FDNY Medal Day 2018

Honoring Members of the Fire Department — June 6, 2018 —
Publication of this 2018 edition of the FDNY Medal Day Book was made possible by several grants. The FDNY gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the following contributors:

**The FDNY Honorary Fire Officers Association**  
Jack Lerch, President

**Dorothy Marks**  
Honorary Fire Commissioner

**The FDNY Foundation**  
Stephen L. Ruzow, Chairman  
Jean O’Shea, Executive Director

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**MEDAL DESK**  
Captain Raymond Arcos  
EMT Arzu Aydogdu  
Firefighter Robert Hart

**PHOTOS BY FDNY PHOTO UNIT**  
Supervising Fire Marshal Ralph Bernard  
Randy Barron, David Warren

Special thanks to Chief Fire Marshal Thomas G. Kane and his staff for their assistance.

Also, thanks to Firefighter Greg Pirotrowski, Director Matthew Talty, Bureau of Legal Affairs, and EMT Lieutenant Joan Hillgardner for their contributions to this book.

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**Photo Credits**

**Cover**  
Manhattan Box 55-1406, March 12, 2014. The gas explosion/collapse/fire incident for which Engine Company 58 received the Lieutenant James Curran/  
New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal/  
Father Julian F. Deeken Memorial Medal.  
*Photo by David Handschuh, New York Daily News*

**Opposite Page**  
The terrorist attack scene at Manhattan Box 22-114, October 31, 2017. For patient care delivered to eight critically injured victims, Squad 18 received the Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Medal. Additionally, Ladder Company 1 and Engine Company 7 received Unit Citations.  
*Photo by FDNY*

**Back Cover**  
Manhattan Box 66-1219, October 27, 2016, the incident for which then-Firefighter James P. Lee, Jr., Rescue 1, received the Dr. Harry M. Archer Medal.  
*Photo by Bill Tompkins*
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June 6, 2018

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to welcome everyone to the New York City Fire Department’s annual celebration of Medal Day.

The New York City Fire Department has an incredible legacy of excellence, and for over 150 years, its brave men and women have demonstrated their willingness to serve others with their steadfast courage, selflessness, and bold commitment to pursuing a safer future for the people of the five boroughs. For generations, the members of New York’s Bravest have been a tremendous source of pride for our city, and their devotion and dedication have saved lives and protected New Yorkers in times of need.

Each year, Medal Day gives us the opportunity to reflect on and honor all that the FDNY has done to strengthen our city and pay tribute to their heroism, professionalism, and exceptional leadership, and these individuals who have boldly upheld the Department’s lifesaving mission continue to be an inspiration for all of us. There’s no greater example of the enduring spirit of compassion and service than the FDNY family and the critical work its members carry out every day, and together we renew our commitment to always show our appreciation and gratitude for these men and women whose solemn oath to protect others in our city no matter the cost gives us all hope for a better tomorrow.

On behalf of the City of New York, congratulations to all of those being honored this year. Please accept my best wishes for a meaningful ceremony and continued success.

Sincerely,

Bill de Blasio
Mayor
Bravery is having the mental or moral strength to face danger, fear or difficulty. FDNY members are known as the Bravest because they rely on that strength thousands of times a day to go toward danger, fight through fear and overcome difficulty to save the lives of New Yorkers in perilous incidents.

At our annual Medal Day ceremony, we celebrate the very bravest actions of our members; the moments when lives were saved by the quick, decisive actions of the men and women of the FDNY. These rescues are the results of unmatched training and unwavering support from their colleagues. At the most critical moments, our Firefighters, EMTs, Paramedics and Fire Marshals persevered and demonstrated the truest form of bravery.

Lieutenant Michael J. Conboy, Rescue Company 3, this year’s recipient of the James Gordon Bennett Medal and New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal, is honored for brave actions that resulted in the rescue of both a young child and a senior from a roaring fire inside a home in the Bronx. Crawling through extreme heat, with fire rolling over his head, Lieutenant Conboy’s daring rescue is an example of the extreme lengths to which our Firefighters will go to save those trapped by fire.

Emergency Medical Technician Taylor T. Perez, the 2018 Christopher J. Prescott Medal recipient, wrestled a knife away from a patient who was about to harm another patient, EMT Taylor’s partner and EMT Taylor as well. Trapped in a room with only a knife-wielding individual, EMT Taylor never hesitated and, after preventing further violence, he treated and transported his assailant, honoring his oath as a medical provider and displaying both bravery and compassion.

It is worth noting that this year we award our first medal to a female Firefighter, Lieutenant Adrienne M. Walsh, Squad Company 18, who, along with Firefighters Sheldon L. George (Squad 1), Richard T. Naviasky, Brian T. Roberts, Sky O. Shepard and Santos Torres, Jr., receive the Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Medal for their response to the terrorist attack on the West Side Highway on October 31, 2017. Their efforts were a critical component of our Department’s tremendous coordinated response to a wide scene of destruction that ultimately took eight lives. For her performance leading her fellow members into the scene of this senseless attack, Lieutenant Walsh joins the many female EMS personnel in our storied history who have been cited for their remarkable bravery.

This year, we also honor Firefighter James P. Lee, Jr., Rescue Company 1 (since promoted to Lieutenant and assigned to Battalion 20), recipient of the Dr. Harry M. Archer Medal; and Emergency Medical Technicians Shaun Alexander and Khadijah Hall, Station 58, recipients of the EMT-P Carlos Lillo/Lt. Ricardo Quinn Medal. These special awards are bestowed once every three years, honoring the most impressive recipients of the James Gordon Bennett and Christopher J. Prescott Medals, respectively.

The extreme acts of valor we honor each year are unique and worthy of great celebration. We know that each day in our City, every FDNY member displays great bravery as our Department answers thousands of calls for help. I continue to be immensely proud of the men and women of our Department and feel privileged to lead an organization without equal. I thank you for all you do to protect our City, enhance the reputation of the world’s greatest Fire Department and demonstrate why we are--without question--the Bravest.
Teamwork and training—these elements are the basis of every successful operation in our Department. Each time the FDNY is called to act, a team of highly trained men and women responds to assist a New Yorker in danger, treat a patient experiencing a medical emergency or battle a fire to save life and property. Quite simply, everything we do comes down to teamwork and training.

Such elements were on display on a cold December night, just days before Christmas, in Harlem, when Ladder Company 43’s Lieutenant Ryan K. McDougall and Firefighters Miguel Diaz, Jr., Amir S. Francis, Andrew E. Hawkins, Osmar Martinez (Engine 53) and Robert A. Perrone, rescued seven people from an escalating fire. Their coordinated teamwork shielded children from flames and prevented a terrible tragedy from occurring. Probationary Firefighter Francis also receives the Probationary Firefighter Thomas A. Wylie Medal for his courageous actions at this fire.

Probationary Firefighters Dominic L. DiBiase (Firefighter Kevin C. Kane Medal) and Christopher Rossi (Captain John J. Drennan Memorial Medal), Ladder Company 149, as well as their Captain, Christopher E. Kane (Uniformed Fire Officers Association Medal), are honored for their brave actions that saved the lives of three people, including two children, from a basement fire in Brooklyn. Captain Kane displayed tremendous leadership executing rescues alongside junior members. The actions of Firefighters DiBiase and Rossi showed the kind of poise and resourcefulness found in veteran members of the Department.

To have three Probationary Firefighters recognized in the same year is a testament to the outstanding training our members receive at the Fire Academy and the continued training they receive “on the job” from veteran leaders in their firehouses. Training and preparedness never stop for the FDNY.

The recipients of the Chief James Scullion Medal, Emergency Medical Technicians Richard D. Cucurullo and Chad W. Hann non, Station 40, exhibited the teamwork that is a hallmark of our Department as well. After successfully treating and transporting a patient to the hospital, they came upon a fire in an apartment building. They displayed great bravery, evacuating building occupants, searching for those who may have been trapped and closing the door to the apartment where the fire was located, which prevented it from spreading further. Their heroic actions were in the greatest traditions of our Department.

I often have said that being a member of the FDNY is not simply what we do, it is who we are. There is perhaps no day that better demonstrates that fact than does Medal Day. I salute each of our recipients for their acts of valor and congratulate them on these well-deserved honors.
### FIRST DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

LAURA R. KAVANAGH

### CHIEF OF STAFF

ELIZABETH CASCIO

### DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS

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<td>EDWARD M. DOLAN</td>
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<tr>
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<td>DONAY J. QUEENAN</td>
<td>Human Resources</td>
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<td>STEPHEN G. RUSH</td>
<td>Budget and Finance</td>
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<td>KAT S. THOMSON</td>
<td>Management Analysis &amp; Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>BENNY M. THOTTAM</td>
<td>Chief Information Officer/Technology Development &amp; Systems</td>
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### FDNY CHAPLAINS

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<td>Youth Workforce &amp; Pipeline Programs</td>
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<td>Family Assistance</td>
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<td>Father Joseph Hoffman</td>
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<td>Father Christopher Keenan</td>
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<td>Rabbi Joseph Potasnik</td>
<td>Management Analysis &amp; Planning</td>
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<td>Reverend V. Simpson Turner, Jr.</td>
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### Medical Officers

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<tr>
<td>DR. GLENN H. ASAEDA</td>
<td>Chief Medical Director Office of Medical Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR. SHENECIA BEECHER</td>
<td>Deputy Medical Officer Bureau of Health Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR. KAREN HURWITZ</td>
<td>Deputy Medical Officer Bureau of Health Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR. JEFFREY LOW</td>
<td>Deputy Medical Officer Bureau of Health Services</td>
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FDNY STAFF CHIEFS

John Sudnik
Chief of Fire Operations

James P. Booth
Chief of EMS Operations

Ronald R. Spadafora
Chief of Fire Prevention

Stephen A. Raynis
Chief of Fire Dispatch Operations

Joseph W. Pfeifer
Assistant Chief
Counterterrorism & Emergency Preparedness

Anthony W. De Vita, Jr.
Assistant Chief
of Operations

Thomas E. McKavanagh
Assistant Chief
of Fire Prevention

Fredrick V. Villani
Assistant Chief
EMS Operations

Edward T. Ferrier
Deputy Assistant Chief
Fire Prevention

John J. Hodgens
Deputy Assistant Chief
of Operations

Anthony V. Napoli
Deputy Assistant Chief
EMS Communications

Thomas J. Richardson
Deputy Assistant Chief,
Acting Chief of Training

John M. Esposito
Deputy Assistant Chief
Chief of Special Operations

Alvin J. Suriel
Deputy Assistant Chief
EMS Operations

Roberto Colon
Deputy Assistant Chief
EMS Operations

Lillian A. Bonsignore
Deputy Assistant Chief
Chief of EMS Academy

Joseph M. Jardin
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Acting Chief of Safety and Inspection Services
Command

John J. Buckheit
Deputy Chief,
Acting Chief of the Fire Academy

Michael J. Massucci
Battalion Chief
Chief of Uniformed Personnel
FDNY STAFF CHIEFS

Thomas G. Kane
Chief Fire Marshal

J. David Lynn
Assistant Chief
Fire Marshal

BOROUGH COMMANDERS

Edward J. Baggott
Assistant Chief
Queens

Roger W. Sakowich
Assistant Chief
Manhattan

Joseph M. Woznica
Assistant Chief
Bronx

Wayne T. Cartwright
Deputy Assistant Chief
Brooklyn

Richard J. Howe
Deputy Assistant Chief
Staten Island

Michael F. Gala, Jr.
Deputy Assistant Chief
Deputy Manhattan Borough Commander

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Division Chief
EMS Communications

Grace M. Cacciola
Division Chief
Chief of Planning

Sophia Kwok
Division Chief
EMS Training

Robert A. Hannafey
Division Chief
EMS Operations

Jonathan P. Pistilli
Division Chief
EMS Operations

Jay Swithers
Division Chief
BHS

SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

Deputy Chief
James P. Ginty (2)
Acting Chief of Rescue Operations

Battalion Chief
Francis Simpson
Marine Operations

Deputy Chief
Nicholas Del Re
Haz-Mat Operations

Deputy Chief
Ian C. Swords
CTDP
THE DR. HARRY M. ARCHER MEDAL

Special Order No. 180, which was dated October 4, 1920, reads as follows: "A medal, to be known as the 'Harry M. Archer Medal' has been donated by Dr. Herman L. Reis and is to be awarded every third year to such member of the uniformed force of the Fire Department as may have, during the three years preceding such award, been the recipient of one or more medals, which are now given or may hereafter be given, to the members of the uniformed force. Such award shall be made by selection from among said medal winners during the said three years preceding such award for the performance in the judgment of the Fire Commissioner and the Chief of Department of the most meritorious service or act of heroism or bravery."

Legends in the Fire Department of New York begin with members who win medals. Theirs are the stories of danger, fear, courage, honor and the greatest degree of self-satisfaction.

Firefighters are brave, dedicated and loyal. Respect comes in many ways to those who fight fires. The highest honor that can be bestowed on a New York City Firefighter is to be awarded the Doctor Harry M. Archer Medal. It’s reserved for the truly bravest of the brave!

1921 — Firefighter 1st Grade John Walsh 
(Hook & Ladder Company 1)
1924 — Captain Edwin A.A. Quinn (Engine Company 14)
1927 — Firefighter 1st Grade William G.R. Mitchell 
(Engine Company 18)
1930 — Firefighter 1st Grade Michael McNerney 
(Hook & Ladder Company 12)
1933 — Captain Albert B. Carlson (Engine Company 66)
1936 — Firefighter 1st Grade Rudolph F. Musil 
(Hook & Ladder Company 12)
1939 — Firefighter 1st Grade James P. Nevin 
(Engine Company 201)
1942 — Firefighter 1st Grade Charles A. Merz 
(Hook & Ladder Company 168)
1945 — Acting Deputy Chief John W. Heaney 
(Headquarters Staff)
1948 — Firefighter 1st Grade Anthony L. Riccardi 
(Hook & Ladder Company 1)
1951 — Lieutenant Wilbur J. O’Donnell 
(Hook & Ladder Company 1)
1954 — Firefighter 1st Grade Victor F. Rossi 
(Ladder Company 120)
1957 — Firefighter 2nd Grade Michael J. O’Driscoll 
(Ladder Company 28)
1960 — Firefighter 3rd Grade William V. Russo 
(Ladder Company 25)
1963 — Firefighter 1st Grade Joseph E. Almon 
(Ladder Company 35)
1966 — Lieutenant David Crowley (37 Battalion; Formerly Firefighter in Ladder Company 14)
1969 — Firefighter 1st Grade Gene P. Dowling 
(Ladder Company 25)
1972 — Lieutenant Richard R. Hamilton (Rescue Company 2)
1975 — Firefighter 1st Grade Raymond G. McCann 
(Ladder Company 40)
1978 — Captain Frederick W. Gallagher (Rescue Company 2)
1981 — Lieutenant Howard R. Kennedy 
(Ladder Company 154)
1984 — Firefighter 1st Grade Kenneth Connelly 
(Ladder Company 111)
1987 — Captain James F. McDonnell (Ladder Company 42)
1990 — Lieutenant William F. Maloney (Ladder Company 34)
1993 — Firefighter Michael M. Dugan (Ladder Company 43)
1996 — Lieutenant Albert J. Gonzalez, Jr. 
(Ladder Company 18)
1999 — Firefighter Gerard J. Triglia (Ladder Company 132)
2003 — Battalion Chief John J. Pritchard (41 Battalion; Formerly Captain of Engine Company 255)
2006 — Firefighter James F. Mills (Ladder Company 176)
2009 — Firefighter James T. Byrne (Ladder Company 121)
2012 — Firefighter Peter G. Demontreux 
(Ladder Company 132)
2015 — Firefighter Kevin J. Hogan (2) Ladder Company 114
For the night tour of October 27, 2016, FF James P. Lee, Jr., Rescue 1, was assigned the roof position. At approximately 0330 hours, the company was assigned to a fire in a five-story multiple dwelling. FF Lee made his way to the roof via exposure #2 and observed fire blowing out of the shaft, with the roof and bulkhead of exposure #4 on fire.

Conditions were deteriorating when FF Lee heard a radio report from Rescue 1’s chauffeur, FF Francis Rush. A civilian had shown at a top-floor window. FF Rush told the elderly male to stay in the window because help was on the way. FF Rush radioed FF Lee, gave him the location of the trapped man and said a lifesaving rope rescue (LSR) would be required.

FF Lee established contact with the victim, as heavy smoke vented out over the man’s head. He told him to stay at the window. He radioed the Battalion Chief that there was a victim trapped and a LSR rescue was being set up. Inside the fire building, interior hose-lines could not make it past the second floor due to the extreme fire conditions, making any attempt to reach the victim from the interior impossible.

Moving in line with the victim, FF Lee dumped the LSR bag and handed the hook off to Ladder 43’s chauffeur, FF Andrew Hawkins, who tied the rope off to a short chimney. FF Lee ran the rope under the fence and back over the top where he attached it to his harness. Unbearable conditions forced the victim to disappear from the window a few times. Firefighter Rush told the man to stay at the window. The victim stated he was within seconds of jumping.

Once FF Hawkins was anchored to the chimney and took his four wraps on his rappel hook, FF Lee climbed over the fence and positioned himself to be lowered to the trapped victim. The victim’s yells served as a beacon for FF Lee, who operated in zero visibility. Firefighter Rush directed FF Lee to the victim’s window.

The man was crouched below the windowsill with fire lapping out over his head. Using all his strength, FF Lee reached into the window and got one arm around the victim’s back and one under his knees. The man could not hold onto FF Lee due to cuts and burns to his hands and arms. While not the conventional way in which a victim is removed when performing this evolution, FF Lee worked to save this victim from certain death.

Once the victim cleared the window, the momentum rotated FF Lee 180 degrees; his back was against the building. FF Rush ordered the resumption of lowering FF Lee and victim. The rescuer used his legs to kick off the building to avoid being hung up on parts of the rear wall, while cradling the weight of the man in his arms. The LSR began to burn as Firefighter and victim reached the third floor. When they reached the ground safely, the LSR burned through and fell to the ground. Firefighters Lee and Rush carried the man through exposure #4 to the front of the fire building where he was handed off to EMS personnel.

For his extraordinary efforts and under extreme personal risk, FF James P. Lee, Jr., is awarded the Dr. Harry M. Archer Medal.—AP
THE JAMES GORDON BENNETT MEDAL WINNERS

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 Levin (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. Gerber (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. Garrett (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. Spyker (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 Michelini (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 Sharto (L-11)
1959—Captain Arthur J. O’Connor (SQ-4)
1960—Firefighter William V. Russo (E-254)
1961—Firefighter Joseph G. Pergine (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. Tempro (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. Battilo (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. Dungan (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 Jean L. Triggia (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)
2002—Firefighter James C. Marketti (Bn-48)
2003—Firefighter James F. Mills (L-176)
2004—Firefighter James F. Mills (L-176)
2005—Firefighter Victor J. Rosa, Jr. (L-138)
2006—Captain Christopher J. Joyce (L-318)
2007—Firefighter James T. Byrne (L-121)
2008—Lieutenant James F. Congema (Bn-19)
2009—Firefighter Anthony M. Romano (L-142)
2010—Firefighter Michael A. Czech, Jr. (L-142)
2011—Firefighter Peter G. Demontreux (L-132)
2012—Firefighter Kevin J. Hogan (L-114)
2013—Lieutenant Thomas G. Woods (L-154)
2014—Lieutenant Robert E. Lee (L-47)
2015—Captain William J. Grant (E-168)
2016—Lieutenant Brian J. Colleluori (L-174)
2017—Firefighter James P. Lee, Jr. (R-1)
James Gordon Bennett Medal/
NYS Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal

Lieutenant Michael J. Conboy
Rescue Company 3

December 17, 2017, 2317 hours, Box 22-2596, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on February 4, 1985. Previously assigned to Squad 41, Ladder 37 and Engine 79. Uncle, Battalion Chief William Robb, is retired from Battalion 26 and cousin, Battalion Chief Peter Robb, is assigned to Battalion 18. Member of the Emerald and Holy Name Societies and the Honor Legion, where he serves as the Bronx Trustee. Recipient of the Thomas A. Kenny Memorial Medal, Emily Trevor/Mary B Warren Medal, Columbia Association Medal, one Service Rating A, two Service Rating Bs and eight Unit Citations. Served in the U.S. Coast Guard. Resides in Montgomery, NY, with his wife, Jeanne. They have three children—Tim, Matt and Colleen—and two grandchildren—Michael and Quinn.

On Sunday, December 17, 2017, Rescue 3 was special-called to Bronx Box 2596 for a reported structure fire with people trapped. Working this night tour was veteran Officer, Lieutenant Michael (Mickey) Conboy. Rescue 3 arrived on-scene quickly. The fire building was a two-story, flat-roof private dwelling, measuring 20 by 60 feet. Ladder 31 was on-scene already and Lieutenant Conboy heard their Officer transmit a 10-45 over the handle-talkie. Lieutenant Conboy approached the fire building, observing heavy fire blowing up over the roof from an open three-foot-square light shaft approximately 20 feet back on the exposure #2 side. He reported in to Battalion Chief Lawrence Hyland, Battalion 3, who was in front of the building. The Chief told the Lieutenant to have his members assist with searching the fire building and check exposure #4 for extension. Unable to get to the 2nd floor from the front door, Lieutenant Conboy ordered the inside team to attempt entry via a portable ladder up to the front porch roof and the outside team to check the exposure.

