FDNY 2015

ADMINISTRATIVE MEDALS & AWARDS

Thursday, December 3, 2015
FDNY Headquarters
9 MetroTech Center, Brooklyn
**FDNY 2015**

**ADMINISTRATIVE MEDALS & AWARDS**

**PROGRAM**

**GROUP 1 - 11:00 A.M.**

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<td>First Deputy Commissioner</td>
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<td>Star-Spangled Banner:</td>
<td>FF Regina Wilson</td>
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<td>Invocation:</td>
<td>Father Chris Keenan</td>
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<td>FDNY Chaplain</td>
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<td>EMS Emergency Medical Dispatch Commendation</td>
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**GROUP 2 – 1:30 P.M.**

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ADMINISTRATIVE MEDALS & AWARDS
COMMITTEE 2015

MICHAEL J. FITTON
Assistant Chief, EMS Operations

JOHN A. BENANTI
Deputy Commissioner

CAPTAIN ELIZABETH CASCIO
Executive Officer to the Fire Commissioner

DOUGLAS H. WHITE
Deputy Commissioner

DONAY J. QUEENAN
Assistant Commissioner

STEPHEN G. RUSH
Assistant Commissioner

SUZANNE SEBERT
Assistant Commissioner

ROBERT A. WALLACE
Assistant Commissioner
December 3, 2015

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to welcome everyone as the New York City Fire Department hosts its Administrative Medals and Awards Ceremony.

To the FDNY, courage and duty are more than just words – they are a code these men and women live by every day and a mission that guides them through not only each shift, but also through their daily lives. Our city is incredibly proud to be the home of the most talented fire department in the nation and grateful for their skill and professionalism that has ensured the safety of all our residents for the past 150 years. From firefighters and EMTs to the many researchers, analysts, inspectors, investigators, and more who work behind the scenes, every member of the FDNY is essential in supporting its goal of protecting New Yorkers. The Department’s civilian and administrative personnel play a critical role in ensuring that operations run smoothly and that first responders have the tools, resources, and information they need to meet every challenge. This annual event is an important opportunity to recognize all that these outstanding individuals do to keep our city safe and applaud their commitment to defending communities across the five boroughs.

On behalf of all New Yorkers, congratulations to today’s distinguished honorees. I offer my best wishes for an enjoyable ceremony and continued success.

Sincerely,

Bill de Blasio
Mayor
While our first responders perform outstanding work every day helping protect people and property throughout our City, their job would be much more difficult if not for the extensive support provided by so many administrative, civilian and “off the line” uniformed staff throughout the agency.

At our annual Administrative Medals and Awards ceremony, we get to say a well-deserved “thank you” to those who have gone above and beyond in performing outstanding work throughout the Department – work that greatly impacts our ability to do the job in ways that are safer for our first responders and more effective for the public we serve.

Among this year’s honorees are civilian and uniformed members who came together to develop protocols for response, care and transport of Ebola virus patients during the outbreak in 2014; the WTC Cancer Care Group, whose members assisted cancer-afflicted members to ensure that they receive the best treatment possible; a Chief Inspector for the Bureau of Fire Prevention, who supervised more than a million permit inspections, generating more than $400 million in revenue for the City; and an EVOC (Emergency Vehicle Operators Course) Program, whose instructors provided superior driver training to FDNY members.

These are a few examples of the excellent work we honor during this year’s ceremony. (There are so many, in fact, that we are holding two ceremonies to thank the large number of people involved!)

We are all fortunate to be a part of the greatest Fire Department in the world – and every one of our 16,000-plus employees contributes, in his/her own way, to the strength and professionalism that place us in the highest regard by the public we serve.

I thank all of you for your hard work – and I offer special thanks to our award winners for their efforts to make our great Department even better.

Daniel A. Nigro
Commissioner
FDNY STAFF CHIEFS

Robert G. Byrnes  
Chief Fire Marshal

J. David Lynn  
Assistant Chief  
Fire Marshal

Michael F. Gala, Jr.  
Deputy Chief,  
Chief of Uniformed Personnel

BOROUGH COMMANDERS

Edward J. Baggott  
Assistant Chief  
Queens

Joseph M. Woznica  
Deputy Assistant Chief  
Bronx

Wayne T. Cartwright  
Deputy Assistant Chief  
Brooklyn

Daniel F. Donoghue, Jr.  
Deputy Assistant Chief  
Manhattan

Roger W. Sakowich  
Deputy Assistant Chief  
Staten Island

Richard J. Howe  
Deputy Assistant Chief  
Borough Commander

CHIEF OFFICERS

Marylou Aurrichio  
Division Chief  
EMS Communications

Sophia Kwok  
Division Chief  
EMS Operations

Rosario Terranova  
Division Chief  
BOT--EMS Division

SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

Battalion Chief  
Stephen J. Geraghty  
Rescue Operations

Battalion Chief  
Michael J. Buckheit  
Marine Operations

Deputy Chief  
Nicholas Del Re  
Haz-Mat Operations

Administrative Medals & Awards 2015
DIVISION COMMANDERS

Deputy Chief
John W. Bley
Division 1

Roberto Colon
Chief EMS Division 1

Deputy Chief
Joseph N. Carlsen
Division 3

Deputy Chief
James J. Donlevy
Division 6

Deputy Chief
Joseph C. Saccente
Division 7

Alvin Suriel
Chief EMS Division 2

Deputy Chief
John J. Hodgens
Division 8

Jonathan P. Pistilli
Chief EMS Division 5

Deputy Chief
James E. Campbell
Division 11

Steven J. Morelli
Chief EMS Division 3

Deputy Chief
James A. DiDomenico
Division 13

Deputy Chief
Mark A. Ferran
Division 14

Robert A. Hannafey
Chief EMS Division 4

Deputy Chief
Michael Ajello
Division 15

Nancy Gilligan
Division Chief
EMS Operations
Assistant Commissioner Suzanne Sebert has been the head of the FDNY Family Assistance Unit (FAU) since 2005, working to assist, comfort and aid FDNY families when they experience a death, accident or serious illness. The FAU provides tremendous support to families during their most difficult times—from making hospital visits and helping with final arrangements, to assisting with benefit applications and coordinating transportation—going above and beyond to accommodate the unique needs of each family.

