999. Now assigned to Ladder 56. Uncle, Lieutenant Anthony Virgone (now deceased), was retired from Engine 83. Member of the Emerald and Holy Name Societies. Holds a BA degree in Athletic Administration from St. John's University. Resides in Newburgh, New York, with his wife, LeeAnn, and their children, Ronnie and Brittany.



It was another cold and windy night tour in the Bronx. The run came in at 0534 hours. Ladder 56 and Engine 48 were responding to 2819 Morris Avenue, the Bronx. As the apparatus pulled out of quarters, the members of Ladder 56 listened intently as the dispatcher reported, *possible fire on the fifth or sixth floor*; then, moments later, *second source; fill out the alarm*. The members anticipated a working fire and as they pulled into the block, that is exactly what they saw.

The 10-75 was transmitted on arrival. The fire building was a big, six-story, H-type, fully occupied multiple dwelling. Heavy, black smoke boiled violently into the early-morning sky from the top-floor windows of the B wing. Building occupants already were pouring into the street, fleeing the fire.

Lieutenant Kingsley Taylor, Ladder 56 (assigned to Battalion 13), led the forcible entry team into the building. FF Ronald Littlejohn had the irons and FF Bob Kehoe, Engine 48, had the extinguisher. Building occupants notified the Firefighters that the fire apartment was occupied by an elderly gentleman who likely was still in the apartment.

Lieutenant Taylor and FFs Kehoe and Littlejohn moved quickly up the six flights of stairs. Within moments, they were at the door of the fire apartment, sizing up the forcible entry options. Without delay, the team forced the door and immediately was driven to the floor by a high heat condition and thick, black smoke pushing from the occupied apartment. The members recognized this as a clear indication of an advanced and rapidly evolving fire.

FF Littlejohn, with more than 10 years on the job, knew that such advanced fire conditions are truly unforgiving. Time would not be on their side. Additionally, the building size-up indicated a long, time-consuming stretch of the hose-line. To FF Littlejohn, this meant they would be pushing the limits,

working without water, without benefit of a protective hose-line for a significant period of time. (He was quick to mention that the Engine chauffeur did an excellent job getting water and the members--although a Firefighter short--did an excellent job stretching to the top floor.)

All three members moved into the apartment as smoke and heat continued to push out overhead. With the advancing fire directly ahead, Lieutenant Taylor and FF Kehoe moved into the apartment, then went to the left. FF Littlejohn maneuvered past the fire, then went to the right to start his search pattern. This aggressive and necessary action paid off. FF Littlejohn pushed on and located the trapped occupant, unconscious and badly burned, on the floor. The victim was between a couch and a large table.

FF Littlejohn immediately transmitted a 10-45 signal as FF Kehoe worked to prevent the fire from cutting off the primary egress. FF Littlejohn then dragged the elderly victim across the room to the apartment door and into the hallway where other members assisted. FF Littlejohn then turned back into the fire apartment where he continued the search for other victims. EMS personnel transported the elderly victim to Jacobi Hospital where he was admitted in critical condition with severe burns and smoke inhalation, to which he ultimately succumbed.

FF Littlejohn operated under challenging fire conditions.

Without the benefit of a charged, protective hose-line, he moved past the rapidly developing fire--one that threatened to cut off his only egress--and continued his search until he found the unconscious victim. He demonstrated initiative, courage and professionalism in the performance of his duty. He is presented with the Fire Bell Club Medal.--JDL



FF Ronald Littlejohn and fellow Firefighters take a blow at a job.



Firefighter David J. DeFranco Medal

LIEUTENANT TATE L. HUNT

LADDER COMPANY 166

June 28, 2009, 0630 hours, Box 3548, West 17th Street and Surf Avenue, Coney Island Beach, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on February 4, 2001. Previous assignments include Engine 257 and Ladders 6 and 148. Brother, FF Chris Hunt, is assigned to Engine 157; cousins, FF John Gorman, is assigned to Ladder 166 and Captain Brian Foster, is assigned to Ladder 84; brothers-in-law Captain Brian Gorman and Lieutenant Patrick Gorman are assigned to Engine 155 and Ladder 156, respectively, and FF Brendan Gorman, is retired from Ladder 105; and father-in-law, Battalion Chief Jerry Gorman (now deceased), was assigned to Operations. Member of the Emerald Society. Recipient of the Albert S. Johnston Medal in 2009 and the Life Saving Benevolent Association Medal & Award in 2010. Holds an Associate degree in Engineering from the College of Staten Island. Resides in Staten Island with his wife, Maggie, and their children, Emma, Tate, Liam and Quinn.

While the New York City Fire Department has all but mastered the art of urban firefighting; there are times when members of this great and storied Department are called upon to demonstrate personal initiative and aggressive action at unusual incidents. This was the case on an overcast day in late June 2009 when Lieutenant Tate L. Hunt displayed these important traits and made the difference at a critical moment.

In the early-morning hours of June 28, 2009, the phone alarm rang in the quarters of Engine 318/Ladder 166 for a person in the water at Box 3548, West 17th Street and Surf Avenue, Brooklyn. As they responded, Brooklyn Dispatch advised the company that three civilians had entered the water, but only two had emerged.

In fewer than five minutes, the *Kings of Neptune* arrived on-scene and the company was waved in to the boardwalk by several civilians. As members of the company retrieved their water rescue equipment, Lieutenant Hunt ran ahead to obtain additional information on the nature of the emergency. He was met by EMS members who stated that someone was in the water drowning. Lieutenant Hunt ran down onto the sand and was met by two New York City Police Department officers who confirmed the information. However, they could not verify the victim's last known location. Meanwhile, a number of civilians were on the pier, screaming that the person was drowning and pointing to a general location in the water.

Realizing time was critical, Lieutenant Hunt, a strong swimmer, sprinted more than 500 feet to the beach and entered the water without a life preserver or safety rope. He swam out approximately 150 feet to the point where the civilians were pointing, but he

could not see the victim. The Lieutenant dove down approximately eight feet under the water and began to search for the victim.

Within a few seconds, Lieutenant Hunt spotted a white blur, reached out and found the male victim, who was face-down on the ocean floor. The rescuer grabbed the victim, brought him to the surface and began to swim toward the shore. Along the way, he was met by FF Raymundo Ferrer, who had entered the water with a life preserver and buoy to assist the Officer. Lieutenant Hunt used the buoy to elevate the victim's head out of the water and then he continued to swim with the victim back to shore.

Several seconds later, Lieutenant Hunt was joined by FF Sean Connelly, Ladder 161, who also had entered the water with an additional life preserver and tethered surfboard to assist in the victim's removal. The three rescuers placed the victim--who was not breathing--onto the surfboard and the rest of the company still on the beach pulled the tethered surfboard back to shore. Once at the shoreline, Lieutenant Hunt and FF Connelly carried the victim to EMS personnel, who immediately began CPR prior to transporting the victim to Coney Island Hospital.

In his report of the incident, Battalion Chief Joseph Carlsen, Battalion 43, noted, *Lieutenant Hunt displayed exceptional bravery.* Additionally, then-Deputy Chief James E. Leonard, Division 8 Commander, wrote, *His initiative to enter the water quickly is the reason a life was saved.* The New York City Fire Department is proud to honor Lieutenant Tate L. Hunt today with the Firefighter David J. DeFranco Medal.--DJH



The Lieutenant Tate Hunt family is big enough to form an FDNY Company. Left to right--brother, FF Chris Hunt, Engine 157; brother-in-law, Lieutenant Patrick Gorman, Ladder 156; Lieutenant Tate Hunt, Ladder 166; brother-in-law, Captain Brian Gorman, Engine 155; brother-in-law, FF Brendan Gorman, is retired from Ladder 105; and cousin, FF John Gorman, Ladder 166.

Lieutenant James Curran/New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal ENGINE COMPANY 22

June 17, 2009, 0629 hours, Box 22-1204,
1751 2nd Avenue, Manhattan

LIEUTENANT THOMAS J. DELGROSSO (LADDER 13)
FF MICHAEL P. DALEY*
FF ANDREW S. DORY
FF DAVID J. GREISCH
FF WILLIAM C. PITTA

* missing from photo



The members of Engine 22 responded to a phone alarm for a report of *smoke* on an unknown floor at 1751 2nd Avenue on June 17, 2009, at 0629 hours. It seemed to be the start of a typical spring morning in New York City--warm, a bright sun rising, nothing unusual. But as the apparatus moved uptown, the chatter on the radio began to provide a different scenario.

Engine 22 members recognized the reported address and noted two primary concerns: First, the building is a 42-story, high-rise multiple dwelling. Second, the early-morning hour represented a significant life safety factor. As the dispatcher reported additional 911 callers, there was an unspoken sense of heightened awareness among the members. As units pulled into the block, fire already was blowing out several windows on an upper floor. A 10-77 was transmitted. A second alarm soon followed.

The Company Officer, Lieutenant Thomas Delgrosso (Ladder 13), led the members into the building, where the doorman, in a panic after receiving numerous calls from people on the ninth floor, could not specify the location of the fire apartment. Reports of *people trapped* were being transmitted over the radio. All members of the FDNY are well aware of the challenges that exist in this kind of building when presented with an advanced fire condition. Additionally, the layout of the building was complex; there were long hallways, multiple stairwells and elevator banks.

Arriving at the ninth-floor stairwell, Lieutenant Delgrosso ordered a tactical delay in standpipe hook-up, pending a more precise identification of the fire apartment, then cracked the door to check conditions and locate it. Visibility was zero with a high heat condition. The heat confirmed that the fire had extended from the apartment into the public hallway. Radio reports from Battalion Chief Eugene Kelty, Battalion 10, confirmed the fire apartment as 9T. This information prompted the Lieutenant to drop down to the floor below the fire to survey the layout in anticipation of zero visibility on the fire floor.

Meanwhile, in the street, Engine 22 chauffeur, FF David Greisch, had located a working hydrant, then single-handedly

stretched the 3 1/2-inch hose-line to the siamese connection and supplied the system. Since the fire apartment was at the far end of a long, narrow hallway, FF Michael Daley, control Firefighter, was ordered to complete the standpipe connection and then prepare for the long stretch. Knowing that time was a critical factor for the survival of trapped occupants, the members of Engine 22 steeled themselves for an aggressive push down a long, punishing hallway toward the entrance door of the fire apartment.

With the hose-line charged at the stairwell door, the nozzle team--FFs William Pitta and Andrew Dory--advanced the line under the Officer's supervision, to the fire apartment, where they were confronted with blowtorch-like conditions. As the members made the turn into the fire apartment, conditions worsened. There was a heavy volume of fire throughout. Outside, weather conditions, in combination with vented windows, had created a wind-driven fire. Wind was feeding the fire, driving it toward the Firefighters, increasing the amount of fire and heat and diminishing the extinguishing effects of the hose-line.

The members of Engine 22, providing each other relief on the nozzle, continued their attack, successfully knocking down the fire, allowing teams to operate more effectively in the search for victims. Once the fire was extinguished, FFs Pitta, Dory and Daley were transported to the New York Burn Center and hospitalized for treatment of burn injuries incurred battling this fire. Five 10-45s were transmitted for this incident.

This is an example of outstanding company operations, dependent upon teamwork and cooperation, resulting in the rescue of trapped occupants, prevention of loss of life and the reduction of civilian injuries. The members of Engine 22--Lieutenant Thomas J. Delgrosso and FFs Michael P. Daley, Andrew S. Dory, David J. Greisch and William C. Pitta--in the face of brutal, fierce fire conditions, demonstrated the tenacity and determination found only in the most dedicated professionals. They are presented with the Lieutenant James Curran/New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal.--JDL

Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Medal

LADDER COMPANY 6

February 24, 2009, 0347 hours, Box 55-132,
22 James Street, Manhattan

LIEUTENANT MICHAEL PIETRACATELLA (BN-6)

FF MICHAEL F. CAHILL

FF SEAN M. CAHILL (ENGINE 9)

FF KEITH C. JOHNSON

FF PATRICK J. O'GRADY

FF JOSEPH M. SCOTTO, III



There are many factors to consider when citing a company for recognition on Medal Day: What were the conditions? Building type? Time of year? Day or night? People trapped? The outcome? However, one trait that stands above the rest is the company's diligence in performing their assigned tasks. This trait came into play on a frigid night on February 24, 2009, as the members of Ladder 6 operated as the first-due unit at what became a five-alarm fire.

At 0347 hours, a call came into the Canal Street firehouse for a fire on the second floor of 22 James Street, a six-story, occupied, non-fireproof multiple dwelling. Working that morning were Lieutenant Michael Pietracatella and FFs Michael F. Cahill, Sean M. Cahill, Keith C. Johnson, Patrick J. O'Grady and Joseph M. Scotto, III. The company arrived on-site in four and a half minutes and found a number of residents in the street, while others were still fleeing the building.