Lieutenant Conboy crawled through the front doorway, observing heavy fire blowing up over the roof from an open three-foot-square light shaft approximately 20 feet back on the exposure #2 side. He reported in to Battalion Chief Lawrence Hyland, Battalion 3, who was in front of the building. The Chief told the Lieutenant to have his members assist with searching the fire building and check exposure #4 for extension. Unable to get to the 2nd floor from the front door, Lieutenant Conboy ordered the inside team to attempt entry via a portable ladder up to the front porch roof and the outside team to check the exposure.

Lieutenant Conboy climbed up the stairs through blistering heat to reach the second-floor hallway. At the top of the stairs, he got on his belly and began his search into the front bedroom. He found Ladder 31’s tools, which indicated that their search stopped there when they removed the victim. Searching to his right, Lieutenant Conboy looked up and saw fire rolling over his head. Crawling along the wall, he found a small child, lying unconscious, face up on the floor under a window. The curtains and drapes had dropped down on the child and were on fire, as were the boy’s pants, so he placed him on a bed away from the window and patted the flames out. He then crawled out of the room with the child and handed him off to another Firefighter in the hallway, instructing him to bring the child to EMS personnel in the street.

With time running out for any other victims, Lieutenant Conboy returned to the bedroom to complete his search. Fire was blowing into the bedroom from the shaft. This time, he searched to his left, where he found a leg between a bed and the front wall. Pushing the bed away from the wall, Lieutenant Conboy found an unconscious adult male lying on the floor. Trying to free the man, the Lieutenant told FF Brian Browne, Rescue 3, to remove a door from an adjoining bedroom and place it over the window to slow the spread of fire blowing into the room from the air/light shaft, as there still was no hose-line stretched to the second floor. Under the extreme heat of the fire, Lieutenant Conboy mustered all his strength and dragged the man out of the bedroom towards the hallway. When he got the unconscious male to the hallway, he handed the man off to another Firefighter for removal to the street and EMS members.

Facing great personal risk, Lieutenant Michael J. Conboy rescued a man and a young boy. For his valor, he is presented with the James Gordon Bennett Medal and NYS Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal.—AP
EMT-P CARLOS LILLO/LT. RICARDO QUINN MEDAL

This medal was endowed in 2016 (to coincide with the 20-year anniversary of the Fire/EMS merger) by EMS Local 2507. Named in honor of Paramedics Carlos Lillo, Station 49, and Ricardo J. Quinn, Station 57, who made the Supreme Sacrifice during the 9/11 terror attacks, the deed of the gift states the medal shall be awarded every three years to a holder of a Christopher J. Prescott Medal during the preceding three years.

2016 — Paramedic Marilyn L. Arroyo (Station 47)
      Paramedic Jimmy M. Guailacela (Station 17)
EMT
Shaun Alexander
Station 58


Even while off-duty, FDNY EMTs and Paramedics often spring into action to provide medical treatment and assist the residents and visitors of New York City in their time of need. When this happens to be a fellow member of service, regardless of the uniform he/she is wearing, it becomes an even more stressful situation for both the victim and those providing the assistance.

Such was the case on February 26, 2014. EMTs Khadijah Hall and Shaun Alexander, both assigned to EMS Station 58 in Brooklyn, were off-duty, sitting in EMT Hall’s personal vehicle, discussing an upcoming retirement party for supervisors. Suddenly, gunshots rang out on Utica Avenue and Empire Boulevard in the Crown Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn. They observed a male running down the street at this busy intersection during rush hour. He turned and fired his weapon on two uniformed NYPD police officers.

During an exchange of gunfire between the police officers and the perpetrator, the EMTs observed one of the police officers fall to the ground, while the other police officer continued to pursue the shooter. After witnessing this dangerous incident and not knowing if there were other perpetrators or the shooter would return, the pair of EMTs sprang into action.

Without hesitation and potentially putting themselves in harm’s way, EMTs Hall and Alexander retrieved a technician kit from the trunk of EMT Hall’s vehicle and ran to assist the fallen officer. The police officer had been shot in both legs. With the limited equipment available on-scene, EMTs Hall and Alexander provided immediate and essential lifesaving medical treatment to the police officer. Care was continued until additional on-duty EMS resources arrived and transported the wounded officer to the hospital.

EMTs Hall and Alexander found themselves suddenly and unexpectedly immersed in a dangerous incident. The pair acted instinctively and used their extensive training. Their quick actions and professional medical treatment played a key roll in the positive outcome for the fallen police officer.

For their courageous and unselfish actions, EMTs Khadijah Hall and Shaun Alexander officially are recognized and presented with the EMT-P Carlos Lillo/Lt. Ricardo Quinn Medal.—ML

EMTs Khadijah Hall and Shaun Alexander are joined by the two police officers to whom they provided aid during a February 26, 2014, shootout.
Brooklyn Citizens Medal/FF Louis Valentino Award

Captain Michael J. Thomson

Ladder Company 120

December 14, 2016, 0837 hours, Box 77-1675, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on January 27, 2002. Previously assigned to Ladders 43, 129 and 130. Father, Supervising Fire Marshal Robert Thomson, is retired from Bronx Base; brother, Lieutenant Scott Thomson, is assigned to Battalion 51; grandfather, Firefighter Robert Thomson, Senior (deceased), was retired from Rescue 4; uncle, Marine Engineer Dennis Thomson, is retired from Marine 1; and brother-in-law, FF Tim Stevens, is assigned to Ladder 113. Recipient of a Service Rating B and two Unit Citations. Attended Queens College. Resides in Massapequa, Long Island, with his wife, Dana, and their children, Ryan and Reese.

Heading back to the firehouse from another run, Ladder 120 members could see a column of smoke rising over a multiple dwelling in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn. Knowing it was their first-due Box, the company started out in that direction to investigate. On arrival, heavy fire was venting out the windows on the top floor. Captain Michael J. Thomson transmitted the 10-77 and ordered his members to the top floor to search for trapped occupants and confine the fire.

Captain Thomson and his inside team—FFs Michael P. Meyer with the irons and Steven Hay with the extinguisher—exited the truck and performed a size-up. The Officer could see multiple people trapped at multiple windows in the room next to the fire. Once on the fire floor, Captain Thomson was met with heavy smoke and high heat. He ordered his inside team to force the door to the fire apartment. The door was difficult to force because it was warped from the heavy fire behind the door. Once the door was forced, Captain Thomson was met with heavy fire and zero visibility.

Hearing the screams of the trapped occupants to the right, Captain Thomson crawled past and under fire into the living room, where he searched for victims and found a 10-45, the first of seven (one of whom expired) found and removed by Ladder 120 at this incident. Captain Thomson transmitted a 10-45. The semiconscious victim became very combative and FF Meyer was needed to assist Captain Thomson in removal of this victim past the fire and out of the apartment to the A stairwell.

Captain Thomson re-entered the fire apartment to search past and under fire for the third time. FF Meyer had transmitted a second 10-45 and Captain Thomson assisted in the removal of the victim past the fire, without the protection of a hose-line and out of the apartment to the stairs. The victim was transferred to another unit.

Captain Thomson again re-entered the fire apartment, but Engine 231 now had the line in place. However, there still was no water. For the fifth time, Captain Thomson crawled past and under the heavy fire in the kitchen and hallway to search for more victims who still were trapped in the apartment. FF Hay notified him that the second extinguisher was depleted. Under extremely poor conditions, the Captain entered the back bedroom and swept the bed, finding the fifth 10-45, unconscious and on the bed. His only chance to save this life was to crawl back past fire, using his body as a shield to get him to a safe area.

Captain Thomson worked under extremely poor and dangerous conditions in a fire apartment that was beyond the reach of ladder apparatus and with no secondary means of egress, crawling past and under fire five times to save multiple lives. His actions and bravery gave the trapped occupants a chance at survival. The FDNY is pleased to honor the valor of Captain Michael J. Thomson with the Brooklyn Citizens Medal/FF Louis Valentino Award.—RB
The evening of June 18, 2017, started just like any other for EMTs Taylor Perez and Robert Koemm. Both members were relatively new to the job, with fewer than five years of experience between them. However, those years of experience served them well early in their tour.

They began their shift by logging on, checking their equipment and setting up in their response area. The EMTs’ first job of the tour came into 911 within 45 minutes. The call was for a non-critical injury involving two males fighting inside a Seventh Avenue hotel. The call should have been textbook, but on that night, the scenario turned out to be anything but.

The EMS unit arrived at the location and the two EMTs made their way upstairs to find two men, both with bumps and bruises in what appeared to be a situation that already had de-escalated. EMT Koemm made his way to the bathroom to begin treating one patient, while EMT Perez went to the living room to treat the other one.

Suddenly, and without warning, the patient in the living room became aggressive and combative, running to the kitchen to grab a knife and threatening to cut his own throat. Now seriously injured and bleeding, he lunged toward the bathroom where the other patient and EMT Koemm were located. EMT Perez quickly yelled to his partner to shut the door and protect himself. This left EMT Perez alone with the knife-wielding patient.

EMT Perez immediately knew that he was in imminent danger and needed to act quickly. Without hesitation or fear for his own safety, he was able to wrestle the knife away from the patient. Once the patient was disarmed, the situation further de-escalated while the two EMTs waited for police assistance.

Once the scene was under control, the unit safely transported both patients to the hospital with the assistance of additional resources on-scene. Had it not been for the quick thinking and heroic actions of EMT Perez that day, the story likely would have had a very different ending.

For his actions in disarming one patient, thereby saving himself, his partner and the other patient on-scene, EMT Taylor Perez is awarded the Christopher J. Prescott Medal, the highest honor given in any single year to an EMS member.—ES
Hugh Bonner Medal/
Honor Legion Medal

Firefighter Lucas A. Niskanen
Ladder Company 31

December 17, 2017, 2315 hours, Box 22-2596, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on September 25, 2005. Member of the Bravest Football Team. Recipient of two Unit Citations. Holds a Bachelor’s degree in History from Stony Brook College. Resides in Massapequa Park, Long Island, with his wife, Jenny, and their children, James Ryan (JR) and Charlotte.

Assigned first due to Box 2596 for a reported fire in the Morrisania section of the Bronx, Ladder Company 31 responded on December 17, 2017. The building was a Class 4, two-story multiple dwelling. While responding, the Bronx dispatcher notified Ladder 31 that they were receiving reports of people trapped inside the building.

On arrival, Lieutenant Jerald Perillo, Ladder 31, observed a heavy fire condition on the first floor of the 20- by 60-foot dwelling. He immediately transmitted a 10-75. As Lieutenant Perillo and his inside team—FFs Lucas Niskanen with the irons and Michael Gumbus with the extinguisher—approached the building, an occupant notified them that several members of his family still were on the second floor.

Once inside the building, Ladder 31 members encountered a heavy body of fire in a room adjacent to the interior stairs. Lieutenant Perillo ordered FF Gumbus to take a position at the staircase with his extinguisher to prevent fire from extending out into the hallway. The Lieutenant then proceeded up the stairs with FF Niskanen. Without the protection of a charged hose-line, the Lieutenant and Firefighter donned their facepieces and headed up the stairs, where they encountered intense heat, forcing them to the floor.

On his stomach and with fire rolling overhead, FF Niskanen began his search into the bedroom above the main body of fire. He crawled past the extending fire and found the unconscious form of a woman. Keeping himself in-between the raging fire and the victim, FF Niskanen dragged the woman into the hallway and then transmitted a 10-45 to his Officer. FF Niskanen and Lieutenant Perillo brought the motionless woman to the stairs. She was brought out past the still-extending fire on the first floor and into the street to the care of members from Engine Company 73. FF Niskanen remained on the second floor to complete a primary search and assist in the removal of a second 10-45, bringing the victim out into the street, where he remained to assist with patient care.

FF Niskanen was quick to laud others, who facilitated this rescue. The 2-1/2 cap blew off the hydrant and the ECC of Engine 82 did an amazing job of restoring water to the line after a momentary loss of pressure. Additionally, Ladder 31’s extinguisher Firefighter held the fire at bay while Lieutenant Perillo and FF Niskanen ascended the stairs to perform their search. When his extinguisher ran out of water, he was caught between the line and fire; a fire that was so intense, his eye shields melted.

In his report, Deputy Chief James J. Donlevy, Division 6 Commander, stated, “FF Niskanen entered the building before any lines were in operation, conducted a search with fire rolling over his head, located the victim and dragged her to safety. The victim would not be alive today if not for his actions.” FF Niskanen acted selflessly and in the best traditions of the Fire Department of the City of New York to place himself in harm’s way while rescuing the woman. For his bravery, the Fire Department recognizes FF Lucas Niskanen with the Hugh Bonner Medal/Honor Legion Medal.—TM
Finishing up another busy night tour in Brownsville, Brooklyn, and heading back to the firehouse from another run, Ladder 120 members could see a column of smoke rising over a 13-story multiple dwelling. The company set out in that direction to investigate. On arrival, heavy fire was venting out the windows on the top floor. Captain Michael J. Thomson transmitted the 10-77 and ordered his members to the top floor to search for trapped occupants and confine the fire.

FF Michael P. Meyer was assigned the forcible entry position for the tour. As he exited the truck and performed his size-up, he could see multiple people trapped at multiple windows in the room next to the fire. Arriving on the fire floor, he was met with heavy smoke and high heat. He forced the door to the fire apartment with FF Steven Hay with the extinguisher. Once the door was forced (it was warped from the heavy fire behind the door), FF Meyer was met with heavy fire and zero visibility.

Hearing the screams of the trapped occupants to the left, FF Meyer—without the protection of a hose-line in place—crawled past the fire to the right, into the living room, where he was notified by Captain Thomson that he found a 10-45, the first of seven victims (one of whom expired) found and removed by Ladder 120 at this fire. FF Meyer assisted Captain Thomson in removal of this victim past the fire and out of the apartment to the A stairwell.

Immediately, FF Meyer re-entered the fire apartment, again passing fire without the protection of a hose-line, to search for more trapped occupants. Heavy fire was rolling over his head and as he searched deeper, he came across the second 10-45, unconscious on the floor. He radioed Captain Thomson and Command of the second 10-45 and the pair removed the victim.

FF Meyer again re-entered the fire apartment. Engine 231 had its line in place, but still did not have any water. For the fifth time at this fire, FF Meyer crawled past and under the heavy fire in the kitchen and hallway to search for additional victims who still were trapped in the apartment. Searching down the hallway, he entered the first bedroom and found an unconscious baby and two conscious victims who were breathing air through the air-conditioning unit. A third 10-45 was transmitted and FF Meyer told FF Brian Cross, Ladder 120’s chauffeur, that there were two victims still in the bedroom who needed assistance in removal. FF Meyer provided medical assistance to the baby all the way down to the street.

FF Meyer subjugated his own safety to crawl past and under fire five times to save multiple lives. His actions gave these victims a chance at survival. Operating in brutal conditions, he responded with courage and intelligence. FF Michael P. Meyer is honored today with the Emily Trevor/Mary B. Warren Medal.—RB

Emily Trevor/Mary B. Warren Medal
Firefighter Michael P. Meyer
Ladder Company 120
December 14, 2016, 0837 hours, Box 77-1675, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on December 5, 2004. Uncle, Lieutenant Ken Memmen, is retired from Rescue 4. Recipient of a Service Rating B and three Unit Citations. Holds an Associate’s degree in Fire Science from Suffolk County Community College. Resides in Ronkonkoma, Long Island.
Fighting fires can be impacted by weather—especially snowy, windy and blizzard-type conditions. On February 7, 2017, FF Michael A. Moran, Ladder 80, and all units at a two-alarm fire in a Queen Anne in the Port Richmond area of Staten Island faced such conditions. Arriving at the Box, Lieutenant Matthew T. Hanley, Ladder 80, transmitted a second alarm because of the heavy fire on the first and second floors and attic, strong winds and the sight of several civilians in need of rescue. The location and heavy volume of fire made interior searches nearly impossible.

FF Moran, the roof FF, and FF Christopher Curto, the outside vent FF, split up for an outside perimeter search of the house, with FF Moran going down the exposure #4 side. FF Moran immediately located a victim at an attic window. Thick smoke was all around the male victim. The path to the victim down the exposure #4 driveway was blocked by large work vans and made more difficult to navigate because of the ice and snow.

The outside team was assisted by FF Karl Suter, the ladder company chauffeur (LCC) of Ladder 80. The three members carried a portable ladder down the alley and extended it. The 24-foot ladder was short of the window and provided access just below the eave that extended approximately 18 inches from the house. The high heat and heavy smoke forced the victim out of the window.

With no time to waste, FF Moran climbed the ladder to the top and used his height to extend his arms beyond the eave and reach the victim’s dangling feet. The Firefighter kept only his feet in contact with the ladder as he grabbed the victim by the feet. FF Moran balanced the semiconscious victim by his feet over his head and descended the ladder. At no time during the removal did FF Moran have his hands in contact with the ladder. FF Moran reached FF Curto, who helped escort the victim to EMS personnel for treatment.

After completing the rescue and gathering his tools, FF Moran saw a hand and then heard the sound of an additional victim inside a first-floor bathroom window. Since there was no time to try to secure a ladder, FF Moran dragged a large, plastic playhouse against the building and climbed it, which put him 10 feet above the ground. He then took the window and waited for a blast of highly charged smoke and heat to vent out. FF Moran then pulled himself waist-deep into the window and reached in to make a quick search below the window. He located a male victim on the bathroom floor, got a firm grip on him and removed the unconscious man up and out the window. FF Moran again passed off the victim to FF Curto, who passed the victim to Battalion Chief Daniel O’Gara, Battalion 22. Chief O’Gara had the victim moved to EMS personnel for treatment of his injuries.

For his ingenuity and brave and determined actions in the rescue of two civilians, FF Michael A. Moran is honored on Medal Day with the Thomas E. Crimmins Medal.—NG
On Monday, October 16, 2017, at 0423 hours, Hook & Ladder 148 responded to an alarm reporting fire on the second floor of a four-story multiple dwelling. Before pulling off the firehouse apron, the Brooklyn dispatcher had assigned Squad, Rescue and the FAST unit, due to numerous calls. The dispatcher further stated, “We’re now receiving reports of people trapped.”

On arrival, numerous people were self-evacuating from the building and the pungent and unmistakable odor of a “job” prompted Lieutenant Robert Giddings, Ladder 148, to transmit the signal 10-75. He advised the incoming units, “We have a fire on the second floor of an occupied, four-story, non-fireproof multiple dwelling.” The inside team reached the fire apartment and began forcing the heavily locked door.

To the immediate right of the members of Ladder 148, fire venting out the apartment was clearly visible through a large window in the public hall. The fire was blowing out of a decorative iron door that gave access to a small balcony. As the inside team worked on forcing the door, fire vented from the peephole and heavy, black smoke pulsed out from around the flexing door. As the door gave way, FF Michael E. Murphy with the extinguisher moved in and broke up the thermal layers of heat above the members.

Simultaneously, FF William McEvoy, the outside vent FF, was making his way to the rear via an outside passageway, when he encountered a woman trapped in the fire apartment. Tragically, her arms were outstretched through permanently mounted (no hinge or un-locking device) iron window bars. She was desperately pleading for help. She was barely visible and gasping for air as thick, black smoke filled the window and billowed out around her head. FF McEvoy communicated this via fireground radio as he tried to coordinate an exterior portable ladder rescue from the courtyard. Suddenly, she disappeared from sight.

Ladder 148’s inside team members were making an aggressive search under intense conditions. Unknown to FF Murphy and his team searching the extremely large apartment, an alteration to run ductwork throughout the apartment was made. This major alteration was concealing a vast amount fire, which was burning freely in this void—essentially, a mini-chock loft over the entire apartment. Conditions were deteriorating at an alarming pace as FF Murphy reached the victim. She was unconscious, with her lower body draped off the bed. The Firefighter promptly transmitted a 10-45 via his radio and began her removal.

The heat was so intense that FF Murphy was driven down to the floor during the rescue. He dragged the victim off the bed and then grasped under her arms, pulling her out of the untenable environment. FF Murphy now was in the apartment hallway, bearing the dead weight of the victim. He carried her 30 feet, in complete darkness, to the apartment’s entrance door. FF Christopher Schiotis, Ladder 148’s iron FF, grasped the victim behind the knees and assisted in removal to the public hall.

The victim was cut off from escape by the location of the fire and trapped behind window bars. Without FF Michael E. Murphy’s quick and decisive actions and unrelenting persistence, the victim would not have survived. His valor demonstrates what it means to be a FDNY Firefighter. He is awarded the Thomas A. Kenny Memorial Medal. —MD
In the early-morning hours of March 6, 2017, Ladder Company 39 arrived first-due at Box 4843 in the Wakefield section of the Bronx. Members were met with heavy fire venting out the first-floor windows on exposures #3 and #4 and thick, black smoke billowing out the second-floor windows of a 2½-story, peaked-roof private dwelling.

Through the thick smoke emanating from the second-floor windows, Ladder 39’s outside team members could see a woman standing on the roof of the front porch. FFs James J. McConville, the roof Firefighter, and Erik Lubniewski, outside vent Firefighter, immediately set up a 24-foot portable ladder and made their way up to remove the panic-stricken woman. She told the members that a family member still was inside the house on the second floor. Due to the heavy, black smoke pushing under pressure from the second-floor windows, FF McConville informed the Ladder 39 Officer of the report of a trapped victim on the second floor. Without the protection of a charged hose-line, both of these outside team members donned their facepieces and entered separate windows off the front porch.