But the contribution Commissioner Sebert has made to the FAU goes beyond even this, as she has shaped the unit into a long-term source of comfort for families, not only in their time of need, but for as long as they wish. This has allowed families to seek solace in a community that shares their experiences and assures them that there always will be a place for them to grieve and honor their loved ones.

This has been possible due to the unique combination of skill, thoughtfulness and care that Commissioner Sebert brings to the job. She never presumes that what works for one family would be appropriate for another and approach-es each family with the unique compassion deserved. This has allowed the FAU to support families immediately after a loss, as well as five and 10 years later, reflecting the support for them not only in their time of need, but also helping them to make happy memories again as a family.

Commissioner Sebert is a fierce champion for the families, advocating for them with the FDNY Pension Bureau, NYCERS, the unions and federal government. She is alert to unscrupulous funeral home directors, making sure that no one is taken advantage of during this stressful time.

By studying Department problems and developing viable solutions, Assistant Commissioner Suzanne Sebert has demonstrated that she is worthy of the Administration Medal. Established in 1914, the Administration Medal is awarded to a member whose ideas and experience have proved to benefit the Fire Department. Certainly, the many families she has assisted appreciate her efforts in overseeing a vital service for the well-being of our members’ families and for propelling the Family Assistance Unit into a powerful resource for all those who need it.
THE LEON LOWENSTEIN AWARD

Administrative Medals & Awards 2015

FDNY CITY-WIDE EBOLA PROTOCOL & RESPONSE TRAINING

Captain Elizabeth Casco, Executive Officer to the Fire Commissioner, Dr. David J. Prezant, Chief Medical Officer; Special Advisor to the Fire Commissioner; Dr. Kerry J. Kelly, Chief Medical Officer; BHS; Dr. Viola Ortiz, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, BHS; Dr. Glenn H. Asaeda, Chief Medical Director, OMA; Dr. Douglas A. Isaacs, Attending Physician, Bureau of EMS; Robert F. Sweeney, Chief of Staff, Commissioner’s Office; Deputy Chief Nicholas Del Re, Haz-Mat Operations; Assistant Chief Michael J. Fitton, EMS Operations; Assistant Chief James D. Daly, Jr., Assistant Chief of Operations; Dr. Bradley J. Kaufman, Division Medical Director, Bureau of EMS; Deputy Assistant Chief Anthony V. Napoli, Emergency Medical Dispatch; Captain Vincent C. Cirino, Executive Officer, Haz-Mat Operations; Captain Cesar A. Escobar, Commanding Officer, EMS Academy; Deputy Assistant Chief James C. Hodgens, Chief of the Fire Academy; Bureau of Training; Lieutenant Donald C. Hudson, Safety and Inspection Services Command; Captain Edward J. Bergamini, Fire Academy; Captain Paul Miano, Haz-Tac; Bureau of EMS; Assistant Chief Joseph W. Pfeifer, Chief of Counterterrorism & Emergency Preparedness; Dr. Nikolaos A. Alexandrou, Deputy Medical Director; OMA; Deputy Assistant Chief Roger J. Ahee, Bureau of Training--EMS Division; Deputy Commissioner Francis X. Gribbon, Public Information; Assistant Chief William C. Seelig, Chief of Special Operations Command; Assistant Chief John Sudnik, Chief of Operations; Deputy Assistant Chief Paul Cresci, Chief of Safety and Inspection Services Command; Joseph D. Malvasio, Director of Websites & Publications, Public Information; Robin M. Mundy-Sutton, Director of Tech Services; Dr. David Ben-Eli, Attending Physician, Bureau of EMS; Deputy Assistant Chief Anthony W. De Vita, Jr., Chief of Planning; Captain Matthew B. Lindner, EMS Operations; Firefighter Roy J. Nichols, Aide to First Deputy Fire Commissioner; EMT Amanda N. Schmidt. CTDP; Battalion Chief John J. Nykid, CTDP; Captain Charles Fraser, CTDP; Lieutenant Farooq H. Muhammad, EMS Academy; Lieutenant Kevin Ramdayal, EMS Academy; EMT Steven Negron, EMS Academy; EMT Bruce D. Gutnick, EMS Academy; EMT Joshua Sutherland, Haz-Tac; SOC; EMT Lido Aviles, Haz-Tac Instructor; SOC; Captain Christopher Flatley, CTDP; Lieutenant William L. Malaragno, Haz-Tac, Bureau of EMS; Chief Abdo Nahmod, Chief of the Bureau of EMS (retired)

Developed protocols for response, care and transport of Ebola virus patients

In August 2014, Fire Commissioner Daniel A. Nigro formed a task force, under the direction of Chief Medical Officer Dr. David Prezant, to develop protocols for response, care and transport of patients with Ebola virus. Beginning in September 2014, FDNY responded to numerous cases and performed admirably despite the known life-threatening risk of contagion to our members and their families.