The inside team--Lieutenant Pietracatella and FFs O'Grady and (Sean) Cahill--entered the building and made their way to the second floor. Along the way, residents were still coming down the stairs and crouching low due to a thickening smoke condition (as the door of the fire apartment was left partially open). As they proceeded down the hallway, fire rolled out the door. FF O'Grady attempted to hold it back with the extinguisher, but it flashed and ran out into the hallway.

Lieutenant Pietracatella radioed that fire was in the hallway and the team retreated to await a charged hose-line. Engine 6 quickly put a hand-line into service and Ladder 6 aided in its advance. Pushing the fire back, the two teams had difficulty entering the apartment due to debris in the way. This left them with little or no room in which to maneuver. The team tried to remove the door and even climbed over the shoulders of members of the nozzle team to work. This put them in a difficult position (high heat and zero visibility), but the team worked until their vibrators went off and then were ordered to leave the building by Battalion Chief Robert Norcross, Battalion 1.

Meanwhile, FF Scotto, working the roof position, had opened the roof and radioed that heavy fire was blowing out of two windows on the second floor rear of the building. FF Scotto also radioed that a victim was on the rear fire escape. He attempted to descend the fire escape, but was forced back. He then initiated a roof rope rescue, but the victim was rescued by another member from the floor above. FF Scotto then continued to operate on the roof until ordered off by the Command Chief.

Next, FF Michael Cahill, working the outside vent position, laddered the front fire escape to relieve overcrowding. He then noticed smoke emanating from the third floor. He ascended to the floor and entered the window to conduct VES, but the search proved negative. Reports were given that a victim jumped from a window into the building's shaft on the exposure #4 side of the building. FF Cahill left the apartment via the fire escape and re-entered the building to assist in the removal of this victim.

By the time the third alarm was transmitted, the members of Ladder 6 were operating on the roof with members of Engine 14. They assisted in forcible entry and venting the upper floors of the building. The company operated from this position for more than an hour and by this point, fire was venting from the windows on the fifth and sixth floors. The company was ordered to the street and FF Johnson put Ladder 6's ladder pipe into operation.

In his report of the incident, Deputy Chief Paul Cresci, Division 1, stated that Ladder 6 operated at this incident for approximately five hours and worked with initiative, aggressiveness and professionalism. He noted their diligent actions (in the face of severe conditions) greatly aided this operation. In recognition of their actions, the FDNY is proud to honor the members of Ladder 6--Lieutenant Michael Pietracatella and FFs Michael Cahill, Sean Cahill, Keith Johnson, Patrick O'Grady and Joseph Scotto, III, with the FF Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Medal.--DJH



Conditions faced by Ladder 6 members at 22 James Street, Manhattan.

photo by Vic Nicastro

Deputy Commissioner Christine R. Godek Medal

BFI FIFTH ALARM TASK FORCE

December 21, 2009, 0430 hours, Box 55-3563,
291 East 204th Street/Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx

SUPERVISING FM ROBERT N. PINTO, SIU
FIRE MARSHAL CHARLES S. GUTTMAN, CWN
FIRE MARSHAL BRIAN T. KANE, SIU
FIRE MARSHAL MICHAEL A. TIERNEY, CWN*
FIRE MARSHAL JOHN P. WATKINS, SIU
FIRE MARSHAL DAVID WONG, SIU

** missing from photo*



On December 21, 2009, at 0430 hours, Fire Marshals (FMs) from the Citywide North Command (CWN) responded to a fifth-alarm fire in a commercial strip at 291 East 204th Street, Bronx. Firefighters found smoke billowing from the *Bilco* doors of one of the occupancies, a well-known restaurant. Operating under a high-heat condition, FDNY units made an aggressive attack on the fire via both the interior stairs and the *Bilco* doors. Fire spread rapidly into the walls and ceiling, then to adjoining occupancies. The fire decimated a thriving commercial area, causing \$3 million in damage and significantly impacting the surrounding community. Three Firefighters were injured.

Preliminary investigation by responding FMs uncovered a strong financial motive, making the fire part of a likely arson-for-profit scheme. Due to the complex nature of the investigation, a BFI task force was formed--The 5th Alarm Task Force--consisting of Fire Marshals from both the Citywide North Command and the Special Investigations Unit (SIU). Supervising FM Robert Pinto (SIU) led the team of investigators, including FMs Charles Guttman (CWN), Brian Kane (SIU), Frank Quiles (SIU), Michael Tierney (CWN), John Watkins (SIU) and David Wong (SIU).

Their investigation focused on three primary issues: origin and cause determination at the fireground; development of investigative leads through expanded area canvass and witness interviews; and analysis of subpoenaed business records, phone records and associated documentary evidence.

At the fireground, FMs used a crane to conduct a controlled deconstruction to facilitate an origin and cause forensic examination. This resulted in the recovery of critical evidence, including residue of accelerant, gasoline-soaked business records and an interior security digital recording system.

Contemporaneous to the fireground investigation, FMs involved in the expanded area canvass recovered digital images

from 35 area cameras, some positioned several blocks away. By carefully reviewing all camera images, FMs were able to isolate a few grainy images depicting a shadowy male figure, then piece together that individual's mode of travel and his directions of arrival and flight. This individual tentatively was identified as a past employee/handyman at the restaurant where it was determined the fire originated. Additionally, ongoing analysis of business records and subpoenaed phone records revealed a financial motive connected to the restaurant owner, who had not been cooperative with investigators.

A comprehensive manhunt using fixed surveillance positions at several Bronx locations resulted in the apprehension of the handyman. Skilled interrogation led to his full confession, then dovetailed into a successful covert electronic surveillance operation, targeting the restaurant owner. Both handyman and owner were arrested by FMs and indicted on charges of arson-for-profit.

This is a truly significant FM accomplishment. Their actions represent the highest traditions in law enforcement. The co-conspirators showed a depraved indifference to human life by using flammable liquid to set a nighttime fire for financial gain.

FMs worked diligently, under the most challenging conditions, to develop investigative leads and recover critical evidence. Then, with fearless resolve, they set out to apprehend those involved. The results of this investigation send forth a powerful message, to both the public and potential offenders:

the FDNY will meet and confront all those who challenge the safety of the citizens of New York City and the Firefighters of the FDNY.

These FMs are highly valued members of this Bureau. For their dedication in bringing the perpetrators to justice, The 5th Alarm Task Force--Supervising FM Robert Pinto--Supervising FM Robert Pinto and FMs Charles Guttman, Brian Kane, Frank Quiles, Michael Tierney, John Watkins and David Wong--is awarded the Deputy Commissioner Christine R. Godek Medal.--JDL



Bronx Box 55-3563, 291 East 204th Street/Bainbridge Avenue,
December 21, 2009, the arson fire solved by the 5th Alarm Task
Force members.
photo by Bill Tompkins



Firefighter Kevin C. Kane Medal

FIREFIGHTER BARRY J. ANNETTE LADDER COMPANY 37

August 23, 2009, 1351 hours, Box 75-3544, 3228 Decatur Avenue, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on October 28, 2001. Previously assigned to Engine 79. Member of the Emerald and Holy Name Societies and Vice President and player on the FDNY Gaelic Football Club. Holds an AA degree in Liberal Arts from Westchester Community College. Resides in Yonkers with his wife, Amanda, and their children, Barry and Avery.

Sundays in August normally are warm and carefree, highlighted by trips to the Yankees game, beach, pool or an afternoon barbeque. They are also days to enjoy warm summer breezes before school starts, the weather turns chilly and the leaves change. But, Sunday, August 23, 2009, was hardly carefree for FF Barry J. Annette. He was working the 9 by 6 tour at Ladder 37 and shortly before 1400 hours, the firehouse received notification of a smoke condition on the third floor of 3228 Decatur Avenue, an occupied, non-fireproof multiple dwelling.

Ladder 37 responded to Box 3544 as the first-due truck and arrived in fewer than five minutes. Reaching the location, an emergent situation was not obvious from the front of the building. However, the forcible entry team of Lieutenant Jeffrey Facinelli and FFs Annette and David Gonzalez entered the building to investigate. As they did so, several occupants were fleeing down the stairs and stating, *something is burning on the third floor.*

The team quickly ran up the stairs. As they arrived on the third-floor landing, they found smoke emitting from the door of apartment three. Finding the door was unlocked, the team opened it and was confronted with high heat and heavy smoke. With the situation worsening, the members moved into the apartment where they encountered a Collyers' mansion-type situation.

Despite the dangerous conditions, the members moved in and began to search the apartment. At this time, they were advised via handie-talkie by FF Brian Shumacher, Ladder 37 (working the outside vent position), that heavy smoke was emanating from the rear of the apartment.

Additionally, Captain James Hurley, Engine 79, informed them that an elderly female was believed to be trapped in the apartment.

FF Annette received this information and immediately began to make his way to the rear of the apartment. Without the benefit of a charged hose-line for protection (and unchecked fires in both the living room and kitchen, coupled with heavy smoke, oppressive heat and zero visibility), FF Annette made his way through the cramped and cluttered apartment and located the victim. She was unconscious and on the floor between the two fires.

Discovering the victim, FF Annette transmitted a 10-45 code. As heat and smoke continued to envelop the apartment, the Firefighter stayed low to the ground and began to drag the victim out of the apartment. As this was occurring, the other members of the inside team had arrived near the living room and began to search the rest of the apartment. FF Gonzalez opened up the water extinguisher to hold the fire back until the woman (who ultimately expired due to severe burns and smoke

inhalation) was removed from the apartment and the hose-line could be advanced to finally extinguish the fire.

In his report of the incident, Battalion Chief John Sullivan, Battalion 27, wrote, *FF Annette exhibited...initiative...in fighting his way down the approximately 20-foot hallway and passing free-burning fire to his right to effect this rescue and all of (his) actions were performed without the protection of a charged hose-line.* Due to his personal initiative and selfless actions, the Fire Department is proud to honor FF Barry J. Annette with the Firefighter Kevin C. Kane Medal today.--DJH



October 28 is an important date in the life of FF Barry Annette. He was appointed to the FDNY on that date in 2001. Here, he is shown on his wedding day, October 28, 2005.

Probationary Firefighter Thomas A. Wylie Medal FIREFIGHTER NORBERT M. TUMA *LADDER COMPANY 15*

December 16, 2008, 0040 hours, Box 2030,
375 South End Avenue and Hudson River, Manhattan



Appointed to the FDNY on January 20, 2008. Member of the Holy Name Society. Recipient of the Life Saving Benevolent Association Award, 2010. Holds a BA degree in Psychology from Michigan State University. Resides in Brooklyn.

In slightly fewer than 11 months as a member of the FDNY, Probationary Firefighter Norbert Michael Tuma had learned many of the skills that were unique to his company. Ladder 15 has the collateral assignments of being a Hi-Rise Air Team and a Cold Water Rescue unit. Shortly after midnight on December 16, 2008, as he was performing house-watch duties, FF Tuma turned the company out for the second water rescue response of the tour. Little did he realize that, unlike the first alarm--which did not require entering the water--this assignment would be totally different.

Before the company left quarters, FF Tuma donned a cold water rescue suit and boarded the apparatus. As the company rolled toward the north cove of the Hudson River, the dispatcher reported that several calls had been received, advising that two people were in the water, adjacent to the Battery Park City bulkhead. The company arrived at the reported location and made its way to the promenade walk, where a man and woman were observed, clinging to a rope more than 10 feet below.

The two victims were having difficulty hanging on. In spite of his bleeding hands, the man was doing his best to hold onto the woman and keep her from losing consciousness. FF Tuma, under the direction of his Officer, Lieutenant Patrick Carew, jumped off the bulkhead into the water. Although it was a relatively mild night for the month of December, there was a considerable wind blowing, which created frigid water temperatures and caused large waves and rough, choppy seas.

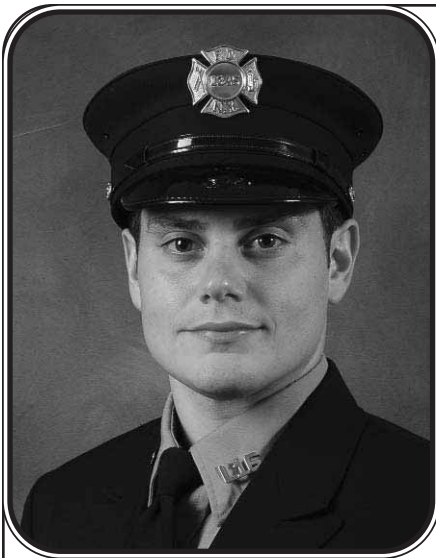
Despite the strong current, FF Tuma made his way to the victims. Their location next to the sea wall made for a very treacherous condition. The tenuous situation was exacerbated by the fact that they all were in danger of being swept under an adjoining docked barge.