FF McConville entered the second-floor window on the exposure #1/2 corner of the dwelling and began his primary search for the victim in what he quickly realized was a bedroom filled with heavy clutter. The Firefighter was met with very high heat and zero visibility upon entering the bedroom. After completing his search of the front bedroom, he crawled out into the second-floor hallway and searched a bathroom with negative results. As FF McConville crawled past the staircase, he could see fire extending upward toward his position through the thick, black smoke. With the interior stairs acting as a chimney, the level of heat on the second floor was intensifying.

FF McConville found and crawled into a rear bedroom located in the exposure #2/3 corner. Entering the bedroom, he searched the bed and came across a motionless body right away. FF McConville transmitted a 10-45 and began removing the victim to the doorway. Hearing the 10-45 transmission, FF Lubniewski completed his search of a rear bedroom on the opposite side of the hallway and met up with FF McConville to assist with the removal.

Both Firefighters dragged the victim to the top of the staircase, where they now could hear Engine 63’s hose-line extinguishing the main body of fire on the first floor. Engine 63 quickly knocked down the fire that had extended up the staircase toward their position and FFs McConville and Lubniewski rapidly removed the victim the rest of the way down the interior stairs to the street.

If not for the brave initiative of FF McConville, who entered the private dwelling and operated above heavy fire conditions in zero visibility—without the protection of a charged hose-line—the victim would not have had a chance at survival. For these reasons, FF James J. McConville is awarded the Walter Scott Medal.—KC
At 1210 hours on Saturday, October 21, 2017, Lieutenant Andrew Magenheim and Ladder 26 members responded first-due to a phone alarm, Manhattan Box 1419, report of fire. The Harlem fire building is a large, imposing, five-story multiple dwelling with extremely long hallways; more than 200 feet in length. The difficulty of stretching a hose-line that will provide an effective firefighting stream in such a building requires several engine companies to team up. However, if lives are to be saved, time is critical. At this fire, Ladder 26 could not, would not, wait.

Arriving at the scene, Ladder 26 observed numerous panicked civilians evacuating the premises and reporting fire on the third floor with people trapped. Lieutenant Magenheim and his forcible entry team—FF John Cazilas and Probie Emanuel Garcia—made their way to the third-floor landing where they encountered heavy smoke and burning couch cushions. The Officer instructed FF Garcia to use the extinguisher on the burning cushions, while he located the source of the fire. Confirming the source, Lieutenant Magenheim transmitted this information to Battalion Chief Thomas Fitzgerald, Battalion 16, and that he and his FE team would be entering the apartment to search.

They encountered dense smoke, high heat and extreme clutter conditions that impeded their efforts. An occupant had attempted to remove several burning cushions from the apartment but, in doing so, had left a trail of dripping, burning material that caused fire to spread. The cushions in the hallway gave little clue regarding what raged in the apartment.

Crawling on the floor between burning furniture, Lieutenant Magenheim heard radio transmissions that the hose-line would be delayed due to an approximately 15-length stretch. He then directed FF Garcia to use the can to hold back fire and enable the Officer to enter and search the rear bedrooms. Finding them empty, he then re-entered the living room and continuing a right-hand search, found the unconscious, badly burned occupant. Transmitting a 10-45, Lieutenant Magenheim ordered FF Garcia to use all remaining water and try to clear a path to remove the victim.

The Officer began the arduous task of shielding and dragging the victim to safety. He was about 10 feet from the apartment entrance when a report was received of a missing nine-year-old girl who still might be in the apartment. Lieutenant Magenheim handed the victim to FFs Cazilas and Garcia, who removed her from the fire area. The Officer then passed fire and re-entered the rear bedrooms and searched for the missing girl, again without a hose-line. The report proved unfounded.

The injured woman was taken to the lobby where Engine 59 and Ladder 14 members assisted in patient care. She then was transported by EMS personnel to the hospital.

Without a hose-line in place and knowing that second-due engines initially were unavailable, Lieutenant Andrew F. Magenheim methodically searched for and found the fire victim, saving her life. He is presented with the John H. Prentice Medal.—WS
On March 4, 2017, Lieutenant Michael Stack, Ladder 176, assigned FFs Andrew Scharf to the roof position; Tim Lee to the LCC position; Francheisko Perez to outside vent; and Steve Young (Engine 233) and Michael Yannucci to the forcible entry team. In the early-morning hours of the next day, Ladder 176 was dispatched to Box 1654 in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn for a report of fire in an occupied church.

On arrival, FF Scharf observed smoke pushing under pressure from the roof of the three-story, Class 4, mixed occupancy. A church was located on the first floor with apartments above. The 10-75 was given. FF Scharf positioned the aerial to the roof and ascended the ladder with the lifesaving rope, Halligan hook and Halligan. Reaching the roof, he observed smoke coming from the entire row of six buildings.

Conditions worsened as smoke was pushing from all roof openings, through the skin of the roof and out the rear of the building. FF Scharf was joined on the roof by the second-due roof FF, Todd Brenner, Ladder 176, who was detailed to Ladder 120. As FF Scharf was about to continue his operations on the roof, he received a communication via the handie-talkie from FF Perez that there was a victim at the rear top-floor window. The roof team proceeded to the rear to make contact with the victim, but was unable to see him through the heavy smoke enveloping the victim.

FF Perez directed the roof team to the location above the victim. FF Scharf began to communicate with the panicked man, who was hanging out the window. Fearing that the victim was going to jump, FFs Scharf and Brenner convinced him he would be saved. FF Brenner called FF Lee and requested the aerial be positioned for use as the substantial object for a roof rope rescue. FF Scharf began to set up, marked the best location and directed FF Lee to place the aerial at this spot so he could tie off the rope.

FF Scharf asked FF Brenner to tighten up on the little bit of slack, prepared to dismount and then went over the edge to rescue the victim. As FF Scharf was being lowered, the desperate man was reaching up for his foot. FF Scharf explained how the rescue would take place and they would both dismount from the window. The victim was very nervous and the procedure was made more difficult by the man’s size. FF Scharf coached the victim out of the window and pushed away from the building, causing the victim’s legs to come out of the window. FF Scharf was forced to wrap his legs around the man to keep him from slipping. Cleared of the window, the roof team immediately lowered FF Scharf and the victim to the ground. The man was delivered to EMS personnel for treatment.

This victim was only moments from jumping from the third-floor window. As stated by the Safety Battalion at the scene, FF Scharf’s tactics in this roof rope rescue were flawless, with focus on the correct procedures and safety of all personnel and civilians involved. He demonstrated actions so determined that following this rescue, the Firefighter required surgery to both his shoulders. FF Andrew D. Scharf is awarded the Henry D. Brookman Medal for his heroic roof rope rescue.—TW
It is common practice in the emergency medical service to expect the unexpected. The night of June 2, 2017, was no exception. At approximately 2030 hours, EMS Lieutenant Joe McWilliams was in the quarters of EMS Station 40 when a woman entered in a frantic state, speaking only Spanish and shouting, Fuego! The unidentified woman began to run out of the station and down Seventh Avenue. Lieutenant McWilliams and EMTs Shem La Fleur and Hector Soto followed the woman on foot. They discovered a building on fire with flames on the second floor of a three-story building.

Lieutenant McWilliams immediately made notification to the Brooklyn South Dispatcher of a 10-75 and requested that all appropriate resources be dispatched. Almost immediately, the Lieutenant was alerted by numerous bystanders’ reports of at least one person trapped on the engulfed second floor. With this information and knowing additional resources were making their way to the scene, Lieutenant McWilliams and EMT La Fleur entered the building and started alerting and evacuating first-floor residents.

While making their way up to the second floor, they encountered two more residents, one crying and frantically pointing to a room down the hallway. While EMT La Fleur assisted the residents down the stairs to the street, Lieutenant McWilliams continued to make his way down the second-floor hallway. Conditions were deteriorating rapidly. Fire was visible in one of the bedrooms and heavy smoke filled the rest of the second floor. Believing that a potentially trapped resident was in this second-floor bedroom, Lieutenant McWilliams made multiple attempts to force entry. High heat and heavy smoke conditions prevented entry, however.

Lieutenant McWilliams was rejoined on the second floor by EMT La Fleur. Together, they performed a quick search of the second floor. Here, they encountered two more occupants. After ordering the residents to evacuate the building immediately, they continued up to the third floor to rapidly search before leaving the building.

Once safely out on the street, Lieutenant McWilliams reported a potential occupant trapped to the first-arriving engine Officer. He then began setting up the EMS Medical Command Post.

Fortunately, the initial reports from building occupants regarding a trapped person proved to be false. With the quick response and actions of Lieutenant McWilliams, all building occupants were evacuated safely and there was no loss of life. For his quick actions and decision-making in an extreme situation, Lieutenant Joe McWilliams is presented with the Chief Ulyses Grant Leadership Medal.—MW
Since a heavy column of smoke was visible while responding to Box 8897 in South Jamaica, Queens, at 0334 hours on September 8, 2017, the 10-75 was given from several blocks away by Engine 302, prior to any units going 10-84. On arrival, Engine 302 and Ladder 155 encountered heavy fire in a 2½-story, detached private dwelling. Fire was venting from the front and both sides of the first floor and rapidly auto-exposing to the second floor via the front and left sides. Exposure #2, a similar detached private dwelling, was largely consumed by heavy fire on the exterior.

Exiting the apparatus, Lieutenant J. Brendan Corrigan, Ladder 155, was approached by a frantic civilian, who said that her three children were trapped inside on the second floor. The Lieutenant promptly advised all members on-scene regarding the trapped children and prepared his company for an aggressive entry and search. He knew that survival time would be minimal under the rapidly deteriorating conditions and extending fire.

Ladder 155’s inside team donned their SCBAs, but were blocked by heavy fire at the front door. Engine 302 members quickly stretched and knocked down enough fire at the doorway for Ladder 155 to pass and begin to search. As Ladder 155 members began to pass Engine 302’s nozzle team, Lieutenant Corrigan heard blood-curdling screams for help from the trapped occupants on the second floor. Ladder 155’s inside team advanced past Engine 302, passing active fire in high heat and zero visibility in order to locate the stairs.

Lieutenant Corrigan ordered his extinguisher Firefighter to remain at the bottom of the stairs to monitor and extinguish fire, which still consumed much of the first floor. The Lieutenant and irons FF, Mark Ackerman, followed the screams of the trapped sisters to the stairs. Beginning to feel heat through their bunker gear, Lieutenant Corrigan and FF Ackerman were forced to crawl up the stairs on their bellies. Battling extreme conditions, Lieutenant Corrigan and FF Ackerman then split up to search the top floor in zero visibility, with extending fire and no line advancing to protect them on the second floor.

Lieutenant Corrigan quickly located the trapped sisters huddled together in the middle bedroom and transmitted the 10-45 signal with a location and requested assistance for multiple removals. With no other options and completely cut off by fire, he decided to guide the removal of the victims away from the extending fire and back down the interior stairs. His decision was boosted and reinforced by Engine 302 aggressively knocking down fire on the first floor. Using his body as a shield, Lieutenant Corrigan brought the victim down the stairs to safety. His forcible entry team removed the two other sisters.

His aggressive actions and leadership were instrumental in the rescue of three sisters. His decisions from the beginning of the operation, to the removal of the final victim, set the tempo for a successful rescue. The victims were admitted to the hospital and treated for their injuries. Recognizing his valor, the FDNY is pleased to present Lieutenant J. Brendan Corrigan with the Hispanic Society/23rd Street Fire Memorial Medal of Valor.—RL
Early-morning fires in multiple dwellings invariably lead to severe life hazards. This is especially true in densely populated neighborhoods. The Upper Manhattan section, known as Washington Heights, is one such neighborhood. On February 26, 2017, at 0341 hours, Engine 93, Ladder 45 and Battalion 13 were dispatched first-due to Manhattan Box 1753 for a report of fire. Due to aggressive and coordinated firefighting tactics, a life was saved.

On arrival, Ladder 45 encountered many civilians fleeing the building. Assigned the outside vent position, Firefighter Collin Sheil dismounted the rig and proceeded to the rear of the building in order to perform his duties. Heavy smoke and numerous descending occupants in a state of panic impeded his ascent up the fire escape. While attempting to get into position, FF Sheil was stopped by family members who screamed that their mother was missing. They were fearful that she had not escaped the fire apartment.

Simultaneously, the roof Firefighter radioed that there was heavy fire in the open shaft. At the same time, the forcible entry team could not gain entry to the fire apartment. Heavy fire had burned through the peephole and warped the door. FF Sheil realized that he was the only one who could enter the apartment, via the fire escape, and perform a search for the missing woman.

Entering the window and encountering high heat with zero visibility, Firefighter Sheil searched the first bedroom without success. Moving through the living room and passing fire, he then entered the adjoining bedroom where he located a body. The Firefighter then transmitted the signal 10-45 for an unconscious female victim to the Incident Commander, Battalion Chief Joseph Dudley, Battalion 13.

By this time, L-45’s forcible entry team was successful in forcing the door, enabling Engine 93 to enter and fight the fire. Captain Patrick Gleason, Ladder 45, then instructed FFs Ian Holliday (irons) and Melvin Lozano (extinguisher) to make their way past Engine 93 and go to the rear of the apartment to assist FF Sheil. Together, they were able to move the victim away from the fire area and out into the public hallway. Members of Engine 67 then took over patient care, administering CPR and rescue breathing as the woman was brought down the stairs. An EMS unit then transported her to the hospital.

Because of FF Collin Sheil’s decisiveness, dedication and determination, he saved a life. For his heroic actions, he is recognized with the M.J. Delehanty Medal. — WS
At 0334 hours on September 8, 2017, Ladder 155 responded to Box 8897 in South Jamaica, Queens, for a report of fire in a private dwelling. Due to the heavy column of smoke visible while responding, the 10-75 was given from several blocks away by Engine 302, prior to any units going 10-84. On arrival, Engine 302 and Ladder 155 encountered heavy fire in a 2½-story, detached private dwelling. Fire was seen venting from the front and both sides of the first floor and rapidly auto-exposing to the second floor via the front and left sides. Box 8897 eventually escalated to a second alarm due to extension to multiple floors and exposure #2, a similar detached private dwelling.

As Lieutenant J. Brendan Corrigan exited the Ladder 155 apparatus, a frantic mother informed him that her three children were trapped on the second floor. This information heightened the situation and members knew they had to move swiftly or the trapped occupants would not survive the rapidly expanding fire. Ladder 155’s inside team donned their SCBAs, but were blocked by heavy fire at the front door. Lieutenant Corrigan reported to all members that three people were trapped on the second floor.

Immediately, FF Gerard McManus, as well as Ladder 155’s roof Firefighter, conducted an exterior survey of all sides of the structure, looking for visible occupants and points of entry. They were unable to move around the exposure #2 and #3 sides due to heavy fire in the driveway and all-terrain vehicles in the rear yard, all of which deterred access via the exterior to the upper floors where the occupants were trapped.

Ladder 155’s roof FF notified FF McManus, assigned the outside vent position, to bring a portable ladder to the exposure #4 side of the building because this was the only accessible window to the second floor. This window led to the top of the stairs on the second floor, a less than desirable position. Entry from this location would leave both members exposed and in a precarious position above the fire on the upper floor, while attempting to locate and remove the trapped occupants. However, this was the only option.

FF McManus quickly located Lieutenant Corrigan and grabbed one of the three semiconscious females the Lieutenant had located. With no other option, completely cut off by fire, he removed the victim from the extending fire and back down the interior stairs. He was assisted by Engine 302’s Officer when the victim’s leg became entangled in debris, causing the bedroom door to partially close on her leg. Engine 302 members had begun to aggressively knock down fire on the first floor. Using his body as a shield, FF McManus brought the victim down the stairs to safety.

Absent his aggressive actions, the victim would have succumbed to her injuries. She was admitted to the hospital for injuries sustained. In keeping with the finest traditions of this Fire Department and the Vipers Nest, FF Gerard P. McManus is awarded the Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia Medal.—RL
The day a new apparatus arrives at a firehouse is a busy one. Hook & Ladder 148 received delivery of its new Ferrara Ladder on the day tour and quarters was bustling with activity. FF Joseph Massucci and Ladder 148 members were stowing tools and becoming familiar with the new apparatus. Little did they know that on this night tour, the first fire to which they responded in the new rig would go to three alarms and FF Massucci would place himself in harm’s way for a victim.

At 0347 hours on August 28, 2017, Ladder 148 received an alarm for a fire in the Borough Park area of Brooklyn. It was a 2½-story private dwelling, just two blocks from the quarters of Engine 282/Ladder 148. On arrival, Ladder 148 encountered a trapped female on the home’s porch roof. She was frantically yelling to the arriving Firefighters that her parents were trapped in the second-floor bedroom as smoke was pouring out from behind her.

As FF Massucci entered the home with the extinguisher, he was met by extreme heat, deteriorating conditions and a heavy fire condition on the first and second floors with the stairs fully involved. The initial push to ascend the stairs to the trapped victims on the second floor was thwarted by extreme heat. FF Massucci realized that he had to get past the active flames enveloping the stairs and Engine 282 had to direct their hose-line up the stairs in order for him to get to the second-floor bedrooms. The Firefighter led Lieutenant Cannon, Engine 282, and the nozzle Firefighter to the burning stairway. FF Massucci communicated clearly what he required and Engine 282 operated their line on the stairs before continuing to advance on the fully involved first floor.

FF Massucci had only a moment to seize this opportunity and he quickly made his move up the stairs, toward the trapped occupants. Once at the top of the stairs, he was met with oppressive heat, a rapidly expanding fire on the second floor, heavy clutter and zero visibility. He began an aggressive search in the rear bedroom above the main body of fire and quickly found an unconscious female. Fire was rapidly extending to this area and FF Massucci shielded her from the heat, while dragging her toward the stairs. He was met by FF James Galante, the Ladder 148 irons Firefighter, who helped carry the victim down the burned-out stairs. The unchecked fire on the second floor was raging and the stairs began to reignite. Making their way through heavy clutter, in zero visibility, they were able to get the victim down and into the hands of EMS personnel.

Although the woman ultimately succumbed to her injuries, the entire rescue operation hinged on the aggressive decision-making and brave actions of FF Massucci. His quick thinking in having Engine 282 direct their hose-line up the stairs, allowed him to make his move toward the known life hazard. He did not have the hose-line protection on the second floor as he fought his way back and forth from the stairs during the rescue. FF Joseph M. Massucci is presented the William F. Conran Medal for his ingenuity and bravery.—MD

Brooklyn Box 33-2703, August 28, 2017.
On July 28, 2017, at 0238 hours, Ladder 172 was assigned first-due to a reported fire in a four-story multiple dwelling in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn. Upon arrival, heavy, black smoke was issuing from a third-floor window and fire was visible from around an air conditioner. Engine 330 gave the 10-75. The members performed a quick size-up and the inside team of Ladder 172 proceeded up the stairs to the third floor. Reaching that floor, the members noticed smoke pushing from the tightly sealed door of the fire apartment. The inside team of FFs James G. Manti, the iron Firefighter, and Sal Decimoterzo, forced the door and were met with heavy smoke and zero visibility. At this time, Engine 330 was stretching their hand-line to the fire apartment. The numerous locks on the door and the time of day contributed to the inside team’s decision to enter the apartment and make an aggressive search for life.

As they began their search, the inside team realized that their task would be more difficult because the apartment door opened into a three-foot-wide hallway that isolated the entire right side of the apartment. Additionally, there was a medium clutter condition, which prevented the door from opening fully, resulting in a delay in getting water on the fire.

At this time, the outside vent FF from Ladder 172 reported that fire was venting out two windows on the exposure #4 side and conditions appeared to be deteriorating. As Lieutenant Vincent Cavalieri and the inside team began to remove the clutter so they could begin their search, the fire began to roll over their heads. FF Decimoterzo used the extinguisher to try to confine the fire and cool the area.

As conditions continued to worsen, FF Manti realized any civilians in the apartment were running out of time and he began his search. He crawled past FF Decimoterzo and entered the kitchen, which was just off the hallway. The search of that room was negative and FF Manti continued his search by re-entering the hallway where fire was rolling over his head and made his way deeper into the apartment.

He reached the bathroom where he discovered an unconscious male victim. He transmitted the 10-45 and began the difficult task of removing the man. As he brought him from the bathroom to the hallway, FF Manti positioned himself between the fire and the victim to shield him from the high heat. While conducting the removal through the clutter, FF Manti’s facepiece became dislodged and he felt pain on his neck and face. The FF disregarded the pain and continued to remove the victim from the apartment.

Once the victim was removed to the public hallway, FF Manti was met by FF John Marsh, Engine 247. Together, they carried the victim down to the street. Once outside the building, FFs Manti and Marsh performed CPR and secured a pulse on the victim before he was transferred to EMS personnel. FF Manti eventually was transported to the hospital for treatment of his injuries.

For his actions in rescuing a man (who, regrettably, ultimately expired) from an expanding fire amid a clutter condition—while suffering injuries himself—FF James G. Manti, Ladder 172, is honored today with the Chief John J. McElligott Medal/FFs Fitzpatrick and Frisby Award.—NG
Fire Department, City of New York  •  Medal Day 2018

On Saturday, November 19, 2017, Rescue 3 responded to a reported basement fire in the Morrisania section of the Bronx. FF Scott Doody started his size-up on arrival and observed a three-story, occupied, frame multiple dwelling with heavy fire blowing out the front door and across the front porch ceiling. Heavy fire also was coming from two basement windows on the exposure #2 side, which had cut off the only access to the rear yard.

Exposure #4 was a one-story taxpayer; its roof abutted the fire building exposure #4 wall. Battalion 3, Battalion Chief Louis Gorgano, assigned Rescue 3 to search the top floor of the fire building to find a woman talking to the dispatcher via phone, stating she was trapped in the kitchen. Lieutenant Mickey Conboy split the company up and assigned FFs Doody and Brian Browne to get to the rear and search the top floor.