Numerous protocols were developed, more than 60,000 personal protective suits and other assorted pieces of equipment were procured and training was provided. The initiative was a huge success. Members had confidence in the protocols, equipment and training provided to them. No member was infected and many actually volunteered to participate.

Additionally, FDNY’s expertise became a critical resource for helping DOHMH, HHC and GNYHA in developing their own protocols for patient hand-off and decontamination. In so doing, FDNY developed and provided tabletop drills to more than 20 hospitals in the 911 system and did full-scale drills with each of the designated treatment hospitals.

In 2014, the Bureau of Training, EMS Academy, was tasked with developing a training program focused on providing all 3300 FDNY EMTs and Paramedics with information on Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), recognizing potential patients and how to protect themselves using the Infectious Control Ensemble (ICE). With the guidance of Chief of Department James E. Leonard and Chief Medical Director Dr. Prezant, a working group was established to develop guidelines and objectives to ensure that the proper information and equipment were used in response to this deadly outbreak. In a matter of several weeks, the EMS Academy developed PowerPoint presentations, handouts, posters, videos and DiamondPlate content aimed at providing the field with the most up-to-date information on EVD.

With the leadership of Division Chief Roger Ahee, a training plan was developed that provided more than 3000 EMS members with extensive hands-on training on EVD and the use of the ICE at multiple locations throughout the five boroughs, seven days a week, to reach as many responders as possible in a short amount of time. This training also included issuing members the property sized equipment in the event they needed to don the ICE.

In a little more than five months, training curriculum was developed, implemented and completed. This was possible only with the help of various other Bureaus and units as mentioned above. Providing the proper training and equipment to FDNY field personnel truly was a team accomplishment, developing and administering the training plan still in use today. Many of the training modules are used regionally with other agencies to educate members on EVD response and preparedness. Because of their outstanding commitment, dedication and attention to detail in ensuring members’ safety, those listed above are presented with The Leon Lowenstein Award.
The IT Strategy and Planning Unit within the Bureau of Technology Development & Systems (BTDS) is responsible for providing strategic leadership insights for the development, growth and implementation of new technology that includes setting up rapid application development models, clouds and mobile frameworks, social impact techniques and IT governance. These steps have facilitated the development of a Client Management Application for the Family Information Call Center.

In the days and weeks following September 11 and again in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, the FDNY activated the Family Information Call Center. Each time, the center provided information, resources and support to FDNY families in need. During Sandy, the FDNY also opened two satellite centers, one in Canarsie and one in Staten Island. Together, the Family Call Center at MetroTech and the two satellite centers assisted 800 FDNY members’ families during a three-month period in 2012.

But there was a problem. Because of the speed with which the call centers were established, there was no data management system in place to coordinate their work. Information about FDNY families and their needs was collected on paper and later entered into Excel spread sheets and carried between the center locations on flash drives. Last year, the IT Strategy and Planning Unit took on the challenge of developing an application that call-takers could use to record information during a call and store it securely.

The application they adapted and developed is web-based. Even if MetroTech is incapacitated at some point, it can be used anywhere there is an internet connection. The application can be used by call-takers at several locations simultaneously. It has a wide variety of sorting and reporting capabilities. The application serves as a prototype for data systems being developed in other parts of the FDNY.

In the fall of 2014, more than 50 members of the Incident Management Team and the FDNY civilian staff were trained to use the new Family Information Call Center application with the help of the IT Strategy and Planning Unit. Obviously, it is hoped that the FDNY never again will suffer a major tragedy.

However, if tragedy does strike again, thanks to the efforts of Anup Tiwari, Strategic Planning Manager, Stephanie Thomas, Computer Specialist, and Jiranya Sriparkhao, Software Specialist, in developing the Client Management Application/Family Information Call Center, the Department is better prepared to help FDNY families. For this reason, they are recognized with the George F. Mand Award.
A brief job description of Fire Alarm Dispatchers Tara Johnson and Mariliz Rodriguez includes using various technologies; receiving, processing and transmitting alarms for Fires and emergencies; and then monitoring on-scene status, escalations, assignment of appropriate units; managing unit relocations, ensuring adequate borough-wide coverage; and providing status, updates and notifications to Chief Officers and responding units.

Throughout their careers, both women, without fanfare, consistently have demonstrated an exemplary work ethic and exhibited job expertise and dedication to the performance of their duties with the FDNY. This nomination recognizes their skill, initiative and willingness to learn and adapt and how their efforts have impacted the success of daily operations of the Bureau of Communications Fire Dispatching.

These women are responsible for compiling the work schedule for Fire Alarm Dispatchers, maintaining the bureau’s personnel records, managing dispatchers’ City time records and overseeing the City-wide sick leave program, which includes the family sick leave policy.

The work done by this unit supports the successful operation of FDNY’s five borough dispatch operations 365 days a year. Throughout the year, they are tasked with maintaining minimum staffing levels, which are constantly changing due to vacations, sick leave and the reassignment of personnel to special projects. In addition to their regular duties, Fire Alarm Dispatchers Johnson and Rodriguez stand ready to assist with just about any task, including special events.

Ms. Johnson started her career with the FDNY in May 1995. As a dispatcher, she has worked in all boroughs, with the majority of her time assigned to the Bronx Dispatch Operations Dispatch Office.

Ms. Rodriguez started her career with the FDNY in December 2000. She, too, has worked in all boroughs. She now is assigned to headquarters and the Staffing Unit.