When FF Tuma reached the two victims--who were in desperate straits--he immediately set to work, maintaining their position and striving to keep their heads above water. Both the man and woman were extremely exhausted and made FF Tuma's job of keeping them afloat extremely difficult. Fortunately, Marine 1 arrived at the location and FF John Rizzo entered the water to assist FF Tuma in bringing the now-unconscious woman to the vessel. After she was safely onboard, FF Tuma returned to the male victim and, again with assistance from FF Rizzo, secured the man and swam to Marine 1's craft. Both victims, suffering from exposure and hypothermia, then were transported to Downtown Beekman Hospital.

FF Tuma reacted decisively as he brought his training to bear. He acted quickly by jumping 15 feet into an extremely hazardous environment and courageously rescued two people who were in jeopardy. His brave actions surely kept this incident from having a tragic outcome. By placing himself in harm's way and unhesitatingly facing danger, the Fire Department of the City of New York acknowledges his efforts by presenting the Probationary Firefighter Thomas Wylie Medal to FF Norbert Michael Tuma.--
BDG



FF Norbert Michael Tuma in his cold water rescue suit. He put it and his skills to good use, rescuing two people from the cold Hudson River on December 16, 2008.
photo by Victor Giganti



Captain John J. Drennan Memorial Medal FIREFIGHTER RONALD M. CORSALE LADDER COMPANY 16

October 11, 2009, 1726 hours, Box 964, East River at 63rd Street, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on May 31, 2005. Previously assigned to Engine 39. Brother-in-law, EMS Lieutenant Ron Grubert, is assigned to CFR-D Training. Member of the Holy Name Society. Recipient of the Life Saving Benevolent Association Award and the Liberty Mutual Medal. Holds an Associate degree in Fire Science from Suffolk Community College and is studying for a Bachelor's degree in Fire Protection Management from John Jay College. Resides in Lake Ronkonkoma, Long Island.

Ladder 16 was special-called to a report of a person in distress in the East River at East 63rd Street at 1726 hours on October 11, 2009. The company had just gone 10-8 from a gas emergency and was at 2nd Avenue and East 64th Street. The members started removing their bunker gear and began a size-up from the radio reports while en route.

Ladder 16 went to the foot bridge at 63rd Street and York Avenue. Captain Thomas Hughes ran across the bridge, which gives access to the East River. Primary Rescuer, FF Ronald Corsale, and Secondary Rescuer, FF Matthew Lopez, both Ladder 16, donned the cold water rescue suits and proceeded over the bridge, with FF Robert Perrone, who carried the 200-foot tether rope reel and the lifesaving rope. The chauffeur, John Haseney, Ladder 43, and outside vent Firefighter, FF Michael Graham, remained with the apparatus to await additional orders for positioning or necessary tools.

From the vantage point of the foot bridge, Captain Hughes used binoculars to survey the river. After communications with Ladder 2 members, who were at 63rd Street on the FDR Drive north, and the Rescue Battalion on Roosevelt Island, Captain Hughes confirmed a victim in the water. The victim was in the middle of the river, about two blocks north of Ladder 16's location. He was being carried rapidly by the strong current south, amid 15-mph west/northwest winds.

All communications were made to Battalion Chief William Chilson, Battalion 8, the Incident Commander. Notification was given to the Ladder 16 chauffeur to bring the apparatus around to the heliport ramp at 60th Street, which provides access to the river. Due to the strong outbound tide of 3.2 knots, if there was any chance of getting to the victim, members would have to run south and get far enough ahead of the person.

Captain Hughes and FFs Corsale, Lopez and

Perrone ran three blocks south to 60th Street. FF Corsale was secured to the tether line and climbed over the fence to the sea wall bulkhead, which was about 15 feet above the river. He jumped into the river and swam at an angle south to get ahead of the victim. He swam 200 feet from the shore and fully extended the tether rope. When he reached the victim, he attempted to extend the rescue buoy toward the man. The victim was struggling and would not grasp it. However, FF Corsale managed to take control of the victim, turned him around and secured him about the chest with the rescue buoy.

FF Corsale then gave a raised hand signal to the members on shore to pull them back in. Members of Ladders 16 and 2 pulled the pair back through the strong current. Engine 39 members prepared blankets for the victim and assisted EMS personnel. Ladder 16 apparatus now was on-scene and FFs Graham and Haseney brought a 20-foot hook ladder to the bulkhead and secured it to the railing on the sea wall.

FF Lopez entered the water via the ladder to assist and ensure the safety of FF Corsale and the victim. While FF Corsale maintained control of the victim at the base of the ladder, FF Lopez secured the victim with a safety rope and assisted him up the ladder with the Firefighters above securing the safety rope. Engine 39 members took control of the victim and brought him to the waiting EMS ambulance. FF Lopez returned down the ladder to the water and helped an exhausted FF Corsale up the ladder.

FF Corsale was properly trained and prepared to act. He took decisive action to run ahead of the victim and swim 200 feet in the turbulent East River, putting his own life in jeopardy to save the life of Alexander Jemkow. If not for his actions, Mr. Jemkow had little chance of surviving in these dangerous conditions. For these reasons, FF Ronald Corsale is presented with the Captain John J. Drennan Memorial Medal.



Ladder 16 Firefighters Matthew Lopez and Ron Corsale, right, Medal Day winner, following rescue of a man from the East River.
photo by New York Daily News



Jack Pintchik Medal

September 18, 2009, 0957 hours,
Box 0961, 1165 Fulton Street, Brooklyn



EMT ANDREW W. GABOR STATION 32

Appointed to EMS on July 9, 2007. Previously assigned to EMS Division 3. Recipient of one unit citation and pre-hospital saves. Resides in Levittown, Long Island.

When EMTs Claudia Rugel and Andrew Gabor started their tour, they thought it would be another average day. About halfway through their tour on the morning of September 18, 2009, a call came into the 911 system for an injury to a man who had fallen inside his apartment. When they were dispatched to 1165 Fulton Street in Brooklyn, their thought was, *this is just a routine call*. What they didn't realize was that they would end up saving the lives of five residents, including a young child, from a dangerously high level of carbon monoxide in the building--certainly not a routine call.

Within seconds of entering the building on Fulton Street, their GasAlert Extreme Carbon Monoxide monitors immediately alerted them to a dangerous carbon monoxide level in the building. The monitor registered the level of carbon monoxide as 150 ppm; anything higher than 35 ppm is considered dangerous. The pocket-sized monitor is a warning device used to detect carbon monoxide and alert the user that carbon monoxide is present in the environment. All Fire Department EMS units have been issued these monitors to ensure their personal safety at all calls.

EMTs Rugel and Gabor immediately notified EMS dispatch of the dangerous carbon monoxide level at the location. The EMS dispatcher advised the EMTs to immediately remove themselves from the building and called for Fire resources to respond to the location. But EMTs Rugel and Gabor knew that their patient was inside the building and needed help. Without regard for their

EMT CLAUDIA J. RUGEL STATION 32

Appointed to EMS on May 11, 2009. Resides in Brooklyn.

personal safety, they continued to the apartment of their patient. They also knew that they had to warn all the residents of the danger, as well as the need to evacuate the building.

When the pair reached the initial patient, a 40-year-old male, he was slumped over inside the apartment. EMTs Rugel and Gabor realized they had to move him immediately to a safe environment before they could begin patient assessment and treatment. The assessment proved the patient was exhibiting signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, including fatigue, confusion, dizziness and vomiting.

While removing the patient from the building, the EMTs came across four other people--including a toddler--all of whom were exhibiting signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning. EMTs Rugel and Gabor evacuated all the residents from the building. Once outside the building, all of the other residents were evaluated and treated on the scene for exposure to high levels of carbon monoxide poisoning. All five residents of the building were transported to area hospitals in serious, but stable, condition. When Firefighters evaluated the building with their monitors, an even higher level of carbon monoxide was noted at 300 ppm.

For putting their safety at risk, while ensuring the safety of five others who they evacuated from a building with a dangerous carbon monoxide level, EMT Claudia Rugel and EMT Andrew Gabor are recognized for their efforts and presented with the Jack Pintchik Medal.--ML



Front and center are EMTs Andrew Gabor and Claudia Rugel, addressing the media following their efforts evacuating a building with a dangerous carbon monoxide level.

World Trade Center Memorial Medal

MARINE COMPANY 1

January 15, 2009, 1534 hours, Box 22-0868, Hudson River,
adjacent to West 43rd Street, Manhattan

CAPTAIN RICHARD JOHNSON

LIEUTENANT THOMAS PIAMBINO*

PILOT ROBERT L. SPADARO

MARINE ENGINEER PATRICK J. ASTEGHER

MARINE ENGINEER LENWILL F. BURMESTER

WIPER JOHN M. STEINHARDT

FF JOHN R. RIZZO

FF THOMAS F. SULLIVAN

** missing from photo*

When major, historical events occur, people usually remember where they were at the time. Most New Yorkers know where they were when the *Miracle on the Hudson* occurred. Most remember the bitter cold and biting winds, yet still are amazed by the daring actions of the flight crew. However, there is another story about this incident, which is not widely known. It is a story of dedication, teamwork, initiative and professionalism--all of which were demonstrated that afternoon by the members of Marine 1.

On January 15, 2009, at 1531 hours, Marine 1 was notified of a plane in the Hudson River at 50th Street. Working that day were Captain Richard Johnson, Pilot Robert L. Spadaro, Marine Engineers Patrick J. Astegher and Lenwill F. Burmester, Wiper John M. Steinhardt and FFs Thomas F. Sullivan and John R. Rizzo. Also in quarters was Lieutenant Thomas Piambino, who had come in early to avoid a predicted snowstorm. As they prepared to respond, extra equipment was gathered and foul weather gear donned.

Realizing this was a possible mass casualty incident, the Captain and Lieutenant decided to respond with both Marine 1 and Marine 1 Alpha. The company was split up: Marine 1 left the dock with Lieutenant Piambino, Marine Engineers Astegher and Burmester and Wiper Steinhardt, while Alpha responded with Captain Johnson and FFs Rizzo and Sullivan.

Lieutenant Piambino radioed dispatch to ascertain if any land-based units were being dispatched to their location, but was told, *not at this time*. While en route, both boats received additional emergency notifications. FF Sullivan and Engineer Astegher donned Mustang cold water entry suits in anticipation of entering the water, while Wiper Steinhardt readied self-inflating rafts for quick deployment. Battalion Chief John Joyce, Battalion 9, transmitted a 10-60 code for an aircraft crash at West 43rd Street.

As Alpha responded, members could see a large commercial jet in the river with people crowded onto the left wing and two commercial ferries alongside, effecting rescue. FF Sullivan tossed life jackets to victims shivering on the wing (in knee-deep water and the freezing air). One by one, Captain Johnson and FF Sullivan assisted the passengers onto Alpha. Some victims, fearing they would be left on the wing, jumped



into the frigid water and tried to swim to the boat. FF Rizzo, who kept Alpha at the appropriate course and speed to safely transfer the victims onto the boat, put the ship in neutral and left his position to assist with the rescue. This caused Alpha to drift and made the efforts on the bow more difficult. However, FF Rizzo quickly loaded the victims onto the boat and got back to the wheelhouse.

Moving the boat back into position, Captain Johnson and FF Sullivan were able to evacuate the last of the passengers off the wing. Alpha was instructed to bring the victims to the West 43rd Street pier, where they were handed over to EMS personnel. Arriving at the dock, the victims were off-loaded and rescue divers and other Firefighters boarded. Alpha then returned to the scene where a primary search was conducted and all passengers and crew were accounted for.

Meanwhile, Marine 1, working with a diminished crew, split up operations among the wheelhouse, deck and engine room. On arrival, they observed the evacuation of the last of the passengers. Believing the aircraft might sink, Lieutenant Piambino instructed Pilot Spadaro to come alongside the aircraft. Then, the Lieutenant, Wiper Steinhardt and Marine Engineers Burmester and Astegher deployed mooring lines around sections of the aircraft. After it was secured, a secondary search of the plane was made, which proved negative.

Marine 1 was directed to bring the aircraft into shallow water on the Manhattan side of the river. This was a difficult operation as the mooring lines could not be removed. Pilot Spadaro carefully moved the aircraft on a shallow angle into the North Cove of Battery Park City. Marine 1 remained on-sight as a fire watch and escort as the stricken plane was placed on a barge and towed to New Jersey, where responsibility was turned over to New Jersey fire authorities.