Realizing that the exposure #2 side access was blocked, FF Doody, assisted by FF Browne, raised a portable ladder to the roof of the taxpayer to gain access to the rear of the fire building. Once on the roof, FF Doody saw fire blowing out of the top window of the interior stairs. He made his way to the rear and was met with a wall of heavy, black smoke, venting from the second floor below the porch roof.

FF Doody dropped to his hands and knees and crawled across a narrow opening between the fire building and the taxpayer, gaining access to the rear porch roof. Crawling along the porch roof, he felt along the back wall, locating two windows, which were pushing black smoke. Relying on his experience, FF Doody recalled the location of the kitchen in this particular building; he vented that window with his Halligan and felt a scissor gate blocking his entry. Donning his facepiece, FF Doody went to work, clearing the window gate, while standing up in blistering heat and smoke now venting from the fire still burning below him, and racing up the stairs to the top floor.

Once cleared, FF Doody entered the window and dropped on his stomach to the floor and began a right-hand search of the kitchen. Completing his search of the kitchen and not finding the trapped woman, he closed an open door leading to the hallway; fire was rolling over his head. This action bought him some time to look for the trapped woman who he knew must have sought another means of escape.

Continuing along with his right-hand search, FF Doody found another open door, which led to a rear bedroom. Searching this room, he could see the glow of the fire venting from the exposure #2 side windows on the floors below. Moving along the rear wall of the bedroom, he felt the unconscious woman, slumped under the window. FF Doody made notification and began to remove her. Engine 45 advanced their hose-line up the stairs, which cleared the path for FF Doody to remove the unconscious woman down to the street from the interior. He handed her over to waiting EMS personnel who provided treatment.

With determination, FF Scott M. Doody persevered and was successful in rescuing a trapped, unconscious woman, who would have succumbed to the fire. His bravery is recognized with the Thomas F. Dougherty Medal.—AP

Thomas F. Dougherty Medal

Firefighter Scott M. Doody
Rescue Company 3

November 19, 2017, 0157 hours, Box 22-2598, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on July 28, 2002. Previously assigned to Ladder 56. Member of the Emerald and Holy Name Societies. Holds an AOS degree in Electrical Instrumentation and Controls from SUNY at Delhi. Resides in Goshen, New York, with his wife, Michelle, and their children, Sean, Meghan, Kieran and Maeve.

Rescue Company 3 in action. Photo by Bill Tompkins
Ladder Company 40 was dispatched to Manhattan Box 1473 for a reported fire in a Harlem apartment on June 19, 2017. As the members of Ladder 40 entered the building, they were met by a frantic neighbor in the lobby, who advised Ladder 40’s Officer, Lieutenant Frederick Simms, of a fire in an apartment with an elderly couple trapped inside.

Ladder 40’s inside team included Lieutenant Simms and Firefighters Noah A. Mueller (irons) and William T. Cranston (extinguisher). The inside team proceeded to the fire floor and encountered a heavy smoke condition in the public hallway. Lieutenant Simms transmitted the signal 10-77 to Battalion Chief Peter Mulhall, Battalion 12, while Ladder 40’s forcible entry team simultaneously began forcing the fire apartment door in zero visibility. The fire apartment door was warped, allowing heavy smoke to push out around the top of the door.

After forcible entry, Ladder 40 members controlled the apartment door and began a primary search. Immediately upon entering the apartment, members encountered a heavy clutter condition. Firefighter Cranston crawled inside to the right of the apartment door and noticed the fire raging out of the kitchen area. Crawling closer to the fire to use his can to hold the fire back, Firefighter Cranston discovered the motionless body of an adult female. He immediately transmitted a 10-45 and called out for assistance in removing the victim.

Firefighter Cranston began dragging the victim toward the front door where he was met by Firefighter Mueller. The pair, with assistance from Lieutenant Simms—who facilitated clearing a pathway through the cluttered apartment—they removed the elderly victim to the hallway and passed her off to Ladder Company 23 for transport to EMS.

Firefighter Cranston quickly returned to the fire apartment to continue his search. While searching the living room just outside the fire area, Firefighter Cranston found a second victim—an adult male—wedged between a couch and a large pile of clutter. He transmitted a second 10-45. Lieutenant Simms was near Firefighter Cranston when he located the second victim and immediately assisted him in untangling and removing the motionless victim through the cluttered apartment and out to the stairway. Members of Engine 80 initiated patient care and brought the patient to EMS. Both of these victims were transported to the hospital by EMS personnel. Regrettably, the man and woman later succumbed to their injuries.

The coordinated and courageous efforts of the members of Ladder 40 reflect the finest traditions of the New York City Fire Department. Firefighter Cranston exhibited exceptional initiative and bravery under dire circumstances. He acted by subjugating his personal safety as he successfully carried out two admirable rescues. Although the two victims ultimately passed away, this in no way diminishes Firefighter Cranston’s selfless actions. In recognition of his valor, Firefighter William T. Cranston is presented with the Albert S. Johnston Medal.—JWD
“Risk a lot to save a lot,” one of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Rules of Engagement for Structural Firefighting—is a measurement of risk that can be applied to all fires. That ethos, coupled with the FDNY mantra of “aggressive interior attack,” results in saving hundreds of lives every year throughout this great City.

In the unseasonably cool, early-morning hours of August 28, 2017, Captain Christopher LiVolsi was in command of Ladder 114. At 0347 hours, the company was dispatched to a report of a fire in the rear yard of a private dwelling in Borough Park, Brooklyn. At 0351 hours, Engine 282 transmitted a 10-75 for fire on the first floor of the 2½-story private dwelling, with heavy smoke showing from the second floor and attic. Ladder 114 arrived seconds later and Captain LiVolsi was alerted by a frantic, young woman—who had escaped from the fire—yelling that her parents were trapped in their second-floor bedroom.

Captain LiVolsi and his inside team—Firefighters Raymond Pollard (extinguisher) and Joseph Galante (irons, detailed from Engine 247), entered the home in an attempt to reach the trapped occupants. Unable to access the interior stairs due to fire conditions, the team ran to the rear of the house to find an alternate route to the second floor.

Driven back by the heavy fire consuming the first floor, the team redoubled their efforts and returned to the front of the home for a more determined push to ascend the interior stairs. Engine 282 had extinguished the fire that had controlled the stairs and they were fighting their way deeper into the first floor. Then, confronted with the members of Ladder 148 removing a victim and knowing there was another life to be saved, Captain LiVolsi led his team rapidly up the stairs to the second floor.

Reaching the landing and using his thermal imaging camera due to the heavy, dense smoke, Captain Livolsi recognized the outline of a victim on the floor, inside the rear bedroom, directly over the main body of fire. As the Captain proceeded, he found the victim lying on his left side, facing away from the doorway. After transmitting the 10-45, with fire now rolling over his head and without the protection of a hose-line, Captain LiVolsi repositioned the unconscious male victim. Directing his team toward his location, he was able to coordinate the victim’s removal down the stairs and out to waiting EMS personnel, who began resuscitation efforts and transported the victim to the hospital. With no time to reflect on their accomplishment, Captain LiVolsi and his team re-entered the gutted home and completed the primary search of the entire second floor.

Endorsing this heroic and meritorious act, Deputy Chief Russell Regan, Division 11, and Battalion Chief James Brennan, Battalion 40, noted that the decisive, courageous effort, the communicative skills employed and the risk taken by Captain LiVolsi exemplify the bravest traditions of this Department. That valor provided the best chance of survival for the victim. Unfortunately, the man was pronounced dead at the hospital.

For the attributes and professionalism demonstrated in the face of extremely harsh conditions, Captain Christopher LiVolsi is awarded the Ner Tamid Society/Franklin Delano Roosevelt Medal.—SM
On the afternoon of Saturday, December 30, 2017, Paramedic Niall C. O’Shaughnessy went above and beyond the call of duty by assisting in the water rescue of a man drowning in the frigid Hudson River.

Paramedics O’Shaughnessy and Mingze Wu began their tour, covering the area near Pier 25 in Manhattan. The pair was monitoring the area’s NYPD frequency when notification went out for a potential drowning near Pier 42. Given their proximity to the assignment, Paramedics O’Shaughnessy and Wu began responding to the incident location.

On arrival, they witnessed an adult male struggling to stay afloat. After providing notification to dispatch for additional resources and recognizing that the cold winter conditions only served to exacerbate the fatigue of an already exhausted swimmer, Paramedic O’Shaughnessy jumped into action. After removing his duty belt and boots, Paramedic O’Shaughnessy dove into a numbingly cold Hudson River.

Thanks to his immediate actions, Paramedic O’Shaughnessy kept the patient’s head above water and prevented further submersion. He provided patient support during this water rescue, while Paramedic Wu discharged a safety line with a life ring to assure that the pair stayed afloat. Additionally, the members from Engine 10 extended a rescue ladder in an attempt to expedite removing both Paramedic O’Shaughnessy and the patient from the wintry waters.

With the arrival of FDNY Marine and NYPD Harbor units, the pair was removed safely from the Hudson waters. Through these coordinated measures, both the patient and Paramedic O’Shaughnessy were safely brought ashore and treated for hypothermia at area hospitals.

Paramedic O’Shaughnessy is a true example of how selfless, swift actions make the difference between life and death. Against the multitude of potential hazards, Paramedic O’Shaughnessy bravely put another’s life ahead of his own.

This is Paramedic O’Shaughnessy’s second Hudson River water rescue, earning him the nickname at Station 4 as “Niall on the Hudson.” Paramedic Niall C. O’Shaughnessy’s continued commitment and perseverance in the face of hazardous conditions again has earned him the Tracy Allen-Lee Medal.—BR

Paramedic Niall C. O’Shaughnessy following the water rescue.
A fire broke out on the 10th floor of a 13-story building in the Parkchester section of the Bronx on September 30, 2017. First-arriving units were met with one of the most challenging conditions that Firefighters can face—an apartment on fire that is filled with heavy clutter. Rescue 3 arrived and Lieutenant Michael J. Conboy reported with his unit to the Command Post in the building lobby. Lieutenant Conboy was ordered by Battalion Chief Brian S. McDade, Battalion 20, to assist in the fire apartment, where the debris and blackout conditions were making it difficult to pinpoint the fire location.

Reaching the 10th-floor stairwell landing, Rescue 3 members found the public hallway filled with blinding smoke. They masked up and followed Engine 64’s hose-line into the fire apartment. Once inside, Rescue 3’s inside team—Lieutenant Conboy and FFs Sean P. White and Matthew J. Murphy (detailed from Rescue 1)—crawled over piles of clutter as they made their way to the units already operating. Lieutenant Conboy quickly conferred with other company Officers in the apartment and learned that clutter was stacked from floor to ceiling in some places and even was blocking windows. The clutter made every basic firefighting operation—extinguishment, search and ventilation—exceedingly difficult and dangerous.

Rescue 3 members crawled through a narrow path from the living room into the hallway, leading to the rear bedrooms. The thermal imaging camera provided a line of sight with the fire, enabling Lieutenant Conboy to locate the fire venting out of a bedroom into the hallway ahead. He crawled to the door, held it closed and called for the hose-line, just as the fire began burning through the top of the door. With the fire contained—at least for a short time—and the hose-line not yet in place, FF Murphy crawled past the fire down the hallway.

Due to the clutter, FF Murphy turned his body 90 degrees and performed a “reduced profile,” allowing him to squeeze past the narrow opening. Crawling down the hallway over even more clutter, he felt an arm and hand sticking out of the debris. FF Murphy notified his Officer, quickly cleared apartment contents from around the unconscious man and then dragged him out of the apartment.

After handing off the victim to other members in the public hallway, FF Murphy, who had the best mental picture of the fire area and status of searches, returned to the apartment. He followed the same route as before to reach the spot where he found the first victim. He continued into a rear bedroom, where he found two more victims—an unconscious woman lying on the floor and a semiconscious woman, lying on a bed, gasping for air. FF Murphy notified his Officer and requested help removing them. The Firefighter mustered all his strength to drag the second unconscious victim back through the cluttered apartment and returned to guide the semiconscious victim out of the fire apartment.

In a cluttered apartment that drastically hindered Firefighter operations, FF Murphy’s experience and determination led him to three victims. His efforts and decision-making reinforced the highest traditions of the FDNY. For his act of exceptional bravery, FF Matthew J. Murphy is awarded the Vincent J. Kane Medal.—SN
The night of November 19, 2017, seemed relatively typical for Firefighter Matthew J. Murphy until 0157 hours when Rescue 3 was dispatched to a second alarm in a three-story, wood-frame residence in the Bathgate section of the Bronx. FF Murphy, assigned to Rescue 1, was detailed to Rescue 3 for the tour.

On arrival, heavy fire and smoke were visible from the porch windows and the front door, as well as two basement windows on the side of the multiple dwelling that housed three apartments. Rescue 3 was assigned to search and rescue above the fire by Battalion Chief Louis Gorgano, Battalion 3, following reports of a woman trapped in the kitchen on the top floor.

Lieutenant Michael Conboy, Rescue 3, split the team and ordered FF Murphy to attempt entry to the top floor from the outside, while he and FF Robert Andersen made entry past the fire and up the interior stairs toward the rear kitchen.

FF Murphy pulled a 24-foot portable extension ladder from Ladder 31, which was positioned in front of the building to access the porch roof in order to enter a window. FF Murphy had limited options in positioning the ladder due to the fire conditions. The smoke required him to don his facepiece even before ascending the ladder.

FF Murphy reached the porch roof and made entry through the window. He began his search toward the reported location of the victim. As he began his search through the front living room, enduring high heat and zero visibility, the Firefighter found the victim, a woman. FF Murphy reported the discovery of the victim as he was beginning her removal.

FF Murphy dragged the woman to the window, where Firefighter Brian Browne had just arrived. The pair removed the victim to the porch roof. At this point, conditions had improved and Firefighters Murphy and Browne were able to pass the woman to Firefighter Kevin Donovan, Squad 61, who had ascended the ladder. She was brought down the ladder and turned over to EMS personnel for treatment and transport. Happily, she has fully recovered from the injuries she sustained that evening.

For his determined and focused effort to save a woman, Firefighter Matthew J. Murphy is presented with the Brummer Medal.

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Firefighter Matthew J. Murphy with Rescue 3 members, following rescue.
Ladder Company 19 was directed by the Bronx Communications Office, via teleprinter, to respond first-due to Box 2748 in the Morissania section of the Bronx, for a reported gas leak on August 5, 2017. While en route, the dispatcher notified responding units that NYPD was operating at the same address with an emotionally disturbed person (EDP).

Arriving at the 16-story, 200- by 160-foot, Class 1, fireproof multiple dwelling, a large police presence was evident. ESU had notified Lieutenant Frank Portelle, Engine 50, that a man had barricaded himself in an apartment and started a fire. Around the same time, FF Jason Charles, the outside vent Firefighter for Ladder 19, observed fire venting out the windows in the rear of the building.

Ladder 19’s inside team—Captain John T. Zollner and FFs William Katsch with the irons and Kristian McNaughton with the extinguisher—quickly ascended the stairs past fleeing occupants and police officers. Exiting the stairwell into the hallway, the Ladder 19 members found a medium smoke condition. Before evacuating, an ESU officer reported that a man was barricaded in the apartment, but it was unknown whether he had any weapons or victims inside. The door was closed, but unlocked, with heavy, black smoke issuing from around it.

The inside team members quickly donned their facepieces, opened the door and were hit with extreme heat. Entry into the apartment was tedious, due to the furniture and other clutter blocking the way. Despite the punishing conditions and without the protection of a charged hose-line, FF McNaughton worked his way through the barricaded entryway and began a search in zero visibility.

Entering the living room, he found the unconscious form of a male victim and quickly transmitted a 10-45. FF McNaughton began to drag the man toward the door, shielding him from the searing heat of the apartment. With the help of Captain Zollner and FF Katsch, FF McNaughton removed the victim through the furniture blocking the door, down the compromised hallway and into the evacuation stairwell. FF McNaughton then returned to the fire apartment to assist Engine Company 50 in their line advancement by removing obstacles from the apartment doorway until the fire was extinguished.

FF McNaughton entered and operated in a deteriorating environment, under adverse conditions, without protection of a charged line, to remove a victim who is alive today. FF Kristian McNaughton acted selflessly and in the highest traditions of the Fire Department of the City of New York. To recognize his valor, FF McNaughton is presented with the Frank W. Kridel Medal.—TM
On Monday, March 6, 2017, at 0720 hours, Ladder 39 was assigned first-due to Box 4843 for a reported fire in a private dwelling in the Wakefield section of the Bronx. Assigned the outside vent position, FF Erik A. Lubniewski could see heavy, black smoke in the distance from his seat high up in the tiller box. When Ladder 39 arrived on-scene, members were met with heavy fire venting out the first-floor windows on exposures #3 and #4 and thick, black smoke was billowing out the second-floor windows.

FF Lubniewski quickly dismounted the tiller, donned his PPE, grabbed his tools and threw up a 24-foot portable ladder with FF James J. McConville (roof position) to remove a distraught civilian who had self-evacuated from a second-floor window onto the roof of the first-floor porch. The civilian informed the Firefighters that another family member still was inside the house, somewhere on the second floor.

With this new information, FFs Lubniewski and McConville realized that they needed to perform an aggressive interior search for the trapped victim. While FF Lubniewski donned his facepiece, FF McConville took the front window on the exposure #1/4 corner of the front-porch roof. Both members immediately were met by extreme heat and thick, black smoke venting from the window.

Without a charged hose-line in operation and a raging fire burning on the first floor, FF Lubniewski entered the second-floor window and began his primary search for the trapped victim. He searched a front bedroom with medium clutter, high heat, heavy smoke and zero visibility. FF Lubniewski located the door to the bedroom and exited to the hallway. At this point, he observed visible fire extending up the stairs to the second floor. FF Lubniewski continued his search to the next door in the hallway, which was the bedroom FF McConville was searching. FF Lubniewski was unable to fully open that bedroom door and, due to the extreme clutter, had to use his shoulder to force the door open for FF McConville to exit the bedroom.

FF Lubniewski communicated with FF McConville that he was going to continue his right-hand search and crawled past the staircase, where the fire now was extending up to the second floor. FF Lubniewski came across another bedroom located in the #3/4 corner of the second floor. He was positioned directly above the main body of fire. While searching the room, which was set up as a nursery, fire from the first floor began auto-exposing in the bedroom. FF Lubniewski had just completed his search of this bedroom when he heard FF McConville transmit a 10-45 from a bedroom across the hallway.

FF McConville removed the victim from the bed and to the bedroom doorway, where FF Lubniewski grabbed the victim’s legs and dragged her to the top of the staircase. The two members could hear Engine 63’s nozzle Firefighter putting water on the staircase and making a push on the heavy fire conditions on the first floor. FFs Lubniewski and McConville saw their opportunity to remove the victim via the interior stairs and quickly did so.

If not for the initiative and bravery of FF Lubniewski, who entered and operated above heavy fire conditions in zero visibility without the protection of a charged hose-line, this woman would have had no chance at survival. For these reasons, FF Erik A. Lubniewski is honored with the Emerald Society Medal.—KC
There was an all-star crew on-duty at Rescue 1 the night of March 16, 2017: FF Kevin G. Kroth—chauffeur; FF Matt Murphy—hook; FF Brian Cullen—roof; FF Tim Geraghty—irons; and FF Dan Hyland—extinguisher. In charge this night was Lieutenant William F. Ryan.

The dispatch tele printer alert came in just before daylight at 0535 hours. The Firefighter on Housewatch duty called out the details for the Upper West Side location—a six-story multiple dwelling on a narrow street lined with typical NYC commercial skyscrapers, as well as a few residential buildings. Fire was reported to be on the second floor.

Unit members donned their protective equipment, pulled out of quarters and listened intently to the FDNY radio as Manhattan Dispatch came on the air with a report of people trapped.

As the Rescue 1 chauffeur, FF Kroth’s attention was drawn to the many tactical issues to be addressed immediately and simultaneously. FF Kroth anticipated a working fire and as they pulled into the block, that is exactly what they encountered. Smoke was evident throughout the area. From the building, panicked neighbors poured into the street, screaming to Firefighters about multiple people trapped by fire. A woman cried for help from a second-floor window; smoke was billowing out from behind her.

Through the smoke and mayhem, the Rescue 1 members entered the building and proceeded to the second floor where they encountered a heavy smoke condition. The door to the fire apartment was locked, meaning the occupants had not escaped the fire. As soon as the door to the fire apartment was forced, heavy, black smoke pushed violently into the hallway, forcing Firefighters to the ground.

Lieutenant Ryan and FFs Hyland and Kroth moved into the fire apartment. Using a thermal imaging camera, Lieutenant Ryan and FF Hyland quickly located the main body of fire. As they maneuvered to confine the fire, FF Kroth initiated a primary search for trapped occupants. Working in zero visibility and without the protection of a hose-line, FF Kroth crawled down a long hallway, located an adult female on the floor, facedown and unconscious. He transmitted a signal 10-45.

As he positioned the victim for the drag toward safety, he rolled her over and felt the presence of a young girl. As FF Kroth transmitted a second signal 10-45, he noted that both victims were unconscious and barely breathing. Working with FF Joseph Stack, Ladder 35, both victims were removed from the fire apartment and passed off to members at the apartment door for medical attention.