The Chief Thomas P. O’Brien Award, established in 1967, is one of the older FDNY Administrative Medals and Awards bestowed on deserving civilian members of the Bureau of Fire Communications. The Bureau of Communications is lucky to have these two dedicated individuals who are so willing to step up to any challenge. They go above and beyond on a regular basis and, when doing so, maintain a positive attitude and contribute to a pleasant work environment. It is for these reasons that the FDNY honors Fire Alarm Dispatchers Tara Johnson and Mariliz Rodriguez.
Administrative Medals & Awards 2015

THE FIRE COMMISSIONER’S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

COMMISSIONER’S ADVISORY COUNCIL

First Deputy Commissioner Robert R. Turner, II; Chief of EMS Robert McCracken (retired);
EMS Division Chief J.P. Martin, Chief of Training (retired); Deputy Assistant Chief Roger W. Sakowich, Deputy Borough
Commander; Manhattan; EMS Division Chief Sophia Kwok; EMS Deputy Chief Lillian A. Bonsignore;
Battalion Chief Rochelle T. Jones (retired); Battalion Chief Robert J. Ingram, WMD Branch Chief, CTDP;
Battalion Chief Gregory Bierster, Chief of Public Safety; Battalion Chief Malcolm Moore, Division II;
Captain Liam J. Flaherty, Rescue 2; Captain Mark Guerra, Executive Officer to the First Deputy Commissioner;
Lieutenant Anthony J. Musorfiti, Haz-Mat 1 (retired); Christopher P. McDaniels, Computer Specialist, Management Analy-
sis & Planning; Dr. John E. Seley, Chairman; and Andrew Heimowitz, Research Associate.

Former members of the Council: Chief of Department Peter E. Hayden (retired);
Deputy Chief and Division Commander Nicholas Visconti (retired); Deputy Chief Richard Fuerch (retired);
Deputy Commissioner Edward Dolan, Strategic Initiatives & Policy; and
Joseph Higgins, Deputy Director, Fire Dispatch Operations (retired)

Provided research and analysis to offer the Fire Commissioner counsel
on numerous key areas, such as communications, leadership and training, to improve the FDNY

Appointed on July 1, 2014, the Commissioner’s Advisory Council is an ongoing group of key advisors to Commissioner Daniel A. Nigro. Their work features research and analysis, resulting in oral and written reports. To date, the Advisory Council has advanced improvements in each of the following areas:

FDNY organizational chart was revised to reflect many changes in FDNY structure, including addition of a new position for a Chief of Staff, as well as decentralization of responsibilities from direct reporting to the Commissioner, to a much more diverse reporting system, characterized by clear directives and chain of command.

FDNY leadership was surveyed with an objective analysis of existing potential leadership. The comprehensive report included a large matrix of qualifications, identifying three to six people for each Staff Chief position in the Department.

Communications problems with the 911 system were reviewed. Suggestions were made and the issues addressed.

Civilian satisfaction/workplace improvements were identified via a survey of 565 civilians from all bureaus of FDNY. Some of these improvements include adding job listings to the employee newsletter, applying for a $25,000 grant from the FDNY Foundation (doubling the current budget) for supervisor training and introducing an informational kiosk in the 9 MetroTech headquarters lobby with great success. Additionally, more employee recognition has been urged, with a recommendation that a clear career ladder be identified for all employees so they have a better sense of their future career with the Department.

Training was analyzed through a survey of all 361 fire companies (Commanding Officers) to rate importance of all 52 non-required PES courses and rate preparedness of Probies. A two-day class for all instructors, including sessions on EEO, Diversity and Inclusion, the Court Monitor and Legal Concerns, Probie Stress, Millennials, the Female Firefighter Experience and Syllabi and the Logic of Courses, was designed and delivered. A pre-test for all Probies was written (graded, but not included in permanent record) to alert them to the need to study and their own lack of preparation. The work continues with a planned national survey of the top 25-30 fire departments in the U.S., including questions on all courses taught and physical training regimen so that we can compare the FDNY Training Academy to other training approaches.

For providing such valued and comprehensive counsel on a great number of key areas to improve the FDNY, the above-listed individuals are presented with The Fire Commissioner’s Award for Outstanding Service.
In the Bureau of Fire Prevention, there are many good managers. However, Chief Inspector Samuel A. Asamoah transcends this category. Since 2003, he has been the distinguished leader of an estimated 140 men and women who serve in the 10 District Offices throughout New York City. They are Inspectors, Supervisors and support staff members who work to ensure premises are properly inspected and permitted.

The manufacture, handling, use and storage of flammable or combustible materials or equipment take place within the walls of these locations. They contain businesses that operate motor fuel and fuel oil storage systems, large-capacity refrigeration systems, commercial cooking equipment, automotive repair shops, etc. In the referenced time period, the District Offices have completed more than a million Bureau of Fire Prevention permit inspections. These inspections also have produced more than $400 million in revenue for New York City.

Mr. Asamoah is an employee of judicious temperament, intelligence and remarkable organizational skills. He treats his subordinates with civility, kindness, wisdom and great dignity. His knowledge of fire protection subjects is broad and deep, making him much sought after, both as an advisor and coordinator, in technical and administrative endeavors.

From 2007-2013, Mr. Asamoah worked closely with New York City Small Business Services (SBS) as a subject matter expert and played a major role in developing the NYC business express portal for the facilitation of new businesses. He assisted entrepreneurs and industry leaders in maintaining high standards of fire and life safety, while maintaining the exigencies of good business practices. He has worked very closely during his 29 years as an FDNY employee with business owners, engineers, architects, contractors and a whole range of public officials.

Starting as a Fire Protection Inspector in 1986 in the Fire Suppression Inspection Group’s Sprinkler/Standpipe Unit, Mr. Asamoah received several promotions and serves as Director of the District Offices, a position he has held since 2003.