For their efforts, skills and solid decision-making, which contributed mightily to the successful rescue of 20 of the airbus' passengers, the members of Marine 1--Captain Richard Johnson, Lieutenant Thomas Piambino, Pilot Robert Spadaro, Marine Engineers Patrick Astegher and Lenwill Burmester, Wiper John Steinhardt and FFs Thomas Sullivan and John Rizzo--are honored with the Company of the Year, World Trade Center Memorial Medal.--DJH

Service Rating A

FF Barry J. Annette, L-37
FF Joseph A. Barone, L-2
FF Mark W. Barrett, L-165
Lt. Peter J. Cooney, L-12
FF Ronald M. Corsale, L-16
FF Evan J. Davis, L-137
Capt. Joseph E. Drennan, E-259
Lt. Kevin T. Flanagan, L-28
FF Todd A. Fredrickson, L-43
FF Carl C. Gelardi, Jr., R-1
Lt. Tate L. Hunt, L-166
FF Robert M. Lagnese, SQ-270
FF Ronald F. Littlejohn, E-48
FF Brian E. McLaughlin, L-21
FF Justin T. McNally, L-16
FF Brian V. Moritz, L-138
Capt. Dennis R. Murphy, L-105
FF Kevin M. Neenan, L-12
FF Michael C. Povolny, L-21
Lt. Joseph J. Rimassa, L-82
FF James M. Riordan, L-55
FF Edward K. Rissland, L-142
FF Joseph P. Roggenkamp, L-16
FF Robert R. Ruffh, L-32
FF Francis W. Rush, III, R-1
Lt. Jonathan M. Shields, L-7
FF Casey E. Skudin, E-332
Lt. Joseph R. Stach, Jr., L-6
FF Richard J. Staiti, E-239
FF Timothy Sullivan, R-1
FF Norbert M. Tuma, L-15
FF Marc A. Victorio, L-30
FF Desmond C. Walsh, E-44

Service Rating B

FF Dominick Amorosa, L-165
FF Shawn M. Bowers, L-45
FF Andrew B. Bowman, L-7
FF Richard C. Cannon, E-310
FF Robert C. Cherry, L-11
FF Michael P. Chirchirillo, L-152
FF Thomas A. Cleary, L-111
FF Anthony G. Conti, E-251
FF Duane L. Davis, L-58
FF Terence P. Drew, L-116
FF Michael P. Esserman, L-1
FF Michael J. Farrell, E-43
Lt. Joseph A. Fernicola, L-125
FF Raymundo Ferrer, L-166
Lt. John M. Flaherty, Bn-15
FF Peter F. Grandazza, L-125
FF Michael P. Hallquest, L-136
FF Eric A. Heissenbuttel, L-144
FF Arthur F. Kunz, L-14
FF Jeremy Leroux, E-216
FF David K. Loeser, L-115
FF Leo Lopez, L-115
FF Joseph J. Manto, Jr., L-172
FF Paul C. Marten, E-153
FF Scott B. Mooney, L-58
FF Timothy Olin, E-93
FF William J. Owens, R-1
FF William R. Pedersen, M-6
FF Jeffrey Pellis, L-25
FF Christopher S. Pirrone, L-12
Lt. George A. Ruffino, Bn-4
Capt. Kaseem Ryan, D-11
Lt. Brian L. Santosus, E-285
FF Paul D. Stuart, L-7
FF Michael E. Wunder, L-36
FF Victor Yiu, E-266

Bureau of Fire Investigation--BFI

Service Rating A

FM John V. Franzone, Jr., CWS
FM Carmine J. Jichetti, Jr., CWS
FM Brian T. Kane, SIU*
FM Mark E. Thompson, CWS
FM Michael A. Tierney, CWN
FM John P. Watkins, SIU

Service Rating B

FM Michael J. Federowski, CWS
FM Charles S. Guttman, CWS
FM Joseph B. Sullivan, Auto Squad
FM David V. Vitiello, CWS

**Recipient of two Service Rating As.*

Unit Citations

Auto Squad Task Force
February 19, 2009 Manhattan

Squad 33
March 13, 2009 Box 3105

Squad 37
June 12, 2009 Box 4002

Squad 34
July 16, 2009 Box 0845

Squad 37
August 17, 2009 Box 0689

5th Alarm Task Force
December 21, 2009 Box 3563

2009 Pre-Hospital Save Awards

Number in parentheses indicates multiple saves.

EMT Byron P. Abad
 Lieutenant Paul E. Abate, Jr.
 EMT Michael H. Abramowitz
 Paramedic Joel Acevedo (2)
 EMT Samuel Ackerman
 EMT Pedro J. Acosta
 Paramedic Wilbert J. Acosta
 EMT Francesco Adamo
 EMT Walter S. Adler
 Paramedic Aaron C. Aguirre
 Lieutenant Nicholas Aiello (3)
 EMT Khumayun Akhmedov
 Paramedic Rene F. Alaby
 Paramedic Ashley Alejo (2)
 EMT Mir M. Ali
 Paramedic Jerard Allas
 Lieutenant Richard G. Allas (2)
 Paramedic Rowan Allen
 EMT Farouk Ally (2)
 Paramedic Anthony R. Almojera (3)
 Paramedic John-Paul Alvarez
 Paramedic Luis E. Alvarez
 EMT Allen Alvia
 Paramedic Antonio Amor (2)
 EMT John J. Amore
 EMT Anthony Anderson
 Lieutenant Lawrence Anderson
 Paramedic Timothy J. Anson (2)
 Paramedic Jose R. Arias
 Lieutenant Carlos Ariza
 Paramedic Miriam Arnold
 EMT Lazar Aronov
 Lieutenant Lloyd C. Arscott
 Paramedic Howard F. Auerbach
 Lieutenant Peter G. Auricchio
 Lieutenant Gilberto Aviles (2)
 EMT Arzu Aydogdu
 EMT Nail Ayupov
 EMT Roxie Babb (2)
 EMT Benjamin Badillo
 Lieutenant Edgar Baez
 Paramedic Carl R. Baker, Jr.
 EMT Jeremiah M. Barbera (2)
 Paramedic Maryann M. Barone
 Lieutenant Anthony T.
 Bartolomey
 Paramedic Raymond M.
 Bartolomey
 Captain Wayne Baskin (2)
 Paramedic Brendan M. Bass
 Lieutenant Moses O. Bastien (2)
 Lieutenant Andrew Bates (2)
 Paramedic Toni Ann Batiancela (3)
 Lieutenant James Bayreuther (5)
 Lieutenant James Becker (3)
 Paramedic Leonardo A. Bedoya
 Paramedic Eduardo A. Belgrave
 Paramedic Daniel J. Bellingham
 EMT John Beltram
 EMT Michael D. Belvedere (2)
 Lieutenant Gary R. Benedict (2)
 Lieutenant Carol A. Benjamin
 Paramedic Sean Benjamin (3)
 EMT Janet Bentkowski
 EMT Victor S. Berrios
 Paramedic Richard Berroa (2)
 Paramedic Thomas E. Berry
 EMT Reheem F. Bertrand
 Paramedic Michael G. Best
 Lieutenant Christopher J. Bilz (6)
 EMT Daniel Bivona, Jr. (2)
 EMT Anthony Blain
 Paramedic Nadra Blelis (4)
 Lieutenant Jorge Blondett
 Lieutenant Edward Bobb
 EMT Kenneth D. Bogle
 Paramedic Josh S. Boiko
 EMT Monsurat W. Bolts
 Paramedic James A. Bolger (2)
 EMT Jerry T. Bond
 Paramedic Richard T. Bonet
 Paramedic Ferdinand D.
 Bonifacio (2)
 Lieutenant Mark A. Bonilla (4)
 Paramedic Frantz Bonneau (2)
 Paramedic Darryl M. Boodoo
 Lieutenant Frank Borello
 Paramedic Alexis Borkowski
 Paramedic Jose M. Borrero
 EMT Staci M. Bossack
 Lieutenant Kelly Boulder
 EMT Patrick J. Bouman
 EMT Antoinette A. Bovell Jonas
 Lieutenant Jeffrey Bowne
 Paramedic Schyler C. Boyd
 Lieutenant Tonya M.
 Boyd-Jones (2)
 EMT Timothy M. Boyle
 EMT Francesca R. Bracaglia
 Paramedic Ian P. Bradshaw (2)
 Paramedic Shane Brady
 EMT Joseph J. Brandstetter
 Paramedic Kevin W. Bratholt
 EMT Joel P. Brathwaite
 EMT Randolph Brewster
 Paramedic Benjamin Briu
 EMT Lauren A. Broccoli
 EMT Andrew Brock
 Paramedic Keisha M.
 Brockington
 EMT Kathleen A. Brough
 EMT Bruce A. Brown
 Captain Donald A. Browne
 EMT Louis R. Brunk
 EMT Vincent Bui
 EMT Alfonso E. Buoninfante
 EMT Kathleen A. Burgess
 Lieutenant David Burke (2)
 Paramedic Jeffery J. Burke
 EMT Kerry M. Burnett
 Paramedic Peter L. Bushey
 EMT Alexander A. Bustamante
 EMT Sandra A. Butler
 EMT Keshica M. Byrd
 EMT Giovanni Caballero
 EMT Henry Cabrera
 EMT Victor J. Cadicamo
 EMT John Cadotte
 Paramedic Robert W. Caggiano
 Paramedic Steven M. Caggiano (3)
 EMT Rudolph Calabrese (2)
 EMT Tracey M. Calhoun
 Deputy Chief Debra A. Cali
 Paramedic Pablo Callejas
 Paramedic Desiree Camporeale
 Lieutenant Cedric Cannon
 Paramedic Joy H. Canter
 EMT Robert Caponigro
 EMT Richard M. Cappock (2)
 EMT Alberto C. Caraballo
 Lieutenant Linda Carlson
 Paramedic Gerald J. Carr
 EMT Holly B. Carr
 Paramedic Efrain F. Carrasquillo
 Lieutenant Elizabeth Cascio
 EMT Sergio J. Cascio
 Lieutenant Kevin M. Cassidy (2)
 Paramedic Julian D. Castaneda
 EMT Joseph Castelli (4)
 EMT Ruben A. Castillo
 Paramedic Nancy Castle
 EMT Eilene V. Catalano
 EMT Frankin W. Cataldi
 Paramedic James P. Cavaliere
 Paramedic Marcos A. Cavallo
 Lieutenant Michael Cavanagh
 Paramedic Chin-Shan Chan
 Paramedic Pierre C.
 Charboneau (5)
 Paramedic Brent A. Charles
 EMT Steven M. Chasan
 Captain Richard J. Chatterton
 EMT Ruth E. Chavez
 Lieutenant Peter Cheng
 Paramedic Jason Cheung (4)
 EMT Brandon M. Chin
 Paramedic Cynthia A. Chin (2)
 Paramedic Michael J. Cilento
 Lieutenant Rafael Cintron (4)
 EMT Amela Cirikovic
 EMT Keith A. Clark
 Paramedic Edward A. Clarke (2)
 Captain Lizette Claro
 Paramedic Johana Clerge
 Paramedic Michael C. Coeyman
 EMT Craig D. Colamarino
 Paramedic John F. Coleman
 Paramedic Dwayne A. Coley
 Paramedic John J. Comerford
 Paramedic Arthur J.
 Concepcion (2)
 EMT Thomas Conforti
 EMT Andria L. Connell
 EMT Julio C. Contreras
 Lieutenant Louis Cook (3)
 EMT Matthew L. Cook (2)
 Lieutenant Robert D. Cook (2)
 Lieutenant Edwin E. Cordova (3)
 Paramedic Jane Corella (2)
 Lieutenant Luis Corrales (5)
 EMT Howard V. Corrigan
 EMT Daniel J. Cortes
 Paramedic Gary Cortes
 Paramedic Helen M. Courtney
 EMT Ronald T. Coyne
 Lieutenant Anthony S. Cozzino (3)
 Paramedic James V. Crispino (3)
 Paramedic Marissa M. Crocco (3)
 EMT Emilio Cruz
 Paramedic Jose L. Cruz (2)
 EMT Yeny F. Cruz
 Lieutenant Albert Cruzado (2)
 EMT Henry J. Cuba
 EMT John A. Cuccio (4)
 EMT Mary B. Cucinelli
 Captain Steven W. Cuevas
 EMT Clayton M. Cummings
 EMT Desmond C.
 Cunningham, Jr.
 EMT Mario Cuozzo, Jr.
 EMT Michael L. Curatolo
 EMT Michael Curtin
 Lieutenant Timothy B. Cusack
 Paramedic Joseph T. Daly
 EMT Rheinhold R. Danglade (2)
 EMT Errol A. Daniels
 Lieutenant James T.
 Darnowski (5)
 Lieutenant Brendan P. Dean
 EMT Thomas W. DeAngelo
 Lieutenant Jerome Decanio
 EMT Manuel Declat
 Lieutenant James M. Dedonato (3)
 EMT Walter Dehaan (2)
 EMT Andrea N. Deily
 Paramedic Jesus V. Deinnocentiis
 Lieutenant Gilbert DeJesus
 EMT Eva M. Dela Cruz
 Lieutenant Edwin DeLapaz
 Paramedic Jose L. Delgado
 Paramedic German Delrio
 Paramedic Michael A. Demarco
 EMT Robert A. Demeo
 Paramedic Christopher Demott
 EMT Philip J. DeRosa
 Paramedic Brian DeSantis
 Captain John DeSantis (2)
 EMT Christopher J. Devaney
 EMT Finbar D. Devine
 EMT Louis A. Devino
 Paramedic Lawrence A. DiFiore (2)
 EMT Matthew J. Digiulio
 Lieutenant Patrick J. Dillon
 Lieutenant John Paul Dimen
 Paramedic Trinh K. Dinh (2)
 EMT Anthony A. Disapio (2)
 Paramedic Edward Dixon
 Lieutenant Timothy E. Dluhos (2)
 EMT Manuel Dominguez
 EMT Jean J. Dominique (2)
 Paramedic Anselmo D.
 Dossantos (2)