Still working without the protection of a charged hose-line, FF Kroth re-entered the fire apartment to continue the search. He passed the main body of fire to reach the rear bedroom at the end of the hallway. Fire conditions continued to deteriorate as he entered that bedroom. Faced with zero visibility, FF Kroth moved quickly and efficiently. On the floor, wedged between two beds, unconscious and wrapped in blankets, the Firefighter located a third victim, a young boy. He transmitted a third 10-45, then passed the youngster to FF Hyland, who transferred him to EMS personnel.

FF Kroth operated under extreme fire conditions, in zero visibility and without benefit of a charged hose-line. He demonstrated initiative, courage and professionalism in the performance of his duty. His decisive actions directly resulted in the lifesaving rescue of three victims. FF Kevin G. Kroth is presented with the Chief Wesley Williams Medal.—JDL
On December 14, 2016, Ladder 120 was finishing up another busy night tour in the Brownsville area of Brooklyn. Heading back to the firehouse from another run, FF Brian D. Cross, chauffeur, could see a column of smoke rising over Mother Gaston Boulevard. Knowing it was their first-due Box, FF Cross started out in that direction to investigate. Within a matter of seconds, they arrived and could see heavy fire venting out the windows on the top floor. Captain Michael J. Thomson transmitted the 10-77 and ordered his members to the top floor to search for trapped occupants and confine the fire.

FF Cross positioned the tower ladder and performed his size-up. There appeared to be multiple people trapped at multiple windows in the rooms next to the fire. Captain Thomson ordered his inside team and FF Cross to the fire apartment with an extra extinguisher to assist with search and rescue. Knowing that the line would be delayed and that this building did not have a working gravity tank, FF Cross realized it was imperative to get the second extinguisher to the apartment as quickly as possible to protect the members removing the trapped occupants past the fire, as well as the victims.

Arriving on the fire floor, FF Cross was met with a heavy smoke condition and zero visibility. He searched for the fire apartment door; fire was venting from the top of the door. As soon as he entered, he crawled under the rapidly extending fire and began a right-handed search, where he met up with FF Steven Hay, Ladder 120 (can). He handed off his extinguisher and continued his search into the living room, where he met up with FF Michael P. Meyer, who was in the process of removing a baby.

FF Cross continued into the bedroom. FF Meyer said there were two victims in the next bedroom. While searching the bedroom, he found another 10-45, an unconscious young boy. He transmitted the 10-45 to Command, reassured the other two conscious victims at the window to wait for another Firefighter to come and assist them and sheltered them in place. FF Cross started removal of the unconscious boy, using his body as a shield past the fire and out into the public hall to the stairwell, where he was transferred to another company. In all, seven victims, one of whom ultimately expired, were rescued at this fire.

Without the protection of a charged hose-line and subjugating his personal safety, FF Cross operated in the highest traditions of the FDNY. He crawled past and under fire two separate times without the protection of a hose-line to save those in peril. It is because of his actions that the trapped occupants are alive today. It is with immense pride that the Department recognizes FF Brian D. Cross’ valor with the Holy Name Society Medal (Brooklyn/Queens).—RB
On the cold morning of January 9, 2017, EMTs Chad W. Hannon and Richard D. Cuccurullo began their normal routine as crew members of 42A2. As trained members of EMS, they are ready for any assignment and able to handle it professionally, as they proved on this morning.

EMTs Hannon and Cuccurullo had transported a patient to a nearby emergency room. They were finishing the process of transferring the patient’s care to the emergency room staff, when EMT Hannon noticed a strong odor of smoke in the air. While investigating, EMT Hannon emerged from the emergency room and noticed flames from a fire shooting out of a nearby building. The EMT retrieved his partner and drove the ambulance to the location of the fire, taking care to park the ambulance in a manner so as not to impede incoming fire apparatus.

On arrival, EMT Hannon immediately notified the dispatcher of the fire condition at the location, provided the actual fire floor and requested additional resources. As the 10-12 was being given, building residents who had self-evacuated were coming up to the crew members, advising them that people might be trapped in the building. Without hesitating and subjugating their own safety, EMTs Hannon and Cuccurullo ran into the building to look for people who may have been trapped. The pair cleared the second floor of occupants. They were approaching the third floor when a resident told them that the family pet still might be inside a third-floor apartment.

As the EMTs approached the third floor, they were met with a heavy smoke condition, prompting them to crawl on the ground to continue their search. EMTs Hannon and Cuccurullo located the apartment that was the source of the fire and looked behind the door and immediate area of the doorway; the search proved negative. They closed the door of the affected apartment to contain the fire. Both members started to make their way downstairs, double-checking the apartments on the way for anyone who might be trapped. As they exited the building, they informed the Engine 241 Lieutenant of their search results. Thankfully, none of the residents or crew members sustained any injuries.

Due to their quick thinking and selfless actions, EMTs Hannon and Cuccurullo entered a dangerous situation and cleared the second floor of occupants from the fire building. For this act of bravery, EMT Chad W. Hannon and EMT Richard D. Cuccurullo are presented with the Chief James Scullion Medal.—BW

Shown are EMTs Richard D. Cuccurullo (left) and Chad W. Hannon (right).
Technical rescue operations require a unique skillset, namely the use of specialized tools under arduous conditions. Firefighter Robert L. McGuinness, Rescue 4, is no stranger to the intense training and tireless hours to hone his expertise. On the afternoon of June 20, 2017, Firefighter McGuinness once again trusted his training and experience to become instrumental in the extrication of victims within a collapse.

At 3:45 p.m., Rescue 4 was dispatched to a report of a collapse in the Astoria section of Queens. While en route, Rescue 4 was notified of a roof collapse into the basement of a two-story structure. When Rescue 4 arrived on-scene, they were faced with multiple issues concerning this incident. While Lieutenant Frederick III was appropriating assignments, Firefighter McGuinness was beginning to understand the complexity of this job.

The first and second floors previously had been removed from the structure and a large load of construction material had been placed on the roof. This payload contributed to the collapse of the roof directly into the basement, trapping three victims beneath its weight. Luckily, the first victim was able to remove himself. The other two victims’ only hope for survival was to be rescued with the help of Firefighters skilled in technical rescue tools and procedures.

While Firefighter McGuinness began the tedious work of assisting Ladder 117 with removing debris from atop the second victim, Lieutenant III assessed victim three. Lieutenant III recognized the need for a seasoned veteran to help extricate this victim. He immediately called for Firefighter McGuinness. A quick size-up of the situation proved the intricacies of the situation. Victim three’s entire body was pinned under one-inch scaffolding bar, concrete blocks, mortar bags and a section of roof. To exacerbate the problem, there were heavy wood beams, which shifted every time there was a displacement of debris.

Firefighter McGuinness’ first concern was to relieve the pressure on the victim’s chest and remove debris and dust from his face so he could breathe properly. He assured the victim that he would be removed safely. However, understanding that this was a time-consuming event, he relayed that information to the victim as well. Firefighter McGuinness then led other members while using numerous technical rescue tools and practices to brace the falling heavy wood beams hindering rescue efforts.

Firefighter McGuinness became fearful of the victim’s chances of survival and quickly requested a Rescue Paramedic to supply oxygen and pain crush syndrome medication. While emergency medical services were being rendered, Firefighter McGuinness returned to rescue operations. Using bottle jacks, spreaders and cutting tools, the material atop the victim was raised, cut and properly shored for safe removal of the man. Firefighter McGuinness’ final step in this procedure had him apply a Reeves Sleeve (a packaging device) around the patient.

Approximately two hours after the arrival of Rescue 4, the third and final victim was removed safely to an ambulance. The tireless efforts of all members on-scene and the dedication of Firefighter McGuinness proved that this onerous task could be accomplished.

In recognition of his courageous and remarkable rescue efforts, Firefighter Robert L. McGuinness is honored today with the Captain Denis W. Lane Memorial Medal.—SR
Arguably, basement fires are the toughest and most punishing fire environment that Firefighters face. “Making the basement stairs,” down the chimney-like path of excessive heat, smoke and flames, is what makes or breaks Firefighters and fire companies. Exacerbating those conditions with small windows, window bars, low ceilings, a cluttered apartment and confirmed trapped occupants made up the environment encountered by the members of Ladder 149 on June 1, 2017, at 0220 hours.

Arriving in fewer than three minutes at a Dyker Heights two-story, brick residence with fire in the basement, Captain Christopher E. Kane and his members were met by several frantic civilians screaming—in broken English—that their baby was trapped behind the window bars. As the inside team of Captain Kane and Probationary Firefighters Dominic DiBiase (extinguisher) and Christopher Rossi (irons), headed toward the building, the Officer ordered Firefighters Michael Norris (outside vent) and Robert Kelly (chauffeur) to remove the window bars encapsulating the basement windows.

Locating the exterior entrance, Captain Kane donned his SCBA, buttoned up his gear and, after ensuring his Probies were doing likewise, rapidly descended the stairs as flames began rolling across the ceiling toward his location. Captain Kane called for his team to join him. He ordered FF DiBiase to use the extinguisher to hold back the flames and cool the basement ceiling. Putting his face to the floor, he observed fire in the far corner of the living room and a cluttered bedroom just ahead.

With FF DiBiase temporarily holding back the expanding fire, Captain Kane led FF Rossi in a targeted search toward the reported location of the trapped occupants. Crawling on their stomachs due to the heat, the team entered the bedroom. Captain Kane closed the door to buy themselves and the victim valuable time. He directed FF Rossi to the right, while he searched to the left. As the Captain swept across the top and underneath the bed, FF Rossi yelled that he had found an adult victim.

Captain Kane began to search his way toward FF Rossi and, as he did, he found the still form of a child, half obscured by a pile of clothes. Captain Kane picked up the girl and radioed Command of the two 10-45s.

With fire expanding, the extinguisher empty and the initial attack line still being stretched, Captain Kane recognized that the stairs no longer were viable for egress. A two-by-three-foot bedroom window, six feet above the floor (where FF Norris had removed the window bars) was the only option. While holding the child in one hand, he helped FF Rossi lift the adult to the window, where both victims were handed to members on the exterior.

Continuing their primary search, Captain Kane heard FF DiBiase transmit an additional 10-45 from another bedroom. As the team made their way toward the sound of FF DiBiase’s voice, fire began consuming the entire ceiling just as the attack line operated. Directing his Firefighters to drag the third victim behind the operating hose-line, the Captain methodically retraced their path back to the stairs and removed the victim.

Exhibiting bravery, leadership, initiative and capability, Captain Christopher E. Kane successfully directed the rescue of three lives. For his actions, Captain Christopher E. Kane is awarded the Uniformed Fire Officers Association Medal. —SM
B uilding floor collapses can be categorized into five different types: V-shaped, A-frame (also known as tent), lean-to, unsupported lean-to and pancake. It is important to understand each type in order to know where voids and victims may be located and how best to access these victims using a six-sided approach. For instance, in a V-shaped collapse, the roof or floors collapse in the middle first and settle into the shape of a V. This type of collapse is particularly dangerous, as all of the debris weight is centered into a concentrated load. Additionally, once debris is removed, additional debris will slide into the V collapse.

On June 20, 2017, Rescue 4 was special-called to Box 7468 for a crane collapse with workers injured at a construction site located in Queens. The initial units on-scene transmitted a 10-60 signal for a catastrophic building collapse with three construction workers involved. Rescue 4 arrived at 1552 hours and was notified that the first construction worker had self-extricated, while the second was visibly trapped in the basement at the front of the building and the third was unaccounted for.

FF Weaver Debe, assigned the hook position, observed an access point via a second-floor window of the #1/2 corner of the building. Both FF Debe and Rescue 4’s irons FF accessed the interior via this window. Once inside, they observed the roof, second and first floors, including newly delivered construction material, in a V-shaped collapse.

FF Debe climbed down the sections of unstable roof and flooring to the second construction worker. Reaching the trapped victim, FF Debe notified his Officer that the victim was pinned by numerous wooden beams, compacted concrete cinder blocks and mortar bags. Members of Ladder 117 already had begun debris removal from the exterior through an access window. Despite the life-threatening danger from above, FF Debe began removing debris from the interior. The construction worker was conscious and alert with his lower torso and both lower extremities trapped with construction materials funneled around him. The unexpected movement of unstable materials from above did not deter FF Debe from removing structural elements of the building to free the victim. He coordinated with Ladder 117 members to secure the victim to a backboard. At 1601 hours, he was removed from the building.

FF Debe was ordered to team up with Rescue 4’s extinguisher FF, who was extricating the third construction worker. This victim was surrounded by concrete blocks and mortar bags, which FF Debe removed. FF Debe used the Power Team Hydraulic Spreader to lift the large wooden beams off the victim. Next, the pair coordinated an overhead lift of laminated wood beams pinning the victim. As the load was raised one inch at a time, FF Debe removed loose debris and inserted cribbing and wedges to secure the load. After gaining approximately eight inches of lift, FF Debe accessed the victim’s lower extremities. Additional debris was removed, allowing FF Debe room to use the power spreader to lift an additional beam, freeing the victim’s pelvis, which was under extreme pressure from the concentrated load. Once freed, both members used a Reeves Sleeve to remove the victim from the collapsed building at 1737 hours.

FF Weaver Debe showed great perseverance under perilous conditions to successfully remove two trapped construction workers, while operating in a life-threatening collapse environment for one hour and 45 minutes. His bravery is recognized with the Dr. Albert A. Cinelli Medal.—JG

Rescue 4 members operate at collapse site.
At 0334 hours on September 8, 2017, Ladder 155 responded to Box 8897 in South Jamaica, Queens, for a report of fire in a private dwelling. Due to the heavy column of smoke visible while responding, the 10-75 was given from several blocks away by Engine 302, prior to any units going 10-84. On arrival, Engine 302 and Ladder 155 encountered heavy fire in a 2½-story, detached private dwelling. Fire was seen venting from the front and both sides of the first floor and rapidly auto-exposing to the second floor via the front and left sides. The house to the left of the fire building (exposure #2) was largely consumed by heavy fire on the exterior. Box 8897 eventually went to a second alarm due to extension to multiple floors and exposure #2, a similar detached private dwelling.

As Lieutenant J. Brendan Corrigan, Ladder 155, exited the apparatus, a frantic mother informed him that her three children were trapped on the second floor. This intensified the situation and members knew they had to move swiftly or the trapped occupants would not survive the rapidly expanding fire. Ladder 155’s inside team donned their SCBAs, but were blocked by heavy fire at the front door.

Lieutenant Corrigan alerted all members that three people were trapped on the second floor. Engine 302 quickly stretched and knocked down enough fire at the doorway for Ladder 155 members to pass and begin to search. Ladder 155’s inside team advanced past Engine 302 and passed active fire with high heat and zero visibility in order to locate the stairs.

At this time, Lieutenant Corrigan ordered the extinguisher Firefighter to remain at the bottom of the stairs to monitor and extinguish fire, which still consumed much of the first floor. FF Mark E. Ackerman, the irons FF, followed by Lieutenant Corrigan, searched for the trapped sisters on the second floor. Beginning to feel heat through their bunker gear, FF Ackerman and Lieutenant Corrigan were forced under extreme conditions to crawl up the stairs on their bellies. They split up to search the top floor in zero visibility, with extending fire and no line advancing to protect them on the second floor.

Lieutenant Corrigan located the trapped sisters huddled together in the middle bedroom and transmitted the 10-45 signal with a location and requested assistance for multiple removals. FF Ackerman passed fire again to get to the Lieutenant and help with one of the semiconscious victims. With no other option, completely cut off by fire, he removed the victim from the extending fire and back down the interior stairs. The removal was a difficult one, as the woman panicked and became combative, dislodging the Firefighter’s facepiece. Nevertheless, FF Ackerman used his body as a shield in the hallway and brought the victim down the stairs to safety.

If not for the aggressive actions of FF Ackerman, the victim would have succumbed to her injuries. She was transported to the hospital for treatment. In keeping with the finest traditions of the FDNY and the Vipers Nest, FF Mark E. Ackerman is awarded the Fire Chiefs Association Memorial Medal.—RL

Queens Box 22-8897, September 8, 2017.
The Officers and members of Ladder 151 and Engine 305 received the call for a fire in Queens on October 17, 2017. The original 911 call came from an apartment on the fifth floor of this 13-story multiple dwelling. On arrival, the companies were confronted with a smoke condition on the third, fourth and fifth floors, which delayed the members in finding the fire apartment and the initial line placement, dictating that a standpipe operation would be necessary to attack this fire.

Ladder 151 members determined the fire to be on the fourth floor. After additional investigation, the apartment layouts showed that the entrance to this duplex apartment was on the third floor. After forcing the door on the third floor, the forcible entry team moved into the apartment and found a staircase going up to the fourth floor of this “duplex.” While they were making the push up the interior stairs, they received a report from the Ladder 151 outside vent Firefighter that there was a trapped person in the apartment.

At the top of the stairs, Captain Kevin Judson and FF Brian Sullivan coordinated a right-hand search, while FF Henry S. Rider went to the left. There was zero visibility and a high heat condition as the kitchen was fully involved and rapidly extending to the rest of the occupancy. The apartment was cluttered with furniture and excessive belongings of the tenant, making their search even more arduous. The hand-line was being stretched, but was not yet in place.

As FF Rider advanced, he passed the fire and made his way down the hallway toward the rear bedrooms. At the end of the hallway, there was a 90-degree turn to the right that gave the Firefighter access to the two bedrooms and the bathroom. He entered the bedroom on his left and found the motionless, unconscious body of a woman. FF Rider knew that with the deteriorating conditions deep in the apartment, the clutter condition and no hose-line protection, he had to remove the victim as quickly as possible.

FF Rider immediately transmitted the 10-45 and began the difficult task of removing the victim to the entrance. FF Rider knew that he again would have to pass the fire to get the unconscious female out of the apartment and to the top of the stairs. Without hesitation, he made an aggressive push with the victim. He made his way back to the apartment stairs, down to the first floor of the apartment and out to the hallway. He handed her off to EMS personnel for rapid treatment and transport. After completing the rescue, FF Rider returned to the fire apartment. Although he would be placed on medical leave due to injuries sustained performing this rescue, he completed his duties of search and overhaul until Ladder 151 was relieved.

FF Henry S. Rider acted in the truest traditions of the New York City Fire Department. He selflessly operated in high heat, zero visibility and without hose-line protection to save another life. In recognition of his valor, he is honored today with the Fire Marshals Benevolent Association Medal.—TW

Left to right are the Ladder 151 members: FFs Mike Palazzolo and Miguel Ruiz, Captain Kevin Judson and FFs Henry Rider, Giovannie Santiago and Carlyn Scott.
One of the most profound, memorable public safety quotes once written goes, "Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than one's fear." FDNY members demonstrated the truth to this statement on September 29, 2017, at 0037 hours, when Firefighter William S. Murak and the members of Ladder 21 responded to a phone alarm for heavy smoke conditions on the top floor of a multiple dwelling in the Midtown section (Hell's Kitchen) of Manhattan.

When the alarm sounded at Ladder 21, FF Murak was assigned the forcible entry position. Ladder 21 responded to the street intersection, due to an unknown address that initially was reported. Members disembarked the apparatus to search for signs of fire or smoke coming from any building within sight. While members were performing a scene size-up, an address was received over the radio and FF Murak immediately started running toward the given address.

Arriving on foot at the five-story, 30- by 100-foot, non-fire-proof multiple dwelling were Captain Richard Curiel and FFs Murak and Alex Duffy. They started running up the interior stairs to the top floor. On arrival at the top floor, they were met with a heavy smoke condition and FF Murak began searching for the fire's source by feeling the door of each apartment. At one apartment, FF Murak found the door hot to the touch, with heavy smoke pushing out from around the door jambs. All members of the inside team now could hear the fire crackling and a victim screaming on the other side of the door.

The inside team used their tools to force open the locked door. However, the door could be opened only 1½ feet, due to severe clutter inside the apartment. FF Murak performed the reduced profile maneuver to slide past the opening and gain access to the fire apartment. Without a hose-line in position and making his safety secondary, FF Murak began a rapid search alone, hoping to find the occupant before it was too late.

FF Murak found a male covered in debris and lying in a pile of burning newspapers. With the fire, heat and smoke rapidly increasing, the victim was dragged to the half-opened apartment door. FF Timothy O'Neill, Rescue 1, assisted with the problematic removal past the apartment door. The victim was transported to the hospital by EMS personnel and treated for his injuries.

In his report of this incident, Battalion Chief Michael V. Meyers, Battalion 9, noted, "FF Murak acted in the finest traditions of this Department, by putting himself at risk, while saving a civilian who was trapped in an apartment filled with heavy clutter. Without the efforts of FF Murak, the civilian would have more severe injuries had he not been pulled to safety." This report was reinforced by Deputy Chief James Maloney, Division 11, who wrote, "FF Murak took a risk by entering that apartment to save a confirmed life hazard. His actions were immediate and necessary to rescue this victim." For these reasons, FF William S. Murak is honored with the Community Mayors for Special Children, Inc./Lt. Robert R. Dolney Medal.—SS

Left to right are Captain Richard Curiel, Division 1, and Firefighters William Murak and Alex Duffy (detailed from Engine 34). Not shown are Firefighters Keith Newell, Carlos Restrepo and Brian McLaughlin. They were working the morning of September 29, 2017, at Manhattan Box 0851.

In the early-morning hours of April 22, 2017, the crew members of 27H1 was nearing the end of their tour. Suddenly, multiple calls came into 911, stating that a young woman was hanging from an overpass in the Bronx. High above the northbound side of the Deegan Expressway, a distraught patient sat, contemplating suicide.