With his Fire Prevention expertise and supervisory skills, Chief Inspector Samuel A. Asamoah, Director of the District Offices, has proved himself to be an asset to the FDNY. For these reasons, he is presented with the Moe Ginsberg Award, which is given to a deserving civilian member of the Bureau of Fire Prevention.
As Deputy Director of Construction, Paul DeRocchis is responsible for all facets of FDNY construction projects. His staff works from initiation to implementation, including the design and program requirements of projects completed in-house. In addition to the oversight and management of day-to-day construction operations, Mr. DeRocchis oversees the preparation of scopes of work, budgets and procurement of construction and other facility-related services.

He coordinates with all levels of government agencies on jobs in order to ensure the project clears all obstacles expeditiously. This includes all public hearings and reviews by budgetary, oversight and regulatory agencies. He also is tasked with prioritization and multi-tasking projects since the workload usually features numerous projects running parallel at different stages of design/construction.

Finally, in addition to his supervisory functions, Mr. DeRocchis undertakes direct project management duties for specific and unique projects that require the attention of a senior and experienced project management professional. The renovation of the FDNY’s marine facilities, with unique design, construction and operational issues, is one such example.

To operate in waterways around New York City, highly functional marine firehouse facilities are required to ensure rapid response capabilities for Marine Operations. This includes the firehouses, as well as the piers and support and training facilities. Mr. DeRocchis has demonstrated great dedication and passion in his personal supervision of the design, oversight and completion of those projects that support the Marine Division’s mission. These projects include:

- Marine 1--new pier and firehouse
- Marine 6--new pier, travel lift, shore pier and fueling facilities
- Marine Operations--machine shop renovations
- Marine simulator at the Fire Academy
- Fire Academy pier renovation funding and design approval
- Marine 6 support and repair building completion

Due to the unique conditions and requirements affecting these projects, construction of marine facilities is significantly more difficult than an otherwise comparable project. In order to achieve success, Mr. DeRocchis worked very closely with a variety of federal, state and local government agencies. Significantly greater dedication and attention to detail were required to assure that the old structures were demolished properly and the new structures were erected in conformance to the Department’s new operational needs and requirements.

Finally, this work must be completed in conformance with the requirements regarding construction in a marine environment. Mr. DeRocchis’ management attention to detail has assured that all projects were completed in a timely fashion and within budget constraints.

Paul DeRocchis has provided exceptional service to the Department. His sustained commitment to improvements to Marine Operations’ facilities is a superior accomplishment that required specialized skills and knowledge and the ability to incorporate innovative solutions in a difficult environment, boosting the Department’s mission to provide citizens with vital public safety services. Paul DeRocchis is honored with the James J. Johnston Memorial Medal.
HONORARY CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT JACK LERCH MEDAL

MARK TRIA
Supervisor of Mechanics
Bureau of Fleet Services

Ensured the repair and maintenance of a wide variety of vehicles and provided superior service during major disasters, such as the Hurricane Katrina deployment and superstorm Sandy

Mark Tria currently serves as the Supervisor of Mechanics at the Randall’s Island facility of the Bureau of Fleet Services. This unit is responsible for the repair and maintenance of a wide variety of vehicles, from fire apparatus, to specialty units and light-duty vehicles. Mr. Tria also is the Bureau’s Training Coordinator, responsible for ensuring classes on new technology and products are presented to the mechanical staff. Prior to his current assignment, he worked in the Machine/Component Rebuilding Shop, the Emergency Crew and the Ambulance Repair Shop.

Mr. Tria has been with Fleet Services for more than 23 years. Throughout his time with the Bureau, he has always been an exemplary employee who could be counted on to complete any assignment. When the Department deployed to New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina, he volunteered to go. During Hurricane Sandy and other local emergencies, Mr. Tria worked tirelessly, ensuring that vital fuel supplies were maintained for Department vehicles throughout the City. He is still the coordinator for the Department’s emergency fuel trucks.

The Honorary Chief of Department Jack Lerch Medal was established in 1989, created and endowed by Mrs. Jack (Roberta) Lerch to honor her husband, a devotee and veritable font of knowledge when it comes to all things FDNY. This medal is presented to a uniformed or civilian member of the Bureau of Fleet Services for outstanding service, which emulates the devotion Jack Lerch has shown to the FDNY. In recognition of his exceptional dedication and level of service, Mark Tria is presented with the Honorary Chief of Department Jack Lerch Medal.
LIEUTENANT ALEXANDER POLLINA
Maintenance Unit Officer-in-Charge
Fire Academy, Bureau of Training

Managed contracts for services in the procurement of goods, services and/or construction to ensure the maintenance and repair of the Fire Academy buildings and training equipment

Lieutenant Alexander Pollina heads up the Fire Academy Maintenance Unit. Overall, he is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the buildings and training equipment at the Academy. During his tenure, Lieutenant Pollina has worked tirelessly so that these facilities are available and safe for all training units.

More specifically, he is responsible for ensuring that the infrastructure and training areas of The Rock are ready for use by field units and Probationary Firefighters, as well as other City, state and federal agencies, reinforcing the Fire Academy’s international reputation as a premier training facility. Lieutenant Pollina is charged with making certain that all units have what they need for training. Some of his duties include the following:

• Supervising necessary repairs to all buildings at the Fire Academy, including electrical, carpentry, plumbing, masonry and painting projects.
• Supervising all contractors performing the above work, as well as ensuring contract compliance and monitoring the contractors through on-site inspections.
• Researching all aspects of materials needed for training initiatives at the Academy.
• Supervising and coordinating special projects involving the Ceremonial Unit, Honorary Fire Chiefs Association, Memorial Day, Tunnel to Towers Run, etc.
• Preparing fiscal summary reports as required for the Executive Officer of the Fire Academy.