Lieutenant Erin P. Doyle (2)
 Lieutenant Angela Dragotto (4)
 EMT Tanya A. Drakeford (2)
 Paramedic Soledad Renata Druse (2)
 EMT Jim Z. Duff
 EMT Kinessa A. Duguid
 EMT Tholeme Dumay
 Captain Thomas Dunleavy
 Lieutenant Andrew W. Dunn (3)
 Paramedic Susanne Duque (2)
 EMT Ariel Duran
 EMT Dustin D. Dwyer
 EMT Anthony J. Edrehi (2)
 EMT Jacqueline D. Egan
 Lieutenant Serele Ehrlich
 Paramedic Wa-Il K. Eldahry
 EMT Keisha M. Ellis
 Lieutenant Kevin L. Enright
 Lieutenant Thomas K. Eppinger (3)
 Paramedic Francisco Espadas
 EMT Liana E. Espinal
 Lieutenant Albert Estrada (2)
 Paramedic John F. Evans
 Paramedic Katherine Everett
 Paramedic John B. Eyzaguirre (2)
 Paramedic Dachary Farnum (2)
 Paramedic Joseph E. Farrell (2)
 Captain Eric D. Fay
 Paramedic Joseph Fazzino (2)
 EMT Kimberly A. Fazziola
 Paramedic David A. Fein (4)
 Paramedic Harvey Feintuch (3)
 EMT Domingo Feliciano
 EMT Dwight O. Ferguson (2)
 EMT Daniel Fernandez (2)
 EMT Brian C. Fetscher
 EMT Sherri D. Fiebert (2)
 Paramedic John Filsaime
 Lieutenant Thomas Finn (3)
 Paramedic Andrew P. Fiorillo
 Division Chief Michael J. Fitton
 EMT Brendan J. Fitts
 Paramedic Daniel Fitzpatrick (3)
 Paramedic Stanislav Flaksman (6)
 Paramedic Lee J. Fleming
 EMT Robert L. Fleming
 Paramedic Julien R. Florant (2)
 Paramedic Ernst Floreal (3)
 EMT Andrew Flores (2)
 Lieutenant Charles R. Flores
 Paramedic Miguel A. Flores
 Paramedic Serafin Flores (2)
 Paramedic Patrick J. Flynn (7)
 EMT Monique O. Follins
 EMT Louis A. Font
 Paramedic Jonathan Forti
 Lieutenant Ralph A. Francisco
 EMT Ian A. Franklin
 EMT Jewel A. Fraser
 EMT James R. Freedley (2)
 Lieutenant Lisa M. Freitag (2)
 EMT Stephanie M. French
 EMT Vanessa Friend
 Lieutenant James P. Furlong (2)
 EMT Vincent E. Gagliardo
 EMT Andy Galagarza
 EMT Matthew J. Galard
 Lieutenant Scott D. Galletta
 EMT Sarita V. Gallo
 Paramedic Joshua A. Garber
 Paramedic Christian A. Garcia
 EMT Dionisio J. Garcia, Jr.
 Lieutenant Maria Garcia (2)
 Paramedic Joshua J. Gardiner
 EMT Thomas G. Gasparik
 Lieutenant Joseph R. Gasparini
 Paramedic Alfredo C. Gaw
 Division Chief Albert T. Gehres (2)
 Lieutenant Victoria J. Genovese-Belsky
 Paramedic Edward Gerber (3)
 EMT Brian R. Gerrato
 Paramedic William Gettens (4)
 Paramedic Matthew J. Giacalone
 Lieutenant Dave A. Gill (2)
 EMT Roy Givens, Jr.
 Paramedic Erlis Gjyrezi (2)
 Lieutenant Abraham B. Glatzer
 EMT Donna Glaude
 Paramedic Alan N. Glick
 EMT Yvonne M. Godoy (2)
 EMT Don L. Goepfert
 Paramedic Ross A. Goldberg
 Paramedic Erica A. Golino
 Paramedic Alexander Gomez
 EMT Henry W. Gomez
 Paramedic Arturo Gonzalez
 Paramedic Enrique A. Gonzalez
 Lieutenant Esmerelda J. Gonzalez
 EMT Jason Gonzalez
 EMT Joseph A. Gonzalez (2)
 EMT Marco A. Gonzalez
 Lieutenant Sergio H. Gonzalez (2)
 Paramedic Robert Goodwin
 EMT Bernard N. Gordon
 Paramedic Joseph Gorgia
 EMT Victor N. Gornecki (2)
 Paramedic Valerie J. Gosling-Martinez
 EMT Mac R. Gottlieb (3)
 EMT Sammy R. Gounden
 Paramedic Kahlia D. Graham
 EMT Marcio A. Grano De Oro
 Paramedic Feliks Granovskiy (3)
 Lieutenant Steven Graulau
 EMT Christopher F. Gray
 EMT Nicholas P. Graziano
 EMT William J. Graziano, Jr. (2)
 EMT Michael A. Greco (2)
 Lieutenant Kendra C. Gregory
 Paramedic Staci R. Grgurich
 EMT Christopher M. Griffin
 Paramedic Glenroy Griffith
 EMT Althea M. Groarke
 Lieutenant Karen Grohl (2)
 Paramedic Sheng Gu
 EMT John Guarisco
 EMT Gladys V. Guerra Santiago (2)
 EMT Luis J. Guerrero (2)
 EMT Karel Guibert-Delgado
 Paramedic Roland Guirand, Jr. (2)
 EMT Alan B. Guss (2)
 Lieutenant Luis F. Gutierrez (2)
 EMT Brian G. Gutkin
 Paramedic Lydia M. Gutnick (3)
 Paramedic Matthew Guttilla
 EMT Bennie Guzman
 Lieutenant Bruce Haas
 Captain Howard Hahn (4)
 Paramedic Andrew J. Haley
 Paramedic Claude V. Hall
 Paramedic Peter Hamilton
 Paramedic Jennifer M. Hannafey (3)
 Lieutenant Thomas Hannan (2)
 EMT Matthew D. Hannon
 Paramedic Benjamin P. Harris
 Lieutenant Charles Harris
 Paramedic Mark A. Harris
 EMT Russell R. Harris
 EMT Bevonia A. Harrison
 EMT Kimberly L. Hattan
 Paramedic Ryan T. Hayes
 EMT James S. Hayter
 EMT William Heilmann
 Paramedic Howard Henry
 Paramedic Walter G. Henry
 EMT Kirk R. Herold
 Paramedic Betty M. Higdon
 EMT Lacy G. Higgins
 Lieutenant Joan C. Hillgardner (2)
 Lieutenant Barret D. Hirsch
 Paramedic Walter Hochbrueckner (3)
 Paramedic Simon A. Holyland (3)
 Lieutenant Kevin N. Hooghus (4)
 Lieutenant Paul N. Hopper
 Paramedic Lisa C. Horowitz (2)
 EMT Davon Howard (2)
 Paramedic Jasmin D. Howard
 Paramedic Joseph J. Hudak (3)
 Lieutenant Paige A. Humphries (2)
 EMT Rudolph H. Hunter
 EMT Showin P. Hutchinson
 Paramedic Derek Hutchinson
 EMT Heather R. Hutchinson-Garrett
 EMT Andrew J. Huyett
 Paramedic Bruce N. Hydock, Jr.
 EMT James Ingram
 EMT Wendi L. Ireland
 EMT Barbara Irizarry
 EMT Derron Israel
 Paramedic Matt L. Jachyra (3)
 EMT Christine M. Jackman
 Paramedic Christian Jackson (2)
 Paramedic Jared M. Jakob
 Lieutenant Peter F. Jakubowski
 Paramedic Dennis Jamieson
 Lieutenant Joseph Jefferson (2)
 Lieutenant Walter Jehle (2)
 EMT Brian Jennings
 Paramedic Kevin Jennings
 EMT Joseph M. Jimenez
 Paramedic Ramon E. Jimenez
 EMT David L. Johnson
 Lieutenant Marietta L. Johnson
 Paramedic Mark A. Johnson
 Lieutenant Stephen T. Johnson
 Paramedic Vincent J. Johnson
 EMT Loobans B. Jolicoeur (3)
 Paramedic Angela Jones
 Paramedic Brenda E. Jones
 EMT Jennifer A. Jones
 EMT Vanchella A. Jones
 Paramedic Fritz Joseph
 Paramedic Henderson O. Joseph
 Paramedic Nathalie Joseph
 Paramedic Sean A. Josten (2)
 EMT Jeffrey Jovin
 Paramedic Leonard J. Joyner
 EMT Daniel A. Jurcsak (2)
 EMT Christopher J. Kagenaar
 Lieutenant Michael Kaiser (4)
 Lieutenant Steven Kanarian
 Paramedic Aleksandr Kaplan (4)
 Paramedic Robert J. Kelly
 EMT Richard P. Kenney
 Paramedic David Kher (2)
 Lieutenant Scott A. Kiernan (3)
 EMT Roderick I. King
 Lieutenant Moshe Klein
 Paramedic Yonatan A. Klein (2)
 Paramedic Kathleen Knuth
 EMT Wayne J. Ko
 Captain Ronald J. Kochie (2)
 Paramedic Krista Kolanovic
 EMT Erik J. Korzeniewski
 EMT David Kowalski
 EMT John E. Krause
 Lieutenant George Kroustallis (5)
 EMT Rostantin W. Kruczowy
 Lieutenant Irene Kruiten
 Lieutenant Jeff Krulfeifer
 EMT Alexander A. Kuc
 EMT Kevin R. Kuck
 Paramedic Franklin Kupferberg
 Lieutenant Tammy LaBarbera (2)
 EMT Monique F. Lacroze
 EMT Frank D. Laino
 EMT Andrew N. Laird (2)
 Paramedic Jowaheer Lall (2)
 Lieutenant Karen E. Lamanna
 EMT Kenneth D. Lambert (2)
 Paramedic Yahki L. Langford
 Paramedic Todd A. Laracuenta
 Paramedic Kevin L. Laroy
 Paramedic Richard Laskowski
 EMT Frank L. Laurino
 EMT Jacques J. Lavaud
 Lieutenant Giuseppe Lavore (3)
 Paramedic Man Wai Law (2)
 EMT Jason M. Lazar
 Lieutenant Gaetano Lazzara
 Paramedic Juan R. Lebron
 EMT David K. Lee
 Paramedic Eric Lee
 Paramedic Hyo Gap Lee
 Paramedic William J. Lehmann, Jr.
 EMT Frank J. Li
 EMT Jack W. Lin
 Deputy Chief Stephen L. Lincke (2)
 Paramedic Kay Lincoln
 Lieutenant Timothy J. Lindblom (2)
 Lieutenant Matthew B. Lindner
 Paramedic Christopher J. Lipkin
 Paramedic Michael A. Liporace
 Paramedic Alexander N. Lipsitt
 EMT William E. Little
 EMT Krystle A. Liz