The crew of 27H1—EMTs Lisa Rasulo and Fransisco Pino-Duarte—responded to the “Jumper Up” call, arriving on-scene in just two minutes. They found a young college student sitting on the edge of the overpass, looking down at oncoming traffic. The patient had crawled through the chain-link safety fence to reach the edge of the overpass.

In the emergency medical service, members are taught to perform a full scene size-up and assess all possible dangers. Both patient and the commuters’ safety were concerns in this unique situation. Additionally, the physical barrier of the safety fence prevented direct contact.

In an attempt to calm her, EMT Rasulo began talking to the patient through the fence. In the meantime, NYPD ESU officers shut down traffic on the Expressway and set up rescue ropes in an attempt to reach the patient. EMT Rasulo learned that the patient had lost her will to live and was “tired of hanging on.” With these words, she began to slip off the overpass edge. EMT Rasulo reached under the fence and grabbed hold of the patient’s wrists. In effect, she became that patient’s lifeline, literally taking over and “hanging on” for this patient. While supporting this young woman, EMT Rasulo sustained personal injury to her forearms.

EMT Rasulo held the patient in place until ESU officers climbed out onto the ledge. Together, the EMT and ESU officers pulled the patient to safety. The patient was transported by EMTs Rasulo and Pino-Duarte to the hospital for treatment. The woman is alive today because of EMT Rasulo’s quick thinking.

If not for a chance encounter between an EMS Lieutenant and an ESU officer on-scene that day, no one would have known what happened. The ESU officer described EMT Rasulo’s actions and stated, “She did a fantastic job and clearly went above and beyond.” When EMT Rasulo was approached by her supervisor regarding what occurred, her only response was, “It wasn’t anything special.” The patient probably would state otherwise.

EMT Rasulo’s valiant efforts are an inspiration to all. Her only goal was to save a young woman’s life. She did so with great humility and without expectation of recognition. It is for all these reasons that EMT Lisa Rasulo is honored today with the Lieutenant Kirby McElhearn Medal.—LAS
March 5, 2017, proved to be a busy night for Ladder 120, with four working fires. Members responded second due to a church fire in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, their third fire on this extremely cold night. On arrival, Ladder 120 members were confronted with heavy fire on the first floor and received reports that people were trapped on the floors above.

Now knowing there was confirmation of people trapped on the floor above, Lieutenant Salvatore Mirra, Jr., without a charged hose-line in place, ordered FFs Trevor R. Lawrence with the irons and Ahmed Artis with the extinguisher to the floor above with him to search for the trapped occupants.

Arriving on the second floor, FF Lawrence started his search. Working in zero visibility and high heat, FF Lawrence heard the faint sound of a person in distress and moved toward that sound. Relying on his training, he searched the floor above the uncontrolled fire below and found a victim on the floor, who was semiconscious, unable to move and having difficulty breathing.

The Firefighter immediately notified Lieutenant Mirra of the 10-45 and started the removal process. Still without the protection of a hose-line, FF Lawrence used his body as a shield from the flames to protect the victim. He had to pass the fire extending up the stairs again to give this victim a chance to survive. With bravery and perseverance, FF Lawrence battled down the stairs, passed the extending fire through high heat and smoke, bringing the victim to safety in the street. He then transferred the woman to EMS personnel for transport to the hospital.

FF Lawrence’s quick and decisive actions under heavy fire conditions saved this civilian’s life. He put himself at risk by operating past and above extremely heavy fire conditions without the protection of a hose-line. The valor he displayed exemplifies the FDNY’s highest traditions of dedication and service. For his actions, FF Trevor R. Lawrence is recognized today with the Battalion Chief Frank T. Tuttlemondo Medal.—RB

Left to right, Lieutenant Sal Mirra and Firefighters Ahmed Artis, Trevor Lawrence, John Ostraticky, Todd Brenner (detailed from Ladder 176) and Joe Claravino.
The only use of an obstacle is to be overcome. All that an obstacle done with brave men is, not to frighten them, but to challenge them.—Woodrow Wilson.

As Firefighters in the Fire Department in the City of New York, members adapt and overcome in order to meet the objectives. And, they have no higher objective than saving their fellow man from a perilous fate, such as being trapped in a raging inferno with no way out. This is precisely how Probationary Firefighter Amir S. Francis, Ladder 43, carried out his duties on December 15, 2017.

At 0318 hours, Ladder 43 received a phone alarm, reporting a fire in a multiple dwelling in the Spanish Harlem section of Manhattan. On arrival, units observed heavy smoke emanating from the top floor of a six-story multiple dwelling. Ladder 43 then transmitted the signal 10-75.

At this time, the inside team of Ladder 43—consisting of Lieutenant Ryan MacDougall and FFs Francis with the irons and Osmar Martinez with the extinguisher, Engine 53—began a quick ascent to the top floor. En route, they received numerous reports from residents that occupants were, indeed, trapped inside the fire apartment.

After reaching the fire apartment, the inside team was met with heavy smoke coming from the apartment door. FF Francis then forced the apartment door. Entering the apartment, members were met with high heat and zero visibility. Conditions were deteriorating rapidly. The fire was extending from the living room into the entranceway, which was cutting off egress of the occupants from the rear bedrooms of the apartment.

Hearing faint cries for help, the inside team made their move. Without the protection of a charged hose-line, the members moved past the rapidly extending fire. Entering the first bedroom, one member discovered a mother and her four young children struggling to breathe. At this time, Lieutenant MacDougall and FF Martinez rescued the trapped occupants, shielding them using their own bodies, exiting past the fire to safety.

Simultaneously, FF Francis made his way to the second bedroom where he found another occupant, unconscious and injured. Time was critical and FF Francis transmitted a 10-45 to signal the need for additional resources to rapidly remove the victim. Ladder 43 Firefighter, Justin Pelka (detailed to Ladder 26), made his way into the apartment via the aerial ladder. Working together, the two Firefighters removed the victim past the now-advancing hose-line and down to waiting EMS units. Seven victims were removed from the fire apartment.

If not for the quick and decisive actions of FF Francis, the victim might not have recovered to be reunited with his family. For his bravery and selfless devotion to duty, Probationary Firefighter Amir S. Francis is awarded the Probationary Firefighter Thomas A. Wylie Medal.—SI
On Monday, September 4, 2017, the members of Ladder Company 137, under the command of recently promoted Lieutenant Joseph C. Costa, responded to a report of a fire in a three-story, three-family multiple dwelling in Rockaway Beach, Queens. At 0219 hours, with a remarkable response time of fewer than three minutes, the members of Ladder 137 arrived first-due in front of the building.

Dismounting their apparatus, Lieutenant Costa and his forcible entry team made their way toward the front of the building. The Officer observed a woman straddling a third-floor windowsill, attempting to lower her young child to the injured father, who had jumped from the same window just moments before. Considering the thick, black, turbulent, smoke billowing out and engulfing the panicked mother, Lieutenant Costa—at his first substantial fire as a Lieutenant—made a split-second decision to attempt a rescue from the interior.

With Engines 266 and 268 securing a positive water source and stretching the first attack line, Lieutenant Costa and his team entered the building and quickly accessed the interior stairs. Reaching the second-floor landing, the Lieutenant was met with an extremely high heat and heavy smoke condition from the advanced fire in possession of the second-floor apartment. Directing his forcible entry team to initiate a primary search of that floor under the supervision of the second-due engine Officer, Lieutenant Costa continued up the stairs, above the main body of fire, to push toward the location of the trapped mother and child dangling from the front window.

Recognizing the precarious and imminently perilous position that the mother and child were in, Lieutenant Costa blindly searched and found the unlocked apartment door. Entering with only his senses of touch and hearing, he felt his way in the direction of the trapped victim’s cries. He found and pulled the mother and child in from the ledge.

Shortly thereafter, Lieutenant Sean Hayden and the Ladder 121 forcible entry team arrived. With the assistance of Ladder 121’s extinguisher Firefighter holding back the growing fire in the stairway, the two Lieutenants worked in unison to carry—not only the mother and her youngest child—but two additional siblings they found, down the interior stairs. As they descended, the Officers used their bodies to shield the vulnerable victims from the intense flames extending into the stairway. After assuring the victims were safe outside and with the first hose-line now operating, but having difficulty quenching the large volume of fire, Lieutenant Costa rejoined his forcible entry team to complete their assigned duties.

In this very stubborn two-alarm fire, Lieutenant Joseph C. Costa jeopardized his own safety, passing and ascending above a heavily involved fire with extension into the stairway, to search, locate and remove a woman and her three young children from the fate of severe injury or death. In doing so, he displayed superior decision-making and valor in the finest traditions of the FDNY. For these reasons, he is presented with the Dr. John F. Connell Medal.—SM
On March 16, 2017, at 0535 hours, Ladder 35 was assigned first-due to Box 0945 for a phone alarm, report of fire. While responding to the address within the upper west side of Manhattan, the Manhattan Fire Dispatcher transmitted additional information of children trapped in a first-floor apartment.

Arriving on-scene, Ladder 35’s members encountered an unexpected obstacle: a construction shed and platform scaffolding that surrounded the building. FF Victor D. Viola, assigned the outside vent position, dismounted the apparatus and removed a 20-foot portable ladder in order to gain access to windows venting smoke. Proper ladder placement was difficult due to large mounds of packed snow from the previous day’s snowstorm/nor’easter.

Ladder 4’s FF Aaron Clark arrived on-scene and assisted FF Viola in positioning the ladder. After ascending the ladder and mounting the platform, FF Viola quickly approached the window. He observed a person’s hand trying to pull material away from an air-conditioning unit that was blocking the window. Reassuring the trapped victim, FF Viola forcibly removed the unit from the window. This action allowed high heat and thick smoke to vent through the opening.

FF Viola then reached down and lifted the semiconscious female through the window and out onto the platform floor. Passing the woman off to FF Clark, FF Viola entered the window to perform a search for the reported trapped children. Inside the apartment, he teamed up with Ladder 35’s covering Officer, Lieutenant Michael Killeen (Engine 23) and Ladder 35’s FF William Beck with the extinguisher. Encountering heavy, black smoke and no visibility in the rear bedroom, Lieutenant Killeen ordered FF Beck to vent the windows.

Members of Rescue 1—FFs Dan Hyland and Kevin Kroth—joined the search and located a young boy. Transmitting a 10-45, FFs Viola and Hyland then removed the victim from the fire apartment and quickly carried him to a waiting ambulance. Additional victims, including a young girl and a woman, also were removed from the apartment and transported to the hospital. All of these actions were performed without a charged hose-line in place.

FF Victor D. Viola’s efforts and determination in the role he played in the successful removal of multiple victims are acknowledged today with the Fire Bell Club Medal.—WS
Rescue 1 was assigned to Box 27 for a report of a man in the water, 250 feet south of Old Slip. While en route, company members heard Ladder 15 report that they had a confirmed person in the water and that they had deployed a rescue swimmer.

FF Timothy B. O’Neill was the primary diver in Rescue 1 on this tour, so he started donning a dry suit and SCUBA gear, preparing for a dive operation in case the surface rescue was unsuccessful. On arrival, Rescue 1 members learned the victim had gone under the water. An eyewitness pinpointed the location where the victim slipped under the water for Lieutenant John Tobin, Rescue 1. The Officer ordered FF O’Neill to prepare for entry, which he did, after donning his remaining gear and performing a safety check.

FF O’Neill was forced to climb over a four-foot railing in full dive gear (approximately 80 lbs.) at the water’s edge and then make a 15-foot drop to the water. It would have been extremely dangerous to jump blindly into the water, so it was decided that FF O’Neill should be lowered down by a rope. A rope was attached to FF O’Neill’s dive harness. Lieutenant Tobin used his personal harness, took four turns with the rope on his hook and laid on the ground where he was able to lower FF O’Neill to the river in a controlled manner.

Once in the river, FF O’Neill swam on his back 60 feet out to the point of operation and prepared to descend to the bottom. Once on the bottom of the river, with no visibility, FF O’Neill determined he was in 20-foot-deep water. The Firefighter began a fan pattern search and swam 100 feet to his right.

FF O’Neill was being tethered by FF James Lee, Rescue 1. He stopped FF O’Neill, pulled him in and then had him swim 100 feet to his right. This process was repeated four times. On the fourth pass, FF O’Neill found a male victim lying facedown on the river bottom. FF O’Neill communicated to FF Lee that he had found the victim and was preparing to surface. The rescuer grabbed the unconscious male in a bear hug and inflated his buoyancy compensator vest in order to bring him to the surface. Once on the surface, FF O’Neill kept his arms around the victim and swam 20 feet to a police boat, where he handed the victim over to waiting NYPD officers. The victim was given resuscitative measures.

Of note, FF O’Neill was conducting his searches underwater in zero visibility, while NYPD divers simultaneously were conducting a parallel operation in the same area. This complicated an already hazardous rescue as the two divers came very close to each other on two passes while searching along the river bottom.

For his brave actions rescuing a submerged victim (who ultimately expired) from the East River—in less than ideal conditions—FF Timothy B. O’Neill is awarded the Firefighter David J. DeFranco Medal.—AP
Bureau of Fire Investigation (BFI) members know from experience that arson is directly linked to loss of life or serious injury to civilian and Firefighter alike. When considering possible motives associated with arson, the mixture of domestic violence and drug activity can be a deadly combination, one that demonstrates a clear and depraved indifference to human life. Such fires often are planned carefully and cloaked in secrecy, making apprehension especially challenging.

In the Corona section of Queens, most residents had gone to sleep long before midnight on December 29, 2016. At 0221 hours, they awoke in terror to discover that fire was advancing rapidly through a private house in the middle of the block.

Engine 325 and Ladder 163 Firefighters and Battalion 49 responded quickly to the 911 calls, reporting fire in a private dwelling. This was the second fire within several hours at the same address; the earlier fire was an arson that failed to develop. Thick, black smoke permeated the night air. As they pulled into the block, panicked civilians filled the street. The units made an aggressive attack on the fire and searched for occupants.

The BFI dispatched Fire Marshals from the Citywide North Command to conduct an investigation. Fire Marshals Phillip Chun and Brian Lebow responded. Fire operations still were underway. FM Chun, working with other members of the BFI, initiated an investigative canvass of the scene to evaluate factors that might need prompt attention and identify potential investigative leads requiring further development.

In the fire building, FM Chun’s forensic examination of the fire scene uncovered evidence, resulting in a determination that the fire was of “incendiary” origin—the result of arson. A number of items, including a lighter fluid container, were sent to the crime lab for testing of DNA and fingerprints. With the crime of arson established, FM Chun initiated a multi-layered investigation, focused on developing leads and sources of information. It was also a priority to work with community members to establish relationships and ensure safety for all.

FM Chun identified a suspect and determined the motive for the arson to be associated with domestic violence and narcotics activity. Investigation tracked the lighter fluid container to the point of purchase—a nearby store—and the suspect was captured on store security cameras making the purchase a short time prior to the fire. FM Chun’s comprehensive investigation also uncovered additional connective evidence that linked the suspect to the arson. With the facts and circumstances of the crime established, FM Chun organized an arrest plan, then set out to hunt and apprehend this violent felony offender. He located the suspect and placed him under arrest.

During the next several months, FM Chun worked with prosecutors from the Office of the District Attorney on issues pertaining to case enhancement, evidence presentation and witness development, resulting in an array of charges that included arson and reckless endangerment.

This is a significant investigation and prosecution brought to a successful conclusion by a highly valued member of the Fire Department. FM Chun, committed to excellence, demonstrated the initiative and resourcefulness found only in the most dedicated law enforcement professionals. For these reasons, FM Phillip Chun is awarded the Deputy Commissioner Christine R. Godek Medal.—JDL
In the early-morning hours of June 1, 2017, the alarm tones sounded in the quarters of Engine 284/Ladder 149. The units were responding to a phone alarm for a reported structural fire with people trapped in the Dyker Heights area of Brooklyn. In fewer than three minutes from the initial alarm notification, Engine 247 arrived and Lieutenant Louis Esposito transmitted the 10-75.

Shortly thereafter, Ladder 149 arrived on-scene and Captain Christopher Kane and Probationary FFs Dominic DiBiase with the extinguisher and Christopher Rossi with the irons performed their appropriate size-up. They noticed smoke and fire emanating from the basement (front) of a two-story brick building with window bars evident on the exposure #1 and #4 sides. Several frantic civilians were yelling that there were people trapped in the basement. Captain Kane noticed the entrance to the basement on the exposure #4 side and directed his inside team to follow him to that location.

Arriving at the basement entrance door, the inside team of Ladder 149 encountered smoke and high heat pushing from the stairway leading down to the fire apartment. They descended the stairway and arrived at the open basement apartment door, where they noticed fire advancing at the ceiling level toward them. Captain Kane ordered FF DiBiase to use his extinguisher in an attempt to hold back the fire, while he and FF Rossi entered the apartment to begin their search for the reported trapped civilians.

Just as FF DiBiase had expended the last drops of his extinguisher, he was notified by Lieutenant Esposito that the nozzle team was in place and ready to advance. Notifying Captain Kane of this information, FF DiBiase was instructed to begin his primary search along the left wall of the apartment. He crawled into the apartment through thick, acrid smoke and high heat while passing the fire, all without the protection of a charged hose-line. He quickly encountered a door that led to a bedroom. Entering the bedroom, FF DiBiase discovered a youngster, who was unconscious. He transmitted the appropriate 10-45 code and was instructed to remove the victim through the interior of the apartment. The nozzle team now was operating.

FF DiBiase then began the process of retracing his steps to the stairway leading up to the basement entrance door, all while shielding the victim with his own body through the steam and smoke. As FF DiBiase reached the top of the stairway and exited the basement into the side alley, he immediately began chest compressions on the young victim until he was relieved by FF Francesco Recchia, Engine 284. FF DiBiase then notified Captain Kane that he was going to re-enter the basement apartment to continue his primary search.

FF Dominic L. DiBiase was a very recent graduate of the Fire Academy when this heroic rescue took place. His courage and bravery were put to the test quickly on the night of June 1, 2017. His actions are a testament to his character, as well as his training, both at the Fire Academy and in the walls of Engine 284/Ladder 149. He exemplifies what the FDNY stands for and is presented with the Firefighter Kevin C. Kane Medal.—AC
On June 1, 2017, at 0220 hours, Ladder 149 received a run for a structural fire in the Dyker Heights section of Brooklyn. While en route, dispatchers informed them of a fire in a basement apartment with people trapped. Engine 247 arrived and gave a 10-75 for a fire in the basement of a two-story brick dwelling.

When Ladder 149 arrived, they were met by several frantic civilians yelling in broken English that a baby was trapped behind window bars in the basement. Captain Christopher Kane, Ladder 149, sized up the situation and found window bars on most of the basement windows and that access to the basement apartment was on the exposure #4 side of the building. Captain Kane and his inside team, which included Probationary FFs Dominic DiBiase with the extinguisher and Christopher Rossi with the irons, proceeded to the side doorway to access the basement.

The apartment’s access was down a set of stairs through the open apartment door. Ladder 149’s inside team was met by fire rolling along the ceiling toward the open door, with heavy smoke and heat venting up the stairs. As the first hose-line was being stretched, Captain Kane ordered FF DiBiase to use his extinguisher to hold back the fire originating from the far corner of the open living room/kitchen.

Captain Kane and FF Rossi got on their bellies and made a push to pass the fire to locate the missing occupants. The Officer made a left-hand search, followed by FF Rossi. Only six feet from the entrance stairs, a bedroom door was located. Captain Kane entered the bedroom on the left and ordered FF Rossi to perform a right-hand search. He closed the door, isolating themselves and any victims from the fire. FF Rossi crawled in about 10 feet in zero visibility and found an unconscious female, curled up in the corner of the room against a dresser. The FF, experiencing his first career 10-75, yelled out a 10-45 to Captain Kane. As the Officer made his way to assist FF Rossi, he discovered a baby just a foot from where FF Rossi had found the adult. Captain Kane transmitted the 10-45s to Battalion 40.

The fire still was raging on the other side of the closed bedroom door. Ladder 149’s outside vent Firefighter, FF Norris, used a saw and quickly removed the window bars on the basement windows. This gave Captain Kane and FF Rossi an opportunity to remove the two victims out of the fire apartment. FF Rossi had to lift the unconscious woman up from the floor, through a layer of heat and smoke to get her through the narrow, two- by three-foot window. FF Norris assisted FF Rossi in removing the victims from the bedroom and turning them over to EMS personnel for treatment.

FF Rossi is being awarded this Department Medal for his actions in saving an unconscious woman trapped in a cellar apartment. At the time of this fire, he had graduated from the Fire Academy only six weeks earlier. Relying on his training and bravery, FF Christopher Rossi’s actions continue the highest traditions of the FDNY. He is presented with the Captain John J. Drennan Memorial Medal.—AP

Firefighter Christopher Rossi (left), with crew members from Ladder 149, including Firefighter Dominic L. DiBiase, holding the child he rescued. Firefighter Rossi saved a woman from the same fire. Also shown are the youngster’s schoolmates.
Being an Emergency Medical Technician is a challenging career. An EMT is trained to be prepared for anything to happen; to think and act on his/her feet. EMTs respond to a wide variety of call types on a daily basis.

On the evening of April 14, 2017, EMT William T. Byrnes and his partner were sitting in their vehicle, monitoring their radio for their next assignment. At 1829 hours, they were dispatched to a “Jumper Up,” a call type that can present any number of possible scenarios. In this case, however, the caller stated that a young man was threatening to jump from the 18th floor of a building.