Additionally, Lieutenant Pollina assists with the many construction projects in and around the Fire Academy. The props created by these construction projects provide accurate and effective training tools that enhance the safety and efficiency of this Department.

The Lieutenant also supplies vital support in the preparation for and operations during the annual FDNY Foundation Symposium. The Symposium has enhanced the Department’s influence and status around the world.

The Honorary Fire Officers Association Medal is awarded to a uniformed member assigned or detailed to the Fire Academy, whose administrative contributions are such that they improve the Department’s ability to carry out its mission or improve the delivery of Department service to the public. Certainly, Lieutenant Alexander Pollina meets and exceeds these criteria. His hard work and unwavering devotion have helped this Department achieve an unprecedented quality of training, which keeps both Firefighters and the public they protect safe. It is for all of these reasons that Lieutenant Pollina is presented with The Honorary Fire Officers Association Medal today.
The FDNY WTC Cancer Care Group serves our members--active and retired--who have developed cancer as a result of their WTC exposures. This outstanding group of medical professionals and social service team work together to assist members in navigating through the health care system at a difficult time. They help members get certified through NIOSH so that their care can be paid for. They assist in setting up appointments, coordinating care with oncology centers and in providing frequent follow-up with the patients and their caretakers to keep members on track.

This is an outstanding team whose members have created a program that provides extraordinary service to members and their families. The diagnosis of cancer is a life-altering experience. WTC members who face this illness are met by a team of individuals who work with the patients, their families and the health care system to ensure coordination of benefits and oncology care. Each member has a case manager nurse/social worker who addresses concerns and ensures that authorizations can be put into place.

The initial certification is done through the efforts of Dr. Ellen Koffler and Nadia Jaber, who ensure that NIOSH will cover the cancer. The team makes referrals to the participating Cancer Centers, some in New York City and some at a distance, to ensure that members receive the best treatments.

The team speaks to members and their families to help them understand what they are facing. It is a testimony to our team that many patients will not agree to a procedure or treatment until they talk it over with Dr. Koffler or their case manager. Whether a patient successfully completes treatment or fails treatment, the team is there to assist for the long haul. Members well enough to travel come in to see the special people who have been “by their side” for the duration of their treatment and for the after-care.

The WTC Cancer Care Group has created a unique program that provides essential services to our most ill members. Each day, the individuals in this group make a difference in the lives of members. They are dedicated to our cancer patients and go above and beyond every day. They attend wakes and funerals for those patients who have passed. They continue to speak to bereaved family members after the loss of patients.

Last spring, the team became an American Cancer Society Relay for Life participant. Again, with team effort, they raised funds for that cause and provided public outreach, highlighting the cancer problems facing FDNY members and providing a platform for cancer survivors, as well as family members to attend and actively participate.

For their herculean efforts in assisting some of FDNY’s sickest members, the WTC Cancer Care Group is recognized with the Community Mayors Nicholas DeGaeta Award, which is presented to those who demonstrate the commitment to excellence and persistence of duty in meeting the Department’s mission.
FIRE MARSHAL JUSTIN C. HORIGAN
Citywide North Command
Bureau of Fire Investigation

Investigated an arson-for-profit scheme that resulted in an arrest and successful prosecution

Fire Marshal Justin Horigan spearheaded an August 2014 investigation that uncovered an arson-for-profit scheme. He demonstrated great skill and resourcefulness as reflected in his work that uncovered the crime. Additionally, the Marshal distinguished himself by successfully bringing this case to prosecution.

Fire Marshals are responsible for conducting a broad range of investigations related to fire and arson. A typical day might include the following activities:
- Conduct forensic examinations of fire scenes to determine the origin and cause of fires.
- Identify and collect fire scene evidence.
- Interview witnesses and victims.
- Interrogate suspects.
- Effect summary arrests.
- Prepare and serve subpoenas.
- Evaluate documents, insurance policies and bank records.
- Apply for and execute search and arrest warrants.
- Develop sources of information.
- Deploy and control confidential informants.
- Conduct electronic surveillance.
- Prepare investigative reports.
- Provide expert testimony in court.

A 16-year veteran of the FDNY, FM Horigan is recognized for his unwavering standard of excellence and dedication to duty. During the investigation of a Queens fire that took place on August 25, 2014, which led to the detection of an arson-for-profit scheme, all of the above activities were put to good use by the Marshal. The outstanding work demonstrated by FM Horigan, operating with other members of the BFI, resulted in an arrest and successful prosecution. The results of this investigation sent forth a powerful message to both the public and potential offenders: the Department will meet and confront all those who challenge the safety of the citizens of New York City and the Firefighters of the FDNY.

Since 1967, the Commissioner Martin Scott Medal is awarded to a member of the Bureau of Fire Investigation for distinguished service and display of unusual initiative, resourcefulness and capability in the investigation of arson and the apprehension of a perpetrator. For displaying these characteristics, the Commissioner Martin Scott Medal is awarded to Fire Marshal Justin Horigan, a highly motivated member of the Bureau of Fire Investigation.
Lieutenant Joseph Yolles is the Officer-in-Charge of the EMS Academy’s driver training program, also known as the EVOC (Emergency Vehicle Operators Course). He ensures that proper resources and staffing are available for the various ongoing programs and initiatives.

The EVOC Training Unit staff members have proved to be dependable and committed to the students they work with every day. Under the supervision of Lieutenant Yolles, the instructors--EMTs Michael Caputo, Peter Frantzen, Christopher Griffin, Cosmo Jackson and Dana Kozack--have been successful in various special projects and initiatives dealing with the EVOC training.