EMT John Lo Bello
EMT Christopher J. Longo
EMT Richard Loperena
Paramedic Hoover Lopez
Paramedic Michael S. Loscalzo
Lieutenant Edward Loss (2)
Paramedic John M. Louis (2)
EMT Edward A. Lowe
EMT Edwin A. Lozada
EMT Josue Luciano
Paramedic Jordan Lucks
EMT Jessica O. Lunden
Paramedic Sara R. Lupin (4)
EMT Keith J. Macana
Paramedic Patrick MacLennan
EMT Juan J. Madera
EMT Vashala R. Madho
Paramedic Christopher Mahoney
EMT James W. Mahoney
EMT Jessica Maldonado (2)
EMT Vincent A. Maneri
EMT Thameswar Mangra
EMT William F. Marchese
EMT Carmine J. Marchisello
EMT Louis M. Marin
Paramedic Raymond Marin
EMT John Marino
Lieutenant David Marks
Paramedic Julio C. Marrero (2)
EMT Rafael Marrero, Jr. (3)
Lieutenant Thomas S. Marsden
Paramedic Kimberly M. Marshall
Paramedic Edwin Martinez (3)
EMT Kenneth Martinez
Paramedic Orlando Martinez
Paramedic Sylvia M. Martinez (2)
Paramedic Scott C. Maruchau
Paramedic Jordan L. Matlovsky
Paramedic Michael M. Matonis
Paramedic Conrad F. Matos
EMT Anthony M. Mattola
EMT Winston C. Maxwell
Paramedic Kevin M. Mazuzan
EMT Vincent A. Mazzarella
Lieutenant Lori Mazzeo (2)
Captain Christine M. Mazzola (2)
Paramedic Daniel Mboh
EMT Ebony C. McBride
Paramedic Matthew D. McBroom
EMT James P. McCabe
Lieutenant Lawrence McCalla (3)
Paramedic Charles J. McCarren, III
EMT David L. McCarthy
Lieutenant Michael McCarthy (2)
Paramedic David W. McComb
EMT Michael F. McConville (2)
EMT Thomas C. McCormick
EMT Sophia McCoy
Paramedic James J. McCue
EMT Sherma McGuire
EMT Barbara McKenzie
Lieutenant Charles T. McLaughlin (2)
Paramedic Tyrone S. McLune (2)
EMT David P. McMinn
EMT Stephan B. McNamara
Paramedic Charles T. McNeil
Lieutenant Joe McWilliams (3)
Paramedic Francisco A. Medina
EMT Freddy Medina
Paramedic Michael B. Melas
EMT Debbie A. Mellon
Paramedic Jason G. Mendelsohn (2)
EMT Orlen Mendez
EMT Thomas T. Mendez
EMT Dewey A. Mendonca
EMT Moira D. Mercado
EMT Raul F. Mercado
EMT Kerry D. Merkel
Lieutenant Lawrence Messina (3)
Lieutenant Edward Meyer (2)
Lieutenant Deborah A. Meyerriecks (2)
Lieutenant Paul A. Miano
EMT Leon A. Michel
Paramedic Terrance Middleton
EMT Christopher Mifsud
EMT Michael Mignano
EMT Charles Milatta (2)
Paramedic Jennifer C. Millado-Marín
Paramedic Matthew B. Millan
EMT Daphne A. Miller
Lieutenant Joanne Miller
EMT Johnny Miller
Paramedic William T. Miller
Paramedic Adam S. Minkow
EMT Yaniri E. Miranda
Lieutenant Peter Mirando
EMT Fritz Moise (2)
EMT Jean Moise
EMT Elana M. Molina
EMT Peter J. Molinelli
EMT Crystal A. Monahan
Lieutenant Regla Montalvo
Lieutenant Kevin F. Montgomery (3)
Lieutenant William Moore
Paramedic Daryl I. Morales
EMT Tanya L. Moreau
EMT Jennifer L. Morgana
Paramedic Michael D. Motley
EMT Jeff L. Mottarella (3)
Paramedic Farooq H. Muhammad
Paramedic Brendan P. Mulroy
EMT Rafael A. Muniz, Jr.
Paramedic Donald K. Murphy
Lieutenant James J. Murphy
Paramedic Said A. Mustafa (2)
Paramedic Donald B. Mycoosingh
EMT Salvatore Namio
Paramedic Daniel Napoletano
EMT Jason P. Narain
Paramedic Kevin J. Nash (2)
Paramedic Christopher R. Natoli
Lieutenant Alfred Navaro
Paramedic Jonathan D. Negron
EMT Nicholas Negron
Paramedic Moses N. Nelson
Paramedic Samantha A. Neverson (2)
Captain John V. Nevins
Paramedic Kenneth Newman (2)
Paramedic Jack Ng (2)
EMT Jeffrey A. Nichols
Paramedic Vladimir Nikulin (4)
Paramedic Ray J. Nirrengarten
EMT Matthew E. Nolan
EMT Andy E. Nunez
Paramedic Renae T. O'Carroll
Paramedic Vanessa Ocasio
Paramedic Joseph O'Farrell
Paramedic Diana Olaya (3)
EMT Ellis Olive
Captain John D. O'Loughlin
Paramedic Matthew C. Olton
Lieutenant Bryan A. O'Malley
EMT Kelly A. O'Malley
EMT Christopher V. Orlik
EMT Kimberly A. O'Rorke
EMT Joel M. Orr
EMT Bruny Ortega
Paramedic Eric J. Orth
EMT Jose A. Ortiz
Lieutenant Norman A. Ortiz (4)
Lieutenant Jeannette Otero
Paramedic Melissa E. Ovalle (2)
EMT Vincent A. Oyangoren
Paramedic Arnold Pabon (2)
Paramedic Julio A. Padilla
EMT Michael W. Pagan (2)
Lieutenant Lori Paige (2)
EMT Deidre B. Paine
Lieutenant Michael P. Palleschi (2)
EMT Anthony C. Palmigiano
EMT Adrian F. Palomeque, Jr.
Paramedic Linda M. Parlamenti (2)
Paramedic Goretta Pasquier
Lieutenant Joseph J. Pataky (2)
Lieutenant Raymond J. Patterson
EMT Anthony T. Paulino
Paramedic Fernando Payamps (2)
Paramedic Larry W. Payne
EMT David P. Peak
EMT Olga L. Pedrero
Paramedic Maximo A. Pena
Paramedic Clifton T. Pennie
EMT Mario F. Perdon
EMT Elizabeth Perez
Paramedic Jamil N. Perez
Paramedic Jose A. Perez
EMT Jose E. Perez (2)
EMT Krystal A. Perez
EMT Yanko V. Perez
EMT Siewnarine Persad
EMT James Petrillo, Jr.
Lieutenant Ron Pfeffer (2)
Lieutenant Jon P. Phelan (3)
EMT David J. Pierre
EMT John G. Pike (2)
Paramedic Jeanne M. Pirrone
EMT Mychal J. Pivetz
Paramedic Ivan J. Placido
Lieutenant Edmund M. Platt (2)
EMT John R. Pneuman (2)
Paramedic Bernard Pogrebinsky (2)
Paramedic Natalia Polunin
Lieutenant Lawrence Pontrelli
Lieutenant Michael J. Potasso
Paramedic Sean Power (2)
EMT Mark-Adam Poyer
Lieutenant Robin M. Printy
EMT Janet Puento (2)
EMT Pablo A. Quesada
EMT Omar Quinones
EMT Yevgeniy Radzinsky (2)
Paramedic Rezaur Rahman
Paramedic Usman M. Rahyab
Lieutenant Rafael Ramirez
Paramedic Ryan K. Ramjas (2)
EMT David R. Ramos
EMT Frank Ramos
Paramedic Guillermo Ramos
Lieutenant Glauco A. Rancier (2)
EMT Kenneth Rau
Paramedic Shlomo Raymon (4)
Paramedic William F. Razenson
Paramedic David Reeve
Lieutenant Bonnie L. Regan
EMT Dennis R. Rehberger
EMT Peter C. Reilly
Paramedic Daniel M. Rella (2)
EMT Scott I. Rest
EMT Diana Reyes
EMT Rocco J. Riccardi
Lieutenant William L. Rich
EMT Celestine Richardson
EMT Mykka A. Richardson
Lieutenant Wilbert Riera
Paramedic Andrew E. Rios
Paramedic Cesar Rios
Lieutenant Evelyn Rios
EMT Chad W. Ritorto (3)
EMT William R. Ritter, Jr.
EMT Ramses R. Rivas
EMT Alexis Rivera
EMT Edward Rivera
EMT James E. Rivera
EMT Jenelle Rivera
EMT Jose T. Rivera
EMT Lissette Rivera
Paramedic Marco Rivera
Paramedic Michael Rivera
Paramedic Timothy Roberts
EMT Christopher A. Robertson (3)
EMT Byron Rodriguez
EMT Christina M. Rodriguez (2)
Paramedic George A. Rodriguez (2)
EMT Jeanine Rodriguez
Paramedic Luis D. Rodriguez
EMT Rema G. Rodriguez
Paramedic Craig C. Roeder (2)
Paramedic Lynwood G. Rollins
Paramedic Braulio Roman (2)
Paramedic Lionel Roman
EMT Rosa I. Roman
Paramedic Corey Romanowski
EMT Joseph V. Romeo
Lieutenant Douglas A. Rondon
Lieutenant Thomas M. Rosa
Captain Paul S. Rosado
Paramedic Edgar Rosales (3)
Paramedic John J. Rosati
Paramedic Andrew J. Rosenthal
EMT Vanessa Ross (2)
Lieutenant Scott E. Rothschild (3)
Lieutenant David Rudnitzky
EMT John F. Rugen
Lieutenant Richard J. Ruhl
EMT Adam J. Ruiz (2)
EMT Carmen S. Ruiz (2)
Paramedic Joseph Ruiz
EMT William J. Rush (2)
Paramedic Dean A. Russell
EMT Nicketo Russell
EMT Christopher Russo (2)