Arriving on-scene, EMT Byrnes and his partner cautiously entered the apartment, accompanied by NYPD officers. The patient’s friend greeted them. She explained that the patient was barricaded in his bedroom, sitting on the windowsill. He was distraught and had been threatening to jump out the window for the past two hours.

EMT Byrnes’ training kicked in and he immediately started to build a rapport with the patient. He could see the patient through an opening in the door as he conversed with the man. While EMT Byrnes remained in constant communication with the patient, his partner, EMT Theresa M. Murphy, and NYPD officers developed a safe plan to gain entry to the bedroom, which was partially blocked by a couch.

The patient changed position, moving to face outward, with one foot out the window and both hands clutching the outside walls of the building. At this point, EMT Byrnes swiftly raced toward the window and grabbed the patient, pulling him to safety.

In all likelihood, EMT Byrnes’ quick thinking, calm demeanor, outstanding communication skills and reflexive actions saved the patient’s life. His quick and decisive actions exemplify the highest FDNY traditions of dedication and service, making EMT William T. Byrnes a worthy recipient of the Jack Pintchik Medal.—RA
E very Firefighter knows that proper placement of the hose-line is essential at emergency operations. It is drilled into Probies from their first day at the Fire Academy and relied on daily by both Chiefs and company Officers. Also, when confronted by a major incident with multiple casualties and the possibility of secondary incidents, correct placement is vital. This edict could not have been better demonstrated by the actions of Engine 58 when they were directed to respond to an explosion and building collapse at Manhattan Box 1406 on March 12, 2014.

Working that overcast late winter morning at “The Fire Factory” were Captain Christopher S. Reginella and FFs Robert G. Canale, Christopher N. Spagnola, Christopher Brennan and Thomas M. Long, Jr. At 0931 hours, the alarms sounded in the 5th Avenue firehouse and the company was ordered to respond as first-due engine to a reported explosion and building collapse at Park Avenue and East 118th Street. The company arrived on-scene in approximately three and a half minutes and found an entire building had collapsed. Debris covered the street in front of exposure #1, with heavy fire along the side of exposure #2 and throughout the collapse area.

The members of Engine 58 immediately stretched a 1¾-inch line to the front of exposure #2 to protect Ladder 26 as they advanced on the collapse area. Within a few minutes, Ladder 26 exited the area and verbally informed Engine 58 that the primary search was negative and the damage was from an explosion. Engine 58 moved the hand-line to the front of exposure #1 to push back the fire (which showed signs of being gas-fed) that quickly was moving from front to rear of the collapse area. Simultaneously, a minor explosion occurred on the rubble pile, with fire extending upward. This information was transmitted to the Command Chief.

Because exposure #2 was heavily damaged by the explosion and heavy fire was consuming the north side of the building and roof, Engine 58 performed a second search for fire extension and victims inside the building, which proved negative. So the company moved back and continued to operate its hand-line.

During this period, exposure #2 was constantly monitored for signs of collapse since this was a concern and all responding units would be operating within the overall collapse area. Engine 58 then communicated to Engine 35 to stretch a 2½-inch line from their apparatus, which was positioned and operated on the collapse rubble of exposure #1 to push back the fire from the street. The company’s hand-line was repositioned several times to provide protection as fire continually erupted in pockets on the pile. During this period, a victim was found in the rubble near exposure #2. Engine 58’s line was moved again to protect members working to remove this victim while the gas-fed fire continued to burn behind them.

Engine 58’s apparatus was positioned outside the collapse zone and connected to a hydrant on the corner of 116th Street and Park Avenue. This allowed two hand-lines to be used during the initial operation. However, as operations continued, it was discovered that this hydrant was supplied from a water main that was leaking in front of the collapse area and might undermine the street. Therefore, the main was shut down. The company, working with Engine 79, worked to supply the satellite’s manifold and brought down the lines separately in order to continually put water on the fire.

In his report of the incident, Deputy Chief Anthony De Vita, Division 3, noted, “…Engine 58 members risked life and limb to save any viable victims with aggressive hand-line operations and protection of exposures from the spread of fire.” To honor their efforts, the Fire Department of the City of New York recognizes the members of Engine 58 today with the Lt. James Curran/NYFFs Burn Center Foundation Medal/Father Julian F. Deeken Memorial Medal.
On September 8, 2017, at 0334 hours, Engine 302 responded first-due to Box 8897. As they reached the corner of the South Jamaica location, a heavy volume of fire was coming out the front window of a house halfway down the block.

Lieutenant Gregory S. Damato gave a 10-75 for a fire in a 2½-story, peaked-roof private dwelling. The Officer ordered his nozzle Firefighter, FF Kerron V. Ware, to drop two 1¾-inch lines and bring one to the front of the building. A frantic woman stated children were inside on the second floor. Ladder 155’s Officer transmitted this fact over the radio and proceeded to the front steps. The fire was so intense it not only prevented Ladder 155 from entering the building, but it was auto-exposing to the second floor and already had extended to the exterior of exposure #2.

After confirming that his nozzle team was ready, Lieutenant Damato ordered his ECC, FF Christopher Cavalcante, to start water. FF Cavalcante was not connected to a positive water source yet and supplied booster water. While the line was being charged, Lieutenant Damato ordered members to quickly sweep the front of the fire building and exposure #2. After a few seconds, Engine 302 aggressively pushed into the first floor and quickly advanced through clutter, knocking down heavy fire to allow Ladder 155 to get to the second floor.

As soon as the line reached the foot of the staircase leading to the second floor, Lieutenant Damato felt the Ladder 155 inside team push past and quickly ascend the stairs despite the high heat and zero visibility. Engine 302 was still on booster water, but continued advancing deeper on the first floor. When FF Cavalcante stated they were on a positive water source, the nozzle team continued extinguishment of the back room. He then dropped back on the line to assure no pockets of fire had flared up behind them and met up with the control Firefighter, FF James R. Terry (detailed from Ladder 155), at the base of the stairs. At this location, members of Ladder 155 were heard struggling to remove multiple 10-45s down the stairs. Lieutenant Damato instructed FF Terry to assist with victim removal.

With the rear room now knocked down and no second line available, Engine 302 pushed to the second floor. However, this action was delayed due to another victim coming down the stairs. With only nozzle and backup FFs available, Lieutenant Damato instructed his backup Firefighter, FF Christopher M. Armstrong, to aid in the removal of the second victim. As Lieutenant Damato reached the second floor, fire was extending from the front bedroom into the hallway. With no time to spare, Engine 302 quickly assisted with freeing the third victim so Ladder 155’s outside vent FF could remove her down the stairs. FF Ware started to stretch the hose by himself to the second floor after the victim passed him.

With all three victims safely out of the building, all members of Engine 302 re-entered the building. The line was advanced through the second floor to extinguish fire in the front room. Battalion 51 reported heavy, black smoke issuing under pressure from the attic and ordered members out of that location. Engine 302 knew that Ladder 155’s chauffeur was in the attic and advanced their line to protect his position. Once in the attic, Engine 302 was met with heavy fire.

All members of Engine 302 worked under extremely dangerous conditions, operating tirelessly to effectively enable the removal of trapped civilians. Not only did they extinguish three floors of fire, but they also were integral in assisting the members of Ladder 155 in the removal of multiple victims. The members of Engine 302 used initiative and teamwork to safely accomplish their tasks, most of which were performed unassisted by additional units. For these reasons, Engine Company 302 is awarded the Lieutenant James Curran/New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal.—RL
At 1510 hours on Tuesday, October 31, 2017, the members of Squad 18 were in quarters at their West Village firehouse when the tones sounded, dispatching them to Box 114 for a confirmed pin between a truck and a school bus. Exiting quarters and heading toward the West Side Highway, Squad 18 Lieutenant Adrienne M. Walsh and Firefighters Sheldon L. George (Squad 1), Richard T. Naviasky, Brian T. Roberts, Sky O. Shepard and Santos Torres, Jr., noticed the increased radio traffic on the Manhattan frequency, as well as additional information of shots fired and an active shooter incident.  

Now on the West Side Highway and responding toward the scene, the radio traffic grew to an overwhelming intensity. The Officer and members observed several bikes lying about on the bike path when they were flagged down by a frantic police officer. Still five blocks away from the assigned Box, Lieutenant Walsh ordered the chauffeur, FF Roberts, to stop the rig.  

Exiting the cab, the police officer informed Lieutenant Walsh of numerous victims strewn about on the bike path. Racing toward the victims, she told the Squad 18 members to collectively bring all their medical equipment. She performed a quick initial triage and radioed FF Roberts, instructing him to call the dispatcher, inform the Communications Office of numerous victims and have multiple ambulances respond for this mass casualty incident (MCI). FF Roberts continued constant communication with the dispatcher, providing updates on the Manhattan incident. Additionally, Squad 18 was informed that a truck had been driven down the bike bath.  

FFs Torres, Shepard, Naviasky and George quickly moved to the bike path and began assessing the victims and providing medical care, while Lieutenant Walsh continued triage. FF Naviasky joined Lieutenant Walsh to provide a tourniquet when she discovered a severely injured, but conscious, man. FF Naviasky began patient assessment, learning that he was seriously injured due to the truck’s impact. FF Naviasky administered oxygen, while he packed the victim’s wounds.  

FF George assisted with providing care to the trauma victims, particularly to one victim who suffered a severe head injury. FFs Torres and Shepard placed a tourniquet on a female victim, successfully stopping the bleeding. The two Firefighters then packaged the victim and when EMS personnel arrived, they loaded her onto the ambulance and passed care off to them.  

With no time to rest, the two Firefighters proceeded up the bike path, continuously performing a rapid visual triage. At this time, several EMS units arrived, so they continued assisting EMS in providing trauma care, rescue breathing when needed and assisting FF Naviasky in trying to keep his male victim alive. FFs Naviasky and Torres staffed the ambulance so the EMT could continue care in the ambulance while en route to the emergency room. Squad 18 members exhibited the true meaning of teamwork, as they worked seamlessly with members from Rescue 1, EMS, NYPD and Port Authority Police.  

For their courage, perseverance and dedication to patient care for eight critically injured victims, the Fire Department, City of New York, is proud to honor Squad 18 members, Lieutenant Adrienne M. Walsh and FFs Sheldon L. George (Squad 1), Richard T. Naviasky, Brian T. Roberts, Sky O. Shepard and Santos Torres, Jr., with the Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Medal.

FDNY members consult about tactics regarding terrorist incident. Photo by Steve Spak
The tones rang out at 0318 hours on December 15, 2017, for Manhattan Box 75-1347. As Ladder 43 raced toward East 112th Street, Ladder 43 members geared up. On arrival, Lieutenant Ryan MacDougall observed smoke pouring from windows on the top floor of this six-story multiple dwelling. The 10-75 was transmitted and Ladder 43 members sprang into action.

Lieutenant MacDougall and his inside team—Probationary FF Amir S. Francis with the irons and FF Osmar Martinez (Engine 53)—raced to the top floor. On their way up the stairs, panicked occupants scurried past them, advising that people were trapped on the top floor. The Officer was hearing reports over his handie-talkie that people were screaming from windows on the top floor.

Reaching the top-floor landing, Lieutenant MacDougall observed smoke pushing from around the door frame of the fire apartment. Lieutenant MacDougall ordered his men to force the door. Once done, visibility in the hallway dropped to zero. Thick, black smoke enveloped the forcible entry team. The safest approach was to wait for a hose-line, but people inside the apartment screaming for help drove his team to start the search without a protective line.

Once inside the apartment, the Lieutenant and forcible entry Firefighters were pushed back by fire pouring from the living room in front of them. Lieutenant MacDougall ordered his team to use the extinguisher to push the fire back as best they could. Once accomplished, Lieutenant MacDougall and his team crawled past the fire and began their search.

Simultaneously, FF Robert A. Perrone, roof Firefighter, advised the Lieutenant that he had made contact with victims at a rear bedroom window and planned to initiate a roof rope rescue. FF Miguel Diaz, Jr., outside vent Firefighter, went to the roof to assist.

It became apparent that an interior rescue was the more prudent operation. Via radio, FF Perrone then guided the inside team to the location of the victims, who he implored to stay calm and wait for the interior team to get them. FFs Andrew E. Hawkins and Diaz responded to the fire floor to assist with the inside search.

As Lieutenant MacDougall and FF Martinez entered the first bedroom, they found a mother and four small children, choking in the acrid smoke. The pair grabbed the children, shielding them from the pulsing fire still burning in the living room, and carried them out to the hallway to members who administered first aid. Lieutenant MacDougall and FF Martinez returned to the apartment, searched another bedroom and found a young boy and his dog. The rescuers cradled them both in their arms and shielded them from the expanding fire as they made their way to the hallway.

While Lieutenant MacDougall and FF Martinez were effecting these rescues, FF Francis pushed deeper into the apartment. When he reached the rear bedroom, he found the still body of an adult male, collapsed beneath a window and overcome by smoke. He saw that the victim was bleeding, apparently cut while trying to escape via the window. FF Francis transmitted a 10-45 and requested help. He started dragging the man toward the hallway and the surging fire. As he reached the bedroom door, FF Justin Pelka, Ladder 43 (detailed to Ladder 26 for the tour), entered the window via aerial ladder. Together, they dragged the unconscious man to the hallway, past Engine 91 now advancing their hose-line, and to waiting CFR units and EMS resources.

Due to the diligence and bravery of the Ladder 43 members, all seven members of this family were pulled to safety and a true tragedy was avoided. The members of Ladder 43 and Engines 53 and 91 wanted to do something special for this family, whose father was still in the hospital for Christmas. They purchased Christmas presents for the children. Besides healing the family physically, these members helped heal the family emotionally. For their efforts, the above-listed members of Ladder 43 are presented with the World Trade Center Memorial Medal.—CB
SERVICE RATING A

FF Mark E. Ackerman, L-155
FF Todd J. Brenner, L-176
Lt. Joseph C. Costa, Bn-50
FF Brian D. Cross, L-120
FF Christian Daley, L-44
FF Weaver Debe, R-4
Capt. Charles W. DeMartini, L-61
FF Dominic L. DiBiase, L-149
Capt. Daniel C. Floreno, L-103
FF Amir S. Francis, L-109

SERVICE RATING B

FF Michael Guidera, L-109
Lt. Sean P. Hayden, L-121
FF Kenneth Johnson, Jr., L-176
FF Kenneth Johnson, Jr., L-176
Capt. Christopher E. Kane, L-149
FF Kevin G. Kroth, R-1
FF Trevor R. Lawrence, L-120
Lt. Victor S. Leeber E-38
FF Erik A. Lubmiewski, L-39
FF Giovanni A. Martinez, R-4

FF Robert L. McGuinness, R-4
FF William S. Murak, L-21
FF Paul D. Pace, L-109
FF Henry S. Rider, L-151
FF Christopher Rossi, L-149
FF Joseph M. Russo, L-49
FF Timothy J. Stack, L-35
FF Victor D. Viola, L-35
FF Sean P. White, L-37

UNIT CITATIONS

Auto Fraud Squad
January 1, 2017, Box 0931

Auto Fraud Squad
January 12, 2017, Box 1941

Special Investigations Unit
February 12, 2017, Box 0482

Citywide North Command
March 22, 2017, Box 6021

Citywide South Command
April 14, 2017, Box 2459

Special Investigations Unit
April 15, 2017, Box 2592

Citywide South Command
May 14, 2017, Box 0263

Auto Fraud Squad
May 28, 2017, Box 0297

Citywide South Command
June 8, 2017, Box 3535

Fireworks Task Force
June 22, 2017, Box 2865

Special Investigations Unit
July 5, 2017, Box 4185

CWN/SIU Task Force
July 25, 2017, Box 2088

CWN/SIU Task Force
July 31, 2017, Box 7551

Auto Fraud Squad
August 14, 2017, Box 2458

Special Investigations Unit
September 9, 2017, Box 2063

CWS/K9 Unit/SIU Task Force
September 22, 2017, Box 0456
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**UNIT CITATIONS**

Fire Department, City of New York • Medal Day 2018
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<td>Engine Company 308, March 12 and 17</td>
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<td>APRIL 2017</td>
<td>Engine Company 4, April 27</td>
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<td>Engine Company 235, April 2 and 4</td>
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<td>Engine Company 275, April 6</td>
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<td>Engine Company 283, April 7 and 13</td>
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<td>MAY 2017</td>
<td>Engine Company 7, two saves on May 5</td>
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<td>Engine Company 16, May 28</td>
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<td>JUNE 2017</td>
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<td>JULY 2017</td>
<td>Engine Company 45, July 24</td>
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<td>Engine Company 240, July 9</td>
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CFR-D PRE-HOSPITAL SAVE COMMENDATIONS

Engine Company 243, July 4
Engine Company 245, July 26
Engine Company 246, July 1
Engine Company 254, July 18
Engine Company 255, July 17
Engine Company 257, July 3 and 27
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AUGUST 2017
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Engine Company 9, September 15
Engine Company 34, September 19
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Engine Company 227, September 1
Engine Company 231, September 15

OCTOBER 2017
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Engine Company 81, October 6
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Squad Company 61, October 12

NOVEMBER 2017
Engine Company 10, November 29
Engine Company 14, November 28
Engine Company 16, November 15
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Engine Company 92, November 26
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Engine Company 243, November 12
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Engine Company 254, November 22 and 28
Engine Company 263, November 19
Engine Company 276, November 7
Engine Company 290, November 17
Engine Company 291, November 7
Engine Company 303, November 30
Engine Company 306, November 28
Engine Company 308, November 13
Engine Company 326, November 24