Their commitment to excellence has improved the success rate of new employees receiving training on emergency operations of ambulances and decreased the number of students who have required re-training in the past few years. These members have worked diligently every day, often on extra shifts--including weekends--to ensure adequate instructor-to-student ratios so the students receive the proper guidance.

In 2014, Lieutenant Yolles and the EVOC instructors completed training for various programs, including training more than 380 EMTs and Paramedics. Additionally, 50 members trained on specialty vehicles, such as the MERV, MRTU, METU and trailers. The members of EVOC also trained newly hired FDNY physicians and other New York City agency members, such as HHC Police Officers on sedan operations.

Last year, the EVOC staff also was tasked with developing a training curriculum to provide FDNY members with information on distracted driving and safe vehicle operations as a part of the Mayoral initiative, Vision Zero. This training included group discussions, PowerPoint presentations, audience response system sessions and DiamondPlate content. This awareness level training was instituted to decrease vehicle accident fatalities and, hopefully, reduce the number of pedestrians struck by motor vehicles. The training emphasized not only the importance of safely driving an emergency response vehicle, but also stressed the importance of driving with care in the member’s personal vehicle.

In the first year of this initiative, the members of the EVOC program completed 60 Safety Awareness and Accident Reduction (SAAR) classes, providing information to more than 640 FDNY personnel. This is a remarkable number when you consider all the other training programs.

The efforts and dedication of the Bureau of Training EMS Academy staff members listed above are recognized with The Fire Commissioner’s Award for Meritorious Service.
In 2014, the federal government changed the FDNY WTC Health Program (WTCHP) contract to require HIPAA compliance for both the WTC clinical and data centers. Because the WTC Health Program had been located within the Bureau of Health Services (BHS), HIPAA compliance was not required until this contract change.

Numerous changes and additions to FDNY’s medical, legal and computer systems were necessary. Many of these changes required innovative designs and/or major system/process changes. Urgency was demanded by the federal government. A task force was formed under the co-direction of Chief of Staff Robert F. Sweeney and Chief Medical Officer Dr. David Prezant.

Incredible and timely assistance was provided by all task force members (listed above), representing BHS, WTCHP, Legal, Compliance and Bureau of Technology Development & Systems (BTDS). Outside expertise also was obtained. HIPAA compliance was achieved and the federal contracts were renewed without interrupting clinical services, while avoiding loss of revenue.

The Fire Commissioner’s Award for Meritorious Service, established in 1994, is given to individuals or groups selected for distinguished service, superior accomplishment, performance of duties, innovation and commitment to the Department’s mission to provide citizens with vital public safety services. The FDNY members listed above meet and exceed these criteria and, for these reasons, are honored today.
Captain Mark Lobel is the Commanding Officer responsible for the administrative oversight of the day-to-day operations of Emergency Medical Dispatch. This includes scheduling, training order issuance, seating chart development and management of staffing levels. He is detailed to assist the projects specific to Chief of Emergency Medical Dispatch and the operation of Emergency Medical Dispatch.

During calendar year 2014, Emergency Medical Dispatch has been fortunate to have Captain Lobel assigned as Commanding Officer. His enthusiasm, dedication, forward thinking capacity and never-ending energy have led Emergency Medical Dispatch through both the Bureau’s expansion and multiple projects that directly affected the Emergency Medical Dispatch operation in 2014. These projects include, but are not limited to, the design and incorporation of an alternate work schedule and staffing reconfiguration, computerized triage design, development of a notification position, and leading the Ebola response preparation.

Had it not been for the fortitude and foresight of Captain Lobel, the rapid expansion of Emergency Medical Dispatch would have been impossible. The EMS Emergency Medical Dispatch Commendation, established in 2004, is awarded to an Emergency Medical Dispatch member who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the mission and the objectives of the Bureau. By recognizing his leadership on the above-listed projects, it seems like the creators of this commendation had Captain Mark Lobel in mind.

Supervised the rapid expansion of Emergency Medical Dispatch via numerous projects, such as design and incorporation of an alternate work schedule and staffing reconfiguration, computerized triage design and development of a notification position, and leading the Ebola response preparation.
As the Office of Medical Affairs (OMA) physician, long-time FDNY employee Dr. Dario Gonzalez is responsible for medical protocols, training, field response and quality assurance reviews. He is also the FDNY representative for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) assignments and activities.

At the height of the Ebola outbreak, Dr. Gonzalez volunteered to go to Liberia. For nearly two months, he provided direct patient care to Ebola victims and assisted with administrative duties for Ebola-related activities in West Africa. He offered his services, knowing full well that many healthcare providers had become infected with Ebola during patient care and that infection resulted in death or critical illness. Despite this life-threatening risk, Dr. Gonzalez still volunteered and performed admirably.

Named for Dr. John E. Sheridan, who joined EMS in 1993 as a Telemetry Control physician, the Dr. John E. Sheridan Commendation is presented to an EMS member who epitomizes the enthusiasm, motivation and dedication of a true professional. Dr. Dario Gonzalez is a sterling example of a professional who puts his life on the line for others. He truly is deserving of this recognition and commendation.
ADMINISTRATION MEDAL  
(ESTABLISHED 1914)
This award encourages uniformed and civilian members of the Department to study Department problems and develop viable solutions. Awarded to a member whose ideas and experience have proved to benefit the Fire Department. Established by former Fire Commissioner Robert Adamson “in order that the Fire Department may have the benefit of the ideas of its trained Officers and men.”

