

NYC Mourns FDNY Mechanic James Villecco

By: Keith Kerman

Last week, we discussed the essential role of our fleet and mechanical staffing in responding to the COVID-19 crisis and all emergency situations that NYC faces. This role and the risks involved could not be any clearer as NYC and FDNY now mourn the loss of Auto Mechanic James Villecco, 55, who died due to COVID-19. James was the first member of the fire department to pass from this disease.

James joined the FDNY Bureau of Fleet Services in 2014, assigned first to the Coney Island Repair Facility in Brooklyn, and later to the Review Avenue Garage in Queens. The Review Avenue Shop is FDNY's main ambulance repair facility servicing 600 ambulances and hundreds of other emergency response units.



Review is fleet's most hectic and demanding facility. The skilled staff like James keep our ambulances and FDNY light duty response units available and on the road. EMS is now facing record volumes of requests and FDNY's mechanics have never been more critical or challenged to keep this fleet operational and ready.

"Behind the thousands of calls our members respond to every day is a team of dedicated and skilled mechanics who ensure our ambulances are running 24/7," said Commissioner Daniel A. Nigro. "James Villecco was one of those truly unsung heroes in our department whose outstanding work provided medical care for the people of our city. The entire department mourns his loss."

A resident of Staten Island, James Villecco was a solid tradesman, beloved husband and father, and a friend to all he worked with each day. He is survived by his wife, Joy, and daughter, Jessica.

On behalf of DCAS and all the fleet agencies, we all want to extend our thanks, appreciation, and condolences to the Villecco family and FDNY.

We also want to recognize the many other fleet staff and mechanics from FDNY, NYPD, DOT, DSNY, Parks and DCAS, who are battling COVID-19 now and wish you recovery and restored health.

Finally, we want to thank all the mechanics, fleet and truck operators, fuelers, custodians, parts staff, supervisors, managers, and others, including our vendors, in fleet and facilities who are working now to support the City's health and emergency response efforts.

Check out past editions of the Fleet Newsletter

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 296, March 23, 2020](#): COVID-19 and Fleet Updates

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 295, March 9, 2020](#): Fleet Spotlight: Dereck Jones, Auto Mechanic, NYC Parks

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 294, February 28, 2020](#): Shut It Off! Mayor, Billy Idol Team Up to Stop Vehicle Idling

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 293, February 20, 2020](#): Slow Down and Buckle Up!

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 292, February 13, 2020](#): Honoring Motor Vehicle Operator Gerald "Gerry" Buchanan Sr., NYPD

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