DECEMBER 2017
Engine Company 44, December 20
Engine Company 60, December 21
Engine Company 64, December 31
Engine Company 76, December 7
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Engine Company 82, December 17
Engine Company 83, December 22
Engine Company 161, December 28
Engine Company 162, December 15
Engine Company 210, December 11
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Engine Company 239, December 13 and 29
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Engine Company 253, December 20
Engine Company 277, December 23
Engine Company 281, December 17
Engine Company 286, December 10 and 26
Engine Company 290, December 27
Engine Company 295, December 25
Engine Company 307, December 3
Engine Company 309, December 7
Engine Company 310, December 25
Engine Company 325, December 22
Squad Company 61, December 27
EMT Samuel Belton  (2)
Lieutenant Jarred Beitel
Paramedic Ohnesto Batalla
Lieutenant Brendan Bass  (2)
EMT Libby Basquez
Captain Kevin Barwick
Lieutenant Sereste Barton-Hossanah  (2)
Paramedic Brandon Adams  (5)
Paramedic Antonio Adorno
Lieutenant Juan Aguirre
EMT Azzedin Ahmed
EMT Hasnie Almattaj
EMT Gregory Aimable
Lieutenant Richard Alicia  (2)
EMT Cossai Alkhatib
Paramedic Daniel Almandoz  (2)
Lieutenant Anthony Almogera
Lieutenant Bridget Alvarez
Paramedic Luis Alvarez
Lieutenant Lawrence Anderson
Paramedic Samuel Andrews  (2)
Paramedic Christopher Ang  (2)
EMT Natalie Apollon
EMT Eric Archer
EMT Corey Arnnemann
Paramedic Joseph Arnold  (2)
EMT Elizabeth Arnold-Coomansingh
Lieutenant Robert Atkins
Paramedic Francisco Avalos
Paramedic Carlos Avellaneda
EMT Efan Avilhyde
Paramedic Miguel Ayala Florez
EMT Sharon Aziz
Lieutenant Barbara Aziz-Lopez
EMT Maria Azzinaro
Lieutenant Chantel Bacoct
Paramedic Lancia Bailey-Hooper  (2)
Paramedic Michele Baiocco
EMT Daniel Baltazar
Paramedic Cedric Banton
EMT Kelvin Baptiste
Paramedic Matthew Barbella
Lieutenant Anthony Bartolomey
Paramedic Matthew Barton-Hossanah
Lieutenant Sereste Barton-Hossanah  (2)
Captain Kevin Barwick
EMT Libby Basquez
Lieutenant Brendan Bass  (2)
Lieutenant Moses Bastien
Paramedic Ohnesto Batalla
Lieutenant James Becker
Lieutenant William Bedoya
Lieutenant Jarred Beitel
EMT Steven Belmont
EMT Samuel Belton  (2)
EMT John Beltram
Paramedic Jacqueline Benel  (2)
EMT Steven Benigno
EMT Dorothy Bennick
EMT Brandon Bentley  (2)
EMT John Benton
Paramedic Yehezkel Ben Yaakov
EMT Trudy Bermudez
EMT Jaime Bernard
Paramedic Jennifer Berrios
Lieutenant Victor Berrios
Paramedic David Besemer
EMT Kyle Best  (2)
Paramedic Jonathan Billian
EMT Kelly Billingiere
Paramedic Heather Bingham
EMT Tyler Bioso
EMT Pietro Bizzarro
Lieutenant Tnai Blades
EMT Anthony Blain
EMT Matthew Blewitt  (2)
Paramedic Kerrin Bliksa
EMT Aline Bocanegra  (2)
Paramedic Peter Bockwoldt
EMT Monsurat Bold
Paramedic James Bolger
EMT Christopher Boll
Lieutenant Richard Bonet  (2)
Captain Mark Bonilla
Lieutenant Darryl Boooodoo  (2)
EMT Ryan Boone  (2)
Lieutenant Frank Borelo  (2)
Lieutenant Peter Borriello
Paramedic Christopher Bossart
EMT John Bottoone
Lieutenant Kelly Boulter  (3)
EMT Onisiro Boyce
Paramedic Carrie Boyd
Lieutenant Schyler Boyd  (2)
Deputy Chief Tonya Boyd  (2)
EMT John Bradke
Lieutenant Michael Bradshaw  (2)
Lieutenant Barbara Brady  (2)
EMT Jesse Branch
EMT Sherwin Brathwaite
Paramedic Jennifer Bravo  (2)
Paramedic Scheidell Brent
EMT Jacqueline Briggs
Lieutenant Andrew Brock
Paramedic Keisha Brockington
Paramedic Arthur Bronshiey  (3)
EMT Lizaeth Brooks
Paramedic Bruce Brown
Paramedic Bruce Brown
Paramedic Cleo Brown
Paramedic Madelyn Brown
EMT Shanece Brown
EMT Robert Brucocleri
Lieutenant Louis Brunk
EMT Kelvin Bruno
Paramedic Lauren Bryan
EMT Joseph Bubrowieki
Lieutenant Daniel Burgos  (5)
EMT Mary Burk
Paramedic Jefferye Burke
EMT Thomas Burke  (2)
EMT Lucas Burkovich
Paramedic Alexis Butermank
EMT Eric Byrd  (2)
EMT Michael Byrne
Lieutenant Giovanni Caballero  (2)
Lieutenant Ralph Cabello  (2)
Paramedic Christll Cadet
EMT Yitzchok Cagan
Lieutenant Steven Caggiano
EMT Philip Cagney  (2)
Captain Gilbert Caicedo
Lieutenant Giovanna Caldarrella  (2)
EMT Angel Camacho
EMT Julio Camargo
Paramedic Zaithe Camejo
EMT Michelle Campbell
Paramedic Cassandra Campollo  (2)
Lieutenant Gene Canel  (2)
Lieutenant Jerry Cange
Lieutenant Robert Carlo
Paramedic James Carlson  (2)
EMT Patrick Carney
Paramedic Vincent Carrano
Lieutenant Mark Carroll  (3)
Paramedic Dustin Carter  (2)
Paramedic Jaquen Carter
EMT Sergio Cacof (2)
EMT Sven Casey
EMT Jeremy Casey
Paramedic Diana Cassa
Deputy Chief Kevin Cassidy
EMT Joseph Castelli
EMT Ryan Castles  (2)
Paramedic Lee Castro  (2)
Paramedic Laura Catucci  (5)
Paramedic Marcos Cavallio
EMT Charles Cedeno
Lieutenant Steven Celestri  (3)
Lieutenant Cemal Cengiz
Paramedic Joel Cerieriz
Lieutenant Jorge Chalen
Paramedic David Chambers  (2)
Paramedic Rojay Chambers  (3)
Paramedic Chin Shan Chan
Paramedic Chris Chan  (2)
Lieutenant Marvin Chan  (2)
Paramedic Stephen Chang
Lieutenant Charles Chapman
EMT Michael Charles  (3)
Lieutenant Ruth Chavez
Paramedic Zhen Chen  (2)
EMT Dianelys Chibas
EMT Mister Chishom
Paramedic Nazbi Chowdhury
EMT Stephen Choy
EMT Corey Christian
EMT Todd Cinetti  (3)
Lieutenant David Cira
EMT Sandou Cisse
EMT Keith Clark
Captain Lizzette Cmaro  (5)
EMT Shaun Clouse  (2)
Lieutenant Ryan Clunes  (2)
EMT Scott Cohan
Lieutenant Dwayne Cole  (3)
EMT Abel Collado
EMT Emmanuel Collado
Paramedic Andres Coll Martinez
EMT Nathanael Colon
Paramedic Weber Compere
EMT Julio Contreras  (2)
Paramedic David Cook
Paramedic Owen Coone
Paramedic Henry Corero
Lieutenant Nicholas Cordova  (2)
EMT Thomas Corona
Captain Luis Corrales
Lieutenant Gary Cortes
Paramedic Jason Costello
Paramedic Kevin Costello  (4)
Paramedic Jillian Cox  (2)
EMT Zache Cox
Lieutenant Anthony Corozzo  (4)
EMT Patrick Creeden  (2)
Paramedic James Cricittiu
EMT Alexander Crispin
Paramedic James Crispino
Paramedic Yeny Cruz
EMT Raymond Cubas
EMT John Cuccio
EMT Graciel Cucua De Leon
Paramedic Michael Cumberbatch  (2)
EMT Nevin Cummings, Jr.
EMT Patrick Cunningham
EMT Peter Curcio
EMT David Curling
EMT Peter Curry  (2)
Lieutenant Timothy Cusack  (2)
Lieutenant Michael Daddona  (5)
EMT Nicholas Damante
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Lieutenant Jonathan Damato (2)
Paramedic John Dandrea
EMT Rheinhold Dangla
EMT Gary D’Aquilla
Lieutenant LaToya Darden
Lieutenant Kevin Darnowski
Paramedic Sencia Datilus
EMT Christopher Debonet (3)
Lieutenant James DeDonato (2)
EMT Dominick Defranco
Lieutenant Jesus Deinocentiis (3)
Paramedic Gonzalo De Jesus (2)
Paramedic Leslie Delahoz (2)
Lieutenant William Delaney (3)
Paramedic Karel Delgado
Lieutenant Michael DeMarco (2)
Lieutenant Michael Dennehy
EMT Adrian Dennis (2)
EMT Peter Dernody (5)
Lieutenant Fredric DeSarno (3)
Lieutenant Louis Devino (3)
EMT Thomas Devoti (2)
EMT Nicholas Diaz
EMT Jonathan Dilan
Lieutenant Patrick Dillon
Captain John Paul Dimen
Paramedic Trinh Dinh (6)
EMT Joseph Dinovelli-Lang
EMT Andrew Dolgin (2)
Paramedic Justin Donaldson (2)
Paramedic George Dorencus
EMT Stewart Doriano
EMT Brandon Dorsa
EMT Gregory Dotson, II
EMT Michael Dougherty
Lieutenant Erin Doyle
EMT Elizabeth Driscoll
EMT Kevin Drudy (2)
EMT Douglas Drumgo
Lieutenant Steven Dubin (2)
Lieutenant William Dunkclke (2)
EMT Seleana Dunton-Muhammad
Paramedic Michael Dussauau
Paramedic Bryan Easop (2)
EMT Daniel Eberlien
EMT Christopher Echevarria
EMT Ryan Edgar
Paramedic Wayne Edgar
EMT Ethan Edrich
Lieutenant laTrice Edwards
Paramedic Shakeya Edwards
Paramedic Chanry Ek (2)
Lieutenant Wa-II Eldahry (8)
EMT Danny Elvy
EMT Sean Emanuel
EMT Jasmine Emile
Lieutenant John Emington (3)
EMT Kevin Emmanuel
EMT Thomas Eng
EMT Kevin Ensuncho
Paramedic Liana Espinal
Paramedic Julio Espinoza (2)
EMT Sebastian Espinoza
EMT Dionner Espiritu
Lieutenant Albert Estrada
EMT Fatima Estrada
Lieutenant Aron Ezagui
EMT Ashley Farley
EMT Kem Farmer
EMT Darchay Farnum (2)
Captain Robert Fasseta
EMT Vincent Federici
EMT Melissa Feliz
Lieutenant Alexander Gomez
Lieutenant Sergio Gonzales
Lieutenant Andre Gonzalez
Paramedic Edwin Gonzalez (2)
Paramedic Enrique Gonzalez
EMT Joshua Gonzalez (2)
EMT Luis Gonzalez (3)
Paramedic Raymond Gonzalez
EMT David Goodman
EMT Daryl Goodridge
EMT Diana Gordon
EMT Michael Gorgano
EMT Traveo Goulbourne
EMT Shaun Graham (2)
EMT Kimberly Grandel
EMT Michael Grant
EMT William Graziano
Paramedic Alvero Green
EMT Thomas Greene (2)
Lieutenant David Greendige
Paramedic Jason Greibesland
Lieutenant Jeremy Griffel (3)
Lieutenant Jay Griffin
Paramedic Glenroy Griffith (2)
EMT Nicole Grilli
Paramedic Noel Grimaudo (2)
EMT Christos Groutas (3)
Paramedic Barry Gruenbaun (3)
EMT Kamil Gryzmala (2)
Lieutenant Charles Gschlecht
Paramedic Sheng Gu
EMT Nicholas Guasp
EMT Kayle Gudge
EMT Kelley Gumbs (2)
Paramedic Bryant Gutierrez (4)
Lieutenant Luis Gutierrez (2)
Paramedic Lydia Gutnick
EMT Stephen Gutmann (2)
EMT Cecil Guy
Lieutenant Nancy Gwillym
Paramedic Lana Hagai
Paramedic Christopher Hagemann
Paramedic Michael Haggerty
EMT Sharona Hagler
EMT Steven Hajny
Paramedic Andrew Haley
Lieutenant Elise Hanlon (2)
Paramedic Lorena Hanton
Paramedic Michael Hargett
EMT Reem Harrison
EMT Robert Hart
EMT Omar Harvey (3)
EMT Tramaine Harvey
Paramedic Kimberly Hattan
EMT Noel Haughton
Lieutenant Kristal Hayes
Paramedic James Hayter
Paramedic Christian Henn
EMT Douglas Henihan
EMT Daniel Henning
Paramedic Juan Henriquez
Paramedic Amanda Henry
EMT Carey Henry
EMT Tyan Henry
EMT Brendon Hernandez
Paramedic Cristobal Hernandez
EMT Ezequiel Hernandez (3)
Paramedic John Hernandez (2)
Paramedic Ocean Herrera
EMT Joshua Herrmann
EMT Shaine Hicks (2)
EMT Austin Higley (2)
Paramedic Luke Hill
EMT Daniel Hines
Paramedic Walter Hochbrueckner
EMT James Hoffman (2)
Paramedic Jared Hoglund
Paramedic Shoshana Holzbergpill (2)
Paramedic Chaundel Homer (3)
EMT Fanzi Honore
Paramedic Michael Hood
Captain Paul Hopper
EMT Carlos Hosannah
Paramedic Andry Hrycky (3)
Paramedic Joseph Hudak (3)
Paramedic Smith Hugh, II
EMT Donald Hunker
EMT Harry Hunt
EMT Dwayne Hurley
EMT Alan Hurtado
EMT Michael Hy
Lieutenant Bruce Hydock
EMT David Ianelli
Paramedic Justin Imburgia
Paramedic Eric Ingram (2)
EMT Mikhail Iskhakov
EMT Anthony Italiano
EMT Edward Jablonowski (2)
Lieutenant Matt Jachyra
Paramedic Ariana Jackson
EMT Daniel Jakubowski
EMT Mohammed Jalloh
Paramedic Dennis Jamieson
EMT Charles Jamison
EMT Samuel Jaroslawicz
Paramedic Dukens Jean-Baptiste
EMT Rocky Jean-Baptiste
Paramedic Malcolm Jenkins
Lieutenant Rock Latoya
Lieutenant Terence Lau
Paramedic Adrian Lazar (3)
Lieutenant Jason Lazar (2)
EMT Leonard Leap
EMT Johnathon Leavy
Lieutenant Kevin Libby (3)
EMT Miro LeBef-Bonchich
Paramedic Juan Lebron (2)
Paramedic Hyogap Lee
Lieutenant Warren Lees
Paramedic Daniel Lefebvre
Paramedic Romulus Lemnaru
Paramedic Christopher Leon
Lieutenant Michel Leon
Lieutenant Vito Leone (2)
EMT Jon Leonor
Paramedic Wayne Leslie
Paramedic Thomas Leto (2)
Paramedic Gary Lewis (2)
Paramedic Ron Li
Lieutenant Justin Lim (5)
Lieutenant Kay Lincoln
EMT Patrick Lipari
Paramedic Jesse Lipton (3)
EMT Christina Liskowitz
EMT Josef Lisoski
Lieutenant Maureen Little (2)
EMT Anthony Loaiza
EMT Domenick Loccisano
Paramedic Kyle Logiduce
Paramedic John Logamino
EMT Joshua Lombardi
Lieutenant Alice Lomino (2)
Captain Joseph Lomino
EMT Eugenio Lopez (3)
Paramedic Johnny Lopez
Paramedic Luis Lopez (2)
Paramedic Pierre Louis
Lieutenant Alexander Loutsky (2)
Paramedic Meagan Lucas
Paramedic Wanda Luciano
EMT Joshua Lugo
EMT Stephanie Lugo
Paramedic Tanya Lugo
Paramedic Winslow Luna (3)
EMT Alex Luth (2)
EMT Benjamin Ly
EMT Matthew Lyde
EMT Robert Lynch
Lieutenant Elizabeth Mackiewicz
EMT Lauchlin MacNeil
Lieutenant Vashala Madho
Paramedic Nelson Madrigal
Paramedic Kevin Maher (2)
Paramedic Daniel Mahlmann (2)
EMT Tene Mahon
EMT James Mahoney
Lieutenant Michael Mahoney
Paramedic Sean Mahoney
EMT Bertrand Maby
Lieutenant David Malayev
EMT Eric Maleh (2)
Lieutenant Neil Mancuso (2)
EMT Jesse Maneri
EMT Dexter Manifold
Paramedic Anthony Marascia (3)
EMT Kevin Marcellus (2)
Paramedic Raymond Marin
Lieutenant John Marino (3)
EMT Erika Marrero (2)
Lieutenant Julio Marrero
Lieutenant Michael Mars (2)
EMT Matthew Marshall
EMT Robert Marshall
EMT Segan Marshall
EMT Willie James Marshall, Jr.
Paramedic Shirley Martin (2)
EMT Emilio Martinez
Paramedic Edwin Martinez
EMT Michael Martinez (2)
Paramedic Sylvia Martinez
EMT Robert Martucci
Lieutenant Anthony Marullo, Jr. (3)
Lieutenant Renae Mascol
Paramedic Eric Matonis
Lieutenant Kurt Maurer (2)
EMT Anthony Mauro
EMT Brandon Mayes
Paramedic Christopher Mazzotti
Paramedic Daniel Mboh
Paramedic Ainsworth McCalla
EMT Ihalessa McClain
EMT Michael McCormack
EMT Kevin McGoldrick
Lieutenant James McGuire
Paramedic James McGuire
EMT Timothy McGurk (2)
EMT Daja McKeithen
Paramedic Barbara McKenzie (3)
EMT Sylas McKenzie
EMT Ishaia McLetchie
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<td>Paramedic Konstantino Skamlas</td>
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<td>EMT Zachary Slatnick</td>
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<td>EMT Stacey Ann Smiling</td>
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<td>Lieutenant Magdalena Sobocinski</td>
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<td>EMT William Sochor</td>
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<td>Lieutenant Anthony Soto</td>
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<td>Lieutenant Jason Spandorf</td>
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<td>Paramedic David Sparaco</td>
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<td>Lieutenant Christopher Specht</td>
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## EMS UNIT OF THE MONTH—2017

### MONTH  |  UNIT | MEMBERS
---|---|---
January  | 49C2 | EMTs Jason Easter, Dionner Espiritu, Paul Lynch, Christopher Moreno
February | 43A2 | EMTs Xue-Hua Li, Vincent Mazzarella, Carlos Olivera
March  | 45E2 | EMTs Travis Lippert, Terence Phagoo, Scott Rest
April  | 45R2 | Paramedics Leonardo Bedoya, Richard Guzman, Ano Yu
May  | 31C3 | EMTs Timothy Decoursey, Ali Fattah, Jasper Tenorio
June  | 16D2 | EMTs Claire Harewood, Kelly Los, Ciara Ortiz
July  | 11A2 | EMTs William Byrnes, Theresa Murphy
August | 15B3 | EMTs Hector Maldonado, Megan Millman, Brian Morson
September | 54W3 | Paramedics Luke Hill, Krystle Liz, Ariel Rivera,
October | 41B2 | EMTs Christopher Echevarria, Don Goepfert, James Parrish
November | 22Z2 | Paramedics Alexis Buttermark, Ryan Zatoren
December | 81A3 | EMTs Yusbin Diaz, Steven Lane, Darrius Ratliff
Dr. Harry M. Archer Medal

This medal was endowed in 1917 by Herman L. Reis, FDNY Medical Officer. The deed of the gift states the medal shall be awarded every three years to a holder of a James Gordon Bennett Medal during the preceding three years. The Fire Foundation of New York, Inc., funds this award, Kenneth Bronstein, President. (Page 11)

James Gordon Bennett Medal

Established in 1896 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 delicate judgment of the member by the Medal Board of the New York City Fire Department. The Fire Foundation of New York, Inc., funds this award, Kenneth Bronstein, President. (Page 13)

EMT-P Carlos Lillo/Lt. Ricardo Quinone Medal

This medal was endowed in 2016 (to coincide with the 20-year anniversary of the Fire/EMS merger) by EMT Local 2507. Named in honor of Paramedics Carlos Lillo, Station 49, and Ricardo J. Quinone, Station 57, who made the Supreme Sacrifice during the 9/11 terror attacks, the deed of the gift states the medal shall be awarded every three years to a holder of a Christopher J. Prescott Medal during the preceding three years. (Page 15)

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 Fire Foundation of New York, Inc., funds this award, Kenneth Bronstein, President. The recipient also is awarded the Firefighter Louis Valentino Award, a medal endowed since 1998 by Diane Valentino and the Valentino family. (Page 16)

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 Bureau of EMS. Endowed by the Uniformed EMTs and Paramedics and Fire Inspectors Union. Also endowed by former First Assistant Fire Commissioner, Robert A. Ungar, Legislative Counsel to the Union. (Page 17)

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 18)

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 endowed by the Honor Legion. (Page 18)

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 19)

Thomas E. Crippins Medal

First awarded in 1912. In memory of her father, Thomas E. Crippins, contractor, builder, loyal New Yorker and son of a volunteer Fireman, Mrs. May M. Burke provided for the endowment of the Crippins Memorial Medal. Additional award from Honorary Fire Commissioner Dorothy Marks, in memory of Jeffrey S. Childs, great-great-grandson of Thomas Crippins. Also funded by the Fire Foundation of New York, Inc., Kenneth Bronstein, President. (Page 20)

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. Funded by the New York City Fire Officer’s Association of the FDNY “Honorary Chief of Department Jack Lorch, President.” (Page 21)

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. The Fire Foundation of New York, Inc., funds this award, Kenneth Bronstein, President. (Page 22)

John H. Prentice Medal

This medal is endowed by Mrs. Marion Prentice Brookman in memory of her father. The medal is for “an act of intelligent bravery.” First awarded in 1921. (Page 23)

Henry D. Brookman Medal

Mrs. Marion Prentice Brookman, in endowing this award, wrote, “to help the authorities in instilling 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 24)

Chief Ulyses Grant Leadership Medal

Named in honor of Chief Ulyses Grant, a 30-year veteran of the Emergency Medical Service, who exemplified respect, leadership, integrity, imagination, compassion and dedication. The recipient of this medal is an EMS Officer who has the ability to influence others to accomplish the mission. The medal is awarded to an EMS Officer who, in leading members under his/her command, has performed an outstanding act of heroism and bravery in the line of duty. The award is endowed by Chief of EMS Operations Robert A. McCracken (retired) and EMS Division Chief Robert P. Browne (retired), who believe a man’s accomplish the mission. The medal is awarded to an EMS Officer who, in leading members under his/her command, has performed an outstanding act of heroism and bravery in the line of duty. The award is endowed by Chief of EMS Operations Robert A. McCracken (retired) and EMS Division Chief Robert P. Browne (retired), who believe a man’s experience and wisdom need not die with him, but become his legacy. (Page 25)

Hispanic Society/23rd Street Fire Memorial Medal of Valor

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.” The Hispanic Society Memorial Medal first was awarded in 1968. A $1,000 honorarium in memory of Battalion Chief Anthony Mendez, Senior, is given to the medal recipient. (Page 26)

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 27)

Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia Medal

The Honorable Fiorello H. LaGuardia, while the 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 28)

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. Sponsored in memory of Honorary Battalion Chief Paul Sanner. (Page 29)

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

Named in honor of the late John J. McElligott, the first Fire Commissioner, and the late Frank F. F. Frisby, the first Firefighter to die in the line of duty during the FDNY. (Page 30)

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 31)

Albert S. Johnston Medal

Abers T. Johnston was a Captain in the New York Fire Department, 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 32)

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 33)

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. Endowed by the Uniformed EMTs and Paramedics and Fire Inspectors Union. Also endowed by former First Assistant Commissioner, Robert A. Ungar, Legislative Counsel to the Union. (Page 34)

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. Endowed by the UFA. (Page 35)

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. Endowed by the New York City Fire Department. (Page 36)

Frank W. Krendel 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. Endowed by the New York City Fire Department. (Page 37)
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 38)

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 39)

Holy Name Society Medal (Brooklyn/Queens)
Endowed/funded by the Holy Name Society (Brooklyn-Queens) in memory of Chaplain Emeritus Very Reverend Monsignor Elye Yeager. First awarded in 1967. (Page 40)

Chief James Scullion Medal
Recognized as a pioneer in his field, Chief James Sculion 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 41)

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. Endowed by the New York City Fire Department. (Page 42)

Uniformed Fire Officers Association Medal
Endowed in 1977 by the Uniformed Fire Officers Association “for an act of heroism and bravery performed by a Fire Officer at a fire.” (Page 43)

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 44)

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. Endowed by the New York City Fire Department. (Page 45)

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 46)

Community Mayors for Special Children, Inc./Lt. Robert R. Dolney Medal
This medal is sponsored by the Community Mayors for Special Children, Inc., and is dedicated to the memory of Lieutenant Robert R. Dolney, who gave his life so that others might live. The Community Mayors for Special Children (CMSC) organization will present this medal every other year 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 will then be presented to a member who performed an outstanding act of heroism. First awarded in