THE LEON LOWENSTEIN AWARD  
(ESTABLISHED 1962)
Awarded to a member of the Department who has performed exceptional service for the Department, in recognition of outstanding contribution and devotion to duty. Established by John M. Bendheim in memory of his uncle, Leon Lowenstein.

GEORGE F. MAND AWARD  
(ESTABLISHED 1966)
Awarded to a Department member whose services during the prior calendar year led to the improvement of Fire Department services. Developing and coordinating work techniques, resourcefulness, assumption of responsibility and effectiveness of accomplishments are considered when making this award. Established by the late Bertram F. Brummer and his wife, Susie.

CHIEF THOMAS P. O’BRIEN AWARD  
(ESTABLISHED 1967)
This award is presented annually to a deserving civilian member of the Bureau of Fire Communications. Established by Thomas A. Coleman (deceased) in memory of former Assistant Chief-in-Charge of the Bureau of Fire Communications, Thomas P. O’Brien.

THE FIRE COMMISSIONER’S AWARD  
FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE  
(ESTABLISHED 1971)
Rewards an FDNY member who performs acts above and beyond the call of duty. Established by a group of prominent New York City business people and friends of the FDNY.

MOE GINSBERG AWARD  
(ESTABLISHED 1975)
Presented to a deserving civilian member of the Bureau of Fire Prevention in honor of Moe Ginsberg, former Senior Management Consultant in the Bureau of Fire Prevention and dedicated member of the fire service. Established by George Kelly (retired FDNY).

JAMES J. JOHNSTON MEMORIAL MEDAL  
(ESTABLISHED 1984)
Presented to a Fire Department member who has contributed significantly to the Department in the areas of fire extinguishing operational procedures, fire prevention programs and recognizing and reporting defects in design and construction practices. Established by the friends of Chief Johnston, in recognition of the devotion and loyalty with which he served.

HONORARY CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT  
JACK LERCH MEDAL  
(ESTABLISHED 1989)
Presented to a uniformed or civilian member of the Bureau of Fleet Services for outstanding service. This medal was endowed by Mrs. Roberta Lerch to honor her husband, Honorary Chief of Department Jack Lerch.

THE HONORARY FIRE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION MEDAL  
(ESTABLISHED 1994)
Awarded to a selected uniformed member assigned or detailed to the Fire Academy, whose administrative contributions are such that they improve the Department’s ability to carry out its mission or improve the delivery of Department services to the public.

COMMUNITY MAYORS NICHOLAS DeGAETA AWARD  
(ESTABLISHED 1994)
Presented to a group or individual who demonstrates the commitment to excellence and persistence of duty, valued and exhibited by Mr. Nicholas DeGaeta, in meeting the Department’s mission. This award was established by the New York State Community Mayors in honor of Mr. DeGaeta, a retired Firefighter and highly decorated World War II veteran.

COMMISSIONER MARTIN SCOTT MEDAL  
(ESTABLISHED 1967)
Established by Thomas A. Coleman (now deceased), Honorary Fire Commissioner, in honor of former Commissioner Martin Scott. Awarded annually to a member of the Bureau of Fire Investigation for distinguished service and a display of unusual initiative, resourcefulness and capability in the investigation of arson and the apprehension of a perpetrator.

THE FIRE COMMISSIONER’S AWARD  
FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE  
(ESTABLISHED 1994)
Awarded to individuals or groups selected for distinguished service, superior accomplishment, performance of duties, innovation and commitment to the Department’s mission to provide citizens with vital public safety services.

EMS EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH COMMENDATION  
(ESTABLISHED 2004)
The Bureau of Communications Emergency Medical Dispatch Commendation is awarded at the discretion of the Assistant Commissioner for the Bureau of Communications to any Emergency Dispatch member who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the mission and the objectives of the Bureau.

EMS OFFICE OF MEDICAL AFFAIRS (OMA)  
(ESTABLISHED 2004), renamed in 2007, posthumously, as DR. JOHN E. SHERIDAN COMMENDATION
Presented to an EMS member who epitomizes the enthusiasm, motivation and dedication of a true professional, Dr. John E. Sheridan, who joined EMS in 1993 as a Telemetry Control Physician.
FDNY MISSION STATEMENT

As first responders to fires, public safety and medical emergencies, disasters and terrorist acts, the FDNY protects the lives and property of New York City residents and visitors. The Department advances public safety through its fire prevention, investigation and education programs. The timely delivery of these services enables the FDNY to make significant contributions to the safety of New York City and homeland security efforts.

CORE VALUES OF THE DEPARTMENT

- SERVICE
  The Department continues its unwavering call to protect and serve.

- BRAVERY
  Courage is the foundation of our character. Bravery is the ability to overcome fear through fortitude, instinct, compassion for others and training.

- SAFETY
  We strive to keep our citizens reasonably free from danger, especially deliberate, harmful acts. With the best equipment and training, the Department can reduce the risk to the public and its members at fires, emergencies and medical incidents.

- HONOR
  The enormous commitment necessary to perform the Department’s tasks requires excellence of character. We inspire each other through pride in our unit, which is a belief that every action reflects on all the members of the unit, both past and present.

- DEDICATION
  A commitment to the objectives of our mission is an essential part of our code of conduct. The faithful observance of duty calls for us to fulfill our obligations professionally and honestly.

- EQUITY
  The Department is committed to equitable recruiting and service delivery. The Department fosters a diverse workforce of qualified individuals from all communities, who are proud to maintain its long tradition of responding to all who request assistance, without consideration to race, creed, nationality or religion.

- PREPAREDNESS
  By combining all the components of our core values, the FDNY will maintain its constant state of readiness to meet all threats and challenges, traditional and new.
Fire Department, City of New York
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