Captain Stephen A. Russo	EMT Noemi Sierra (2)	Paramedic Elwood L. Thomas (2)	Paramedic Chuen-Hsiang Wang (2)
Paramedic Alison Russo-Elling	Paramedic Kenneth Silas	Lieutenant Thoywell T. Thomas (2)	EMT Marcus C. Waring (2)
Paramedic Brendan F. Ryan	Paramedic Arnold J. Silva (2)	Paramedic Mario A. Thompkins (3)	Captain Steven Warren
EMT Nicholas J. Ryan (2)	Paramedic Roberto J. Silveira	EMT Robert B. Tieggen	Lieutenant Scott Waryold (2)
EMT Nicholas A. Sacco, Jr.	Doctor Lewis Silverman	EMT Robert F. Tier	EMT Brandy E. Washington
Paramedic Jason L. Saffon	EMT Charles J. Silverstein	EMT Vanessa Tineo	EMT Andrew J. Wasniewski
EMT Brian J. Saks	Paramedic Daniel Simon	EMT Mark T. Tome	Lieutenant William Waters, Jr. (3)
EMT Shadath Salahudeen (2)	EMT Johnny Simonis	Paramedic Michael P. Toomey (3)	EMT Rashard Watts
Paramedic Anne Sale	EMT Merisa A. Simons	EMT Harold Torres	Paramedic Todd R. Weber (6)
Paramedic Parisa Salem	Lieutenant Derrick C. Simpkins (2)	Lieutenant Norberto J. Torres	Captain Robert S. Weihs (2)
Lieutenant Debra H. Salvia	EMT Michael W. Skody	EMT Anthony C. Tortorici	Paramedic Stuart J. Weinstein (2)
Lieutenant Marc Samuels	EMT Margaret F. Slick	Paramedic Stephen J. Tortoriello	EMT Craig B. Wells
EMT Eric Sanchez	Paramedic Gary Smiley (3)	Paramedic Daniel C. Townsend (2)	EMT Kristine Werner (2)
EMT Luis A. Sanchez	Lieutenant Brian M. Smith (2)	Paramedic Gerardo Toyloy	Lieutenant Darren R. Wetsell (5)
EMT Maritza Sanchez	EMT Brian P. Smith (2)	EMT Franklin S. Trabucco	Paramedic Alwain B. White (2)
EMT Michael G. Sanchez	EMT Michael T. Smith	EMT Robert W. Trace, Jr.	EMT Dionnetta A. White (2)
Captain Joseph Sanders (2)	Paramedic Richard D. Smith	Lieutenant George V. Trager, Jr.	EMT Fredrick K. Whyynn
EMT Josette Santana	Paramedic Ervin Sobiev	EMT George Trail	Captain John Wieland
EMT Carlos R. Santiago	Paramedic Magdalena K. Sobocinski (2)	EMT Rafael Trinidad	Lieutenant Kyle Wigglesworth (3)
Paramedic Jason E. Santiago	Paramedic Arnaldo Soler (2)	Paramedic Timothy M. Troeber	Paramedic Anthony M. Wilkey
EMT Nilda L. Santiago (2)	Paramedic Hugo P. Sosa	EMT Andrew J. Trotta (2)	EMT Delano M. Williams
EMT Ramon Santiago	Lieutenant Anthony Soto	Paramedic William Tung (3)	Paramedic Justice Williams
Paramedic Nicolas L. Santini (2)	Lieutenant Philip A. Soto (3)	EMT Erica V. Ucciardino	Paramedic Marvin L. Williams
Lieutenant Vincent A. Santoiemma	EMT Alexander M. Soucy (2)	EMT Andrea E. Ugas	Paramedic Tawana I. Williams
EMT Nicholas O. Santy	EMT Diquence Souffrant	Paramedic Michael W. Ullman	EMT Wayne Williams
EMT Darryl C. Savoca	EMT Marie Nicole Souffrant	EMT Heidi T. Umpierre	EMT Trevon W. Wiltshire
EMT Thomas J. Scala (2)	Paramedic Jason K. Spandorf (2)	Paramedic Gerardo A. Urena	Lieutenant Craig M. Wing (3)
EMT Matthew J. Scalise	Paramedic Sophia A. Specht	Lieutenant Armando C. Vadell, Jr.	Paramedic Asher M. Winik (2)
Paramedic Steven Scarinzi (2)	Paramedic Matthew R. Speier	EMT Joshua Valdes (2)	Lieutenant Stewart Wolf (2)
EMT Joseph T. Schafer	EMT Endri Spiro (2)	Lieutenant Andre J. Valdez (2)	EMT Amanda Wong (2)
EMT Jonathan E. Schecter (2)	EMT Leonhard R. Stanley	EMT Michael E. Valentine (2)	EMT Danny Wong
EMT Jessica M. Schenker	EMT Gregory St. Clair	EMT John J. Varmon, Jr. (2)	EMT Dennis H. Wong
EMT Emile J. Schettino	EMT Glenn A. Steinle (2)	EMT Francisco M. Vasquez	Paramedic Patrick A. Worms
Paramedic Allen R. Schildgen	EMT Kevin J. Steinle	EMT Leonides Vasquez (2)	Paramedic Colin G. Wright
EMT Donna Schulz	EMT Robert E. Strafer	EMT Joseph M. Vasquez-Aldana	EMT Letasha M. Wright
EMT Woody G. Schurig	EMT Kevin M. Stringfield	EMT Frank S. Vela	EMT Sean A. Wright
EMT Joshua R. Schwartz (3)	EMT Junior Stvil	EMT Teodoro Velazquez, Jr.	EMT William M. Wright
Lieutenant James E. Scordus	Paramedic Evan S. Suchecki (2)	Paramedic Robert J. Vender	EMT Jaron L. Wyche
Captain John J. Scotch, II (2)	EMT Richard J. Suchite (3)	Paramedic Jason E. Verspoor	EMT Willis R. Wynn, Jr.
Paramedic Linda Scott	Lieutenant Eileen F. Sullivan (2)	Captain Michael Vetack	Lieutenant Joseph Yolles
Paramedic Malcolm B. Scott	EMT Marso Sully	EMT Regina Victor	EMT Yugun Yoon
EMT Kimoi A. Sealy-Brown	Lieutenant Alvin J. Suriel (3)	EMT Ricky Vien	Paramedic Aaron Young
EMT Rodolfo Seddio, Jr.	EMT Thomas T. Szczerba	EMT Vincent J. Visceglia (2)	Paramedic Arthur D. Young
EMT Joseph J. Segot	EMT Nicholas S. Tacopino	Paramedic Charles M. Vitale (3)	EMT Wayne J. Young
EMT Betzaida Serrano	Lieutenant Charles E. Tahaney	Lieutenant Antonios Voxakis	EMT Kenny Yu
Paramedic Olashawna Seymore	EMT Edwin A. Tario	EMT Jessica C. Wade	Paramedic Andrey Yuabov (6)
EMT Chungging Sham	EMT Jonathan Taylor	EMT Mark J. Walker (3)	EMT Artur Yukhananov
Lieutenant Barry K. Shapiro (2)	Paramedic Mark A. Taylor	EMT Niccia F. Walker	Paramedic Evgeni Zenkovich (6)
Paramedic Jeremy B. Sherman (2)	EMT James Thenstead	Paramedic Robert Walsh (3)	Paramedic Marvin E. Zuniga
Deputy Chief Howard M. Sickles		EMT Ryan R. Walsh	

Unit of the Month--2009

Month	Unit	Members
January	37A2	EMTs Jean Marie Baptiste, Marie Jouthe, Adrian Theobald
February	03I3	EMTs Alejandro Arzeno, Mark Carrol, Monica Laljeit
March	31C2	EMTs Carey Henry, David McMinn, Janice Palencia
April	39A2	EMTs Cristobal Hernandez, Alicia John, Nyasha Johnson, Suzette Jordan
May	48B2	EMTs Andrew Gabor, David Lee, Francis Pasterak, Ryan Petersen
June	37D3	EMTs Darryle Green, Rudy Hyppolite, Andrew Savage, Kimoi Sealy-Brown
July	44A3	EMTs Jonathon Marino, James Matthews
August	03E2	EMTs Roland Diaz, Jr., Bruce Geiser, Alejandro Ponce
September	58F2	EMTs Johnny Simonis, Marso Sully
October	01C2	EMTs Xiaotian Bao, David Kowalski, Peter Molinelli
November	39W3	Paramedics MacDonald C. Eve, Raymond Gonzalez, Ryan T. Hayes
December	48G3	EMTs Thomas Bores, Andrew W. Gabor, Leonard L. Leap

UNIT CITATIONS

Rescue Company 4

January 25, 2008 Box 22-7079

Squad Company 18

March 15, 2008 Box 44-861

Ladder Company 12

October 11, 2008 Box 581

Engine Company 248

December 14, 2008 Box 3732

Ladder Company 120

January 3, 2009 Box 1622

Engine Company 248

January 5, 2009 Box 22-2484

Rescue Company 3

January 12, 2009 Box 2106

Engine Company 298

January 12, 2009 Box 55-8582

Ladder Company 21

January 15, 2009 Box 0868

Marine Company 1

January 15, 2009 Box 0868

Engine Company 63

January 20, 2009 Box 55-3631

Engine Company 314

January 31, 2009 Box 5788

Squad Company 41

February 12, 2009 Box 2106

Ladder Company 42

February 12, 2009 Box 2106

Engine Company 71

February 21, 2009 Box 2265

Ladder Company 128

February 23, 2009 Box 7225

Engine Company 6

February 24, 2009 Box 55-132

Engine Company 9

February 24, 2009 55-132

Engine Company 7

February 24, 2009 Box 55-132

Ladder Company 6

February 24, 2009 Box 55-132

Ladder Company 20

February 24, 2009 Box 55-132

Ladder Company 1

February 24, 2009 Box 55-132

Ladder Company 3

March 7, 2009 Box 445

Engine Company 271

March 24, 2009 Box 0800

Rescue Company 1

April 9, 2009 Box 77-866

Ladder Company 127

April 20, 2009 Box 4371

Ladder Company 126

April 20, 2009 Box 4371

Rescue Company 3

April 22, 2009 Box 2424

Ladder Company 116

April 24, 2009 Box 7352

Engine Company 251

April 24, 2009 Box 44-6773

Ladder Company 42

April 24, 2009 Box 2284

Engine Company 88

April 25, 2009 Box 3304

Ladder Company 38

April 25, 2009 Box 3304

Ladder Company 41

May 9, 2009 Box 4672

Engine Company 94

May 11, 2009 Box 2420

Ladder Company 48

May 11, 2009 Box 2420

Ladder Company 13

June 17, 2009 Box 1204

Engine Company 22

June 17, 2009 Box 1204

Ladder Company 41

June 20, 2009 Box 3069

Ladder Company 45

June 26, 2009 Box 75-1704

Squad Company 270

June 29, 2009 Box 4794

Engine Company 80

July 3, 2009 Box 1597

Ladder Company 6

July 4, 2009 Box 75-316

Engine Company 295

July 10, 2009 Box 8444

Engine Company 255

July 12, 2009 Box 33-3088

Engine Company 248

July 12, 2009 Box 33-3088

Ladder Company 156

July 12, 2009 Box 33-3088

Engine Company 231

July 16, 2009 Box 22-845

Engine Company 233

July 16, 2009 Box 22-845

Marine Company 6

August 4, 2009 Box 471

Rescue Company 3

August 6, 2009 Box 4242

Squad Company 61

August 6, 2009 Box 4242

Ladder Company 16

August 17, 2009 Box 1018

Ladder Company 84

September 06, 2009 Box 22-4674

Engine Company 222

September 18, 2009 Box 22-775

Ladder Company 16

October 11, 2009 Box 964

MEDAL AND AWARD DONORS

James Gordon Bennett Medal

Established in 1869 and, for years, it was the sole decoration awarded for valor in the Fire Department of the City of New York. As a result of its seniority among medals, it is awarded annually for the most outstanding act of heroism after the consideration and deliberate judgment of the member of the Medal Board of the NYC Fire Department. (Page 11)

Brooklyn Citizens Medal/ FF Louis Valentino Award

In 1896, a committee of Brooklynites endowed this medal "to be given to the most deserving Firefighter in the Brooklyn Fire Department, as he/she shall be selected by the Fire Department of the City of New York." The recipient also is awarded the Firefighter Louis Valentino Award, a medal endowed/funded since 1998 by Diane Valentino and the Valentino family. (Page 12)

Hugh Bonner Medal

Named in honor of Chief Hugh Bonner, "a stalwart Chief of Department who preferred to rule by example." The medal first was awarded in 1897. (Page 13)

Honor Legion Medal

The Honor Legion is open only to "the bravest of the Bravest," both active and retired. Prerequisites for membership are confined to Firefighters of all ranks who have received Department recognition and been granted a Class I, II or III award for deeds of valor performed at imminent risk to their lives. First awarded in 1984 and funded by the Honor Legion. (Page 13)

Emily Trevor/Mary B. Warren Medal

These sisters, in their deed of gift, wrote "...for the purpose of encouraging the members of the force in the exercise...of heroic endeavor under circumstances of special danger." Awarded for the first time in 1899. (Page 14)

Thomas E. Crimmins Medal

First awarded in 1912. In memory of her father, Thomas E. Crimmins, contractor, builder, loyal New Yorker and son of a volunteer Fireman, Mrs. May M. Burke provided in her will for the endowment of the Crimmins Memorial Medal. (Page 15)

Thomas A. Kenny Memorial Medal

Honorary Deputy Chief William F. Kenny endowed this medal in memory of his father, a Battalion Chief who served in the Department, faithfully and conspicuously, from 1876 until 1903. It is given as a "perpetual token of zeal and enduring interest." First awarded in 1918. (Page 16)

Walter Scott Medal

Colonel Walter Scott, a successful New York merchant, was intensely interested in the City's protective forces. In 1920, he endowed a medal for valor bearing his name, to be awarded annually to a member of the FDNY. (Page 17)

John H. Prentice Medal

This medal is the gift of Mrs. Marion Prentice Brookman in memory of her father. The medal is for "an act of intelligent bravery." First awarded in 1921. (Page 18)

Christopher J. Prescott Medal

Named in honor of EMT Christopher Prescott, the first EMS member to make the Supreme Sacrifice in the line of duty in 1994, the Prescott Medal is the highest honor bestowed upon a member of the EMS

Command. Funded by the Uniformed EMTs and Paramedics and Fire Inspectors Union. (Page 19)

Henry D. Brookman Medal

Mrs. Marion Prentice Brookman, in making this award possible, wrote, "...to help the authorities in installing into the Department the fact that the service rendered by the Firefighters is of a character held in high esteem by the people and to perpetuate the old fealty and admiration held by the late Henry D. Brookman for the FDNY." First awarded in 1921. (Page 20)

M.J. Delehanty Medal

The founder and dean of civil service schools bearing his name endowed this medal in 1937, "to be awarded annually to a member of the Department whose distinguished service in the line of duty receives recognition by the Board of Merit of the Fire Department." (Page 21)

William F. Conran Medal

Honorary Chief Conran endowed this medal in 1937. His profession of fire protection engineer enabled him to improve the efficiency of firefighting appliances. (Page 22)

Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia Medal

The Honorable Fiorello H. LaGuardia, while Mayor, frequently "turned out" at large fires. He had a keen interest in the problems of fire prevention and extinguishment. First awarded in 1937. (Page 23)

Chief John J. McElligott Medal/ FFs Fitzpatrick and Frisby Award

Named in honor of the late Chief and Fire Commissioner, Chief McElligott. He joined the Department in 1905 and retired in 1941 after a long and fruitful career. This medal was endowed by William F. Conran and first was awarded in 1937. Recipient also is awarded the Fitzpatrick and Frisby Award, a medallion endowed by the Fitzpatrick and Frisby Foundation, in memory of these two Firefighters who made the Supreme Sacrifice. The UFA funds this award. (Page 24)

Thomas F. Dougherty Medal

Chief Dougherty served with the Department from 1888 to 1933 with distinction and honor. In addition to inventing the nozzle that bears his name, he was a colorful member of the Fire College faculty, where he specialized in teaching the technique and efficacy of ventilation. First awarded in 1937. (Page 25)

Albert S. Johnston Medal

Albert S. Johnston was a Captain in the New York Fire Patrol with a record of 50 years of faithful service. Ten years after his retirement in 1927, this medal was endowed by William F. Conran. (Page 26)

Ner Tamid Society/ Franklin Delano Roosevelt Medal

This medal was endowed by the officers and members of FDNY's Ner Tamid Society in honor of the late president. First awarded in 1946. (Page 27)

Tracy Allen-Lee Medal

EMT Allen-Lee is nationally recognized as the first EMS professional in the country to be awarded the Public Safety Officer's Benefit by the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, after dying from a communicable disease sustained in the line of duty. Funded by the Uniformed EMTs and Paramedics and Fire Inspectors Union. (Page 28)

Third Alarm Association Medal

The Third Alarm Association, a group of men interested in Fire Department activities, endowed this medal for valor in 1950. Funded by the Third Alarm Association. (Page 29)

Vincent J. Kane Medal

This medal is named in honor of the late Vincent J. Kane, labor leader and longtime President of the Uniformed Firefighters Association. Funded by the UFA. (Page 30)

Brummer Medal

The late Bertram Brummer and his wife, Susie, have had a long-standing interest in the FDNY. Bertram, a member of the New York Stock Exchange, received training during World War II at the Fire Department College and was assigned to Engine Company 44 in the Auxiliary Corps. In 1961, Bertram and Susie Brummer endowed this medal to be awarded annually for an act of bravery. First awarded in 1962. (Page 31)

Frank W. Kridel Medal

Awarded by the Hotel Association of New York City to a member of the FDNY in recognition of an act of valor above and beyond the call of duty. First awarded in 1962. (Page 32)

Emerald Society Medal

Endowed/funded by the Emerald Society and awarded to an FDNY member whose distinguished service in the line of duty receives recognition by the Department's Board of Merit. First awarded in 1965. (Page 33)

Chief Wesley Williams Medal

Endowed/funded by the Vulcan Society. Awarded to an FDNY member whose distinguished service in the line of duty receives recognition by the Department's Board of Merit. First awarded in 1966. (Page 34)

Holy Name Society Medal (Brooklyn/Queens)

Endowed/funded by the Holy Name Society (Brooklyn-Queens) in memory of Chaplain Emeritus Very Reverend Monsignor Merrit E. Yeager. First awarded in 1967. (Page 35)

Hispanic Society Memorial Medal

Endowed/funded by the Hispanic Society as "a memorial tribute to the 12 Brother Firefighters who made the Supreme Sacrifice at the East 23rd Street fire on October 17, 1966." First awarded in 1968. (Page 36)

Chief James Scullion Medal

Recognized as a pioneer in his field, Chief James Scullion was instrumental in bringing both basic and advanced life support services into the modern-day emergency medical system in the City of New York in the early 1970s. His dedication and commitment to excellence are memorialized through this award. (Page 37)

Captain Denis W. Lane Memorial Medal

Endowed in honor of the late Captain Denis W. Lane. Established by the Honorable Joseph M. Lane and Ms. Joan M. Lane. Captain Lane was appointed to the Department in 1913. A life-long member of the FDNY Anchor Club, he retired in 1958 after a long and dedicated career. Awarded to

a deserving member of the uniformed force in recognition of an outstanding act of bravery. First awarded in 1976. (Page 38)

Uniformed Fire Officers Association Medal

Endowed/funded in 1977 by the Uniformed Fire Officers Association "for an act of heroism and bravery performed by a Fire Officer at a fire." (Page 39)

Dr. Albert A. Cinelli Medal

Endowed/funded by the UFA in memory of Dr. Albert A. Cinelli, a longtime friend of the FDNY. Dr. Cinelli was responsible for founding both the Medical and Surgical Specialists Plan and the Surgical Assistance Fund. Serving without salary as the director of both programs, Dr. Cinelli won the admiration and respect of every member of the FDNY. In keeping with these thoughts, this medal has been dedicated to his memory. Awarded for the first time in 1978. (Page 40)

Fire Chiefs Association Memorial Medal

The Fire Chiefs Association has endowed this medal to honor the memory of those Chief Officers of the FDNY who, from volunteer days to the present, have given leadership, inspiration, courage and, sometimes, their lives, to the development of the finest firefighting force in the world. First awarded in 1979. (Page 41)

Fire Marshals Benevolent Association Medal

This medal was endowed/funded since 1980 by the Fire Marshals Benevolent Association, to be awarded to a member of the uniformed force for performance of an outstanding act of valor. (Page 42)

Community Mayors, Inc./ Lt. Robert R. Dolney Medal

This medal is sponsored by the Community Mayors, Inc., and is dedicated to the memory of Lieutenant Robert R. Dolney, who gave his life so that others might live. The Community Mayors organization, dedicated to helping handicapped children, will present this medal annually to a member of the Department who performs an act of bravery in attempting to save the life of a Firefighter. However, if an act of this nature does not occur during the year, it then will be presented to a member who performed an outstanding act of heroism. First awarded in 1981. (Page 43)

Battalion Chief Frank T. Tuttlemondo Medal

This medal is endowed/funded by the members of the 44th Battalion in honor and memory of their late, beloved Chief, who served the Brownsville area of Brooklyn most of his firefighting career and gave his life to save his men. The medal was designed by Firefighter George Guinan, formerly of Ladder 120. It is presented annually to a member of the Department who performs an act of bravery and courage in keeping with the highest traditions of the FDNY. First awarded in 1982. (Page 44)

Dr. John F. Connell Medal

Awarded since 1983 in honor of the late Dr. John F. Connell, adopted in 1923 by Engine 2, in what was then Hell's Kitchen. With encouragement of Firefighters who became his substitute fathers, he received his medical degree. He attended thousands of fires, treating Firefighters and civilians without a thought of personal recognition.

Endowed/funded by his son, the late John F. Connell, Jr., and first awarded in 1983, the award continues from Rosemary Connell, the widow of John F. Connell, Jr. (Page 45)

New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal

The New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association, Inc., founded in 1950, is an independent, non-profit and tax-exempt organization, dedicated to promoting the interests of the Firefighters of the State of New York. The active Association is affiliated with the New York State Professional Fire Fighters Association and is celebrating 50 years of volunteer service to the Firefighters of New York and their families. The medal, funded by the Association and first awarded in 1984, is presented every year to a Firefighter who has performed with valor. This medal is dedicated to honoring all Firefighters who have performed with valor. (Page 11)

Lieutenant Kirby McElhearn Medal

A dedicated professional with a passion for communications, Lieutenant McElhearn is remembered for his instrumental involvement in the research and development of the first modern-day Field Communications Unit (FieldComm) for EMS. Sponsored by the Uniformed EMS Officers Union. (Page 46)

Fire Bell Club Medal

The Fire Bell Club, the oldest and largest such group in the New York City area, consists of individuals, both in and outside of the fire service, who have an interest in the FDNY. The Fire Bell Club awards this medal bi-annually as an expression of their admiration and appreciation of the camaraderie that has existed between the FDNY and the Club since its founding in 1939. First awarded in 1984. Funded by the Fire Bell Club. (Page 47)

Firefighter David J. DeFranco Medal

In honor of the memory of FF David J. DeFranco for his dedicated efforts on behalf of the FDNY. This medal, awarded for a water-related rescue, is presented by the Uniformed Firefighters Association (UFA) in memory of David's father, FF Dan DeFranco. FF Dan DeFranco was assigned to Engine Co. 17 and Ladder Co. 18 on the lower east side for more than 33 years during a period of extremely heavy fire duty. FF Dan DeFranco also served on the executive board of the UFA for eight years at the post of sergeant at arms with honor, dedication and devotion to his Brother Firefighters. (Page 48)

Lieutenant James Curran/ New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal

The New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation is an organization committed to the goals of quality burn care and fund-raising endeavors. Similarly, the FDNY is engaged in safeguarding and improving the quality of life for city residents. It is this semblance of purpose and collaborative spirit that is deserving of recognition. With this in mind, the New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation awards a medal to the most worthy of units in appreciation of "a concentrated, super effort based on teamwork." Funded by the UFA. (Page 49)

Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Medal

Endowed/funded by the Uniformed Firefighters Association, this medal is named in honor of Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser, a 20-year veteran of the FDNY, whose firefighting career was cut short in 1990 by his untimely death. Firefighter Elsasser was a major contributor to UFA charity sporting events. (Page 50)

Deputy Commissioner Christine R. Godek Medal

Established and presented by Honorary Fire Commissioner Dorothy W. Marks and (now-deceased) Honorary First Deputy Commissioner Shelly Rothman in honor of Christine R. Godek, the first female Deputy Fire Commissioner of the FDNY. Presented annually to an outstanding New York City Fire Marshal for unusual display of initiative, improving techniques, resourcefulness and capability in the investigation of arson. (Page 51)

Firefighter Kevin C. Kane Medal

This medal has been established in honor of Firefighter Kevin C. Kane, who made the Supreme Sacrifice in the discharge of his duties, protecting life and property on September 13, 1991. This medal is awarded bi-annually to a member of the Department who performs an act of outstanding bravery and courage as deemed by the Board of Merit. Funded by Engine 207. (Page 52)

Probationary Firefighter Thomas A. Wylie Medal

This medal is endowed/funded by the members of Ladder Company 18 and Battalion 4 in honor of their fallen Brother, Probationary Firefighter Thomas A. Wylie, who gave his life assisting in the rescue of more than 20 civilians at a fire in Chinatown. The medal is awarded annually to a Probationary Firefighter who distinguishes himself as Tom did in his brief career. The medal depicts his caricature of a "Can Man," the traditional position of a "Proby." (Page 53)

Captain John J. Drennan Memorial Medal

Endowed/funded by the Viking Association of the FDNY in memory of Captain John J. Drennan, who sacrificed his life in the line of duty. This medal is awarded to members of the Department who perform acts above and beyond the call of duty. (Page 54)

Jack Pintchik Medal

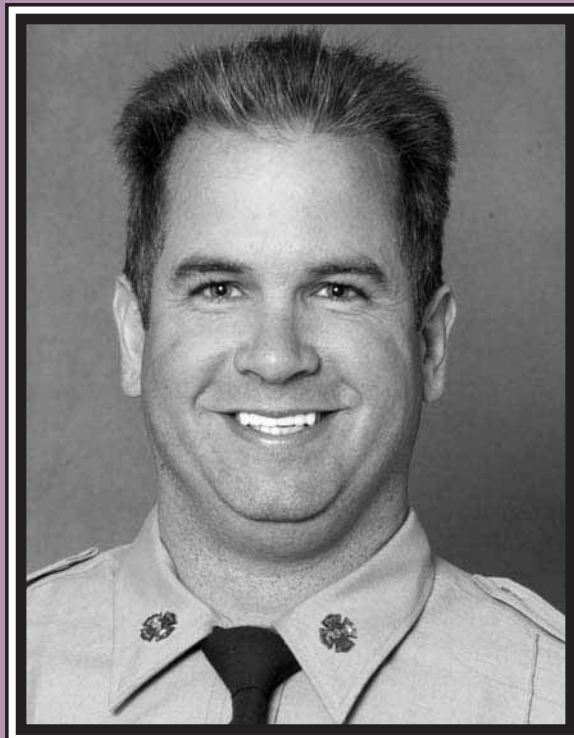
Following successful resuscitation from cardiac arrest by EMS Paramedics, Jack Pintchik, founder of the Pintchik Home Improvement Stores, honored members of EMS by establishing the first formalized EMS Awards & Recognition ceremony. In his memory, the Pintchik family continues to show their respect and support of EMS professionals through the Jack Pintchik Medal. (Page 55)

World Trade Center Memorial Medal

Established to honor the bravery and courage of the 343 FDNY members who made the Supreme Sacrifice on September 11, 2001, at the World Trade Center. This Company of the Year Award is endowed/funded by the 9/11 parents and families. (Page 56)

5 - 5 - 5 - 5

Died in the Line of Duty



Firefighter Paul Warhola
Engine Company 221

Died on August 14, 2009, as a result of injuries sustained in the performance of duty at Brooklyn Box 0106, August 12, 2009.

Appointed January 16, 1994.



New York's Bravest

PROUDLY SERVING SINCE 1865



FIRE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK

MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG, Mayor

SALVATORE J. CASSANO, Fire Commissioner

EDWARD S. KILDUFF, Chief of Department

9 MetroTech Center
Brooklyn, New York 11201
www.nyc.gov/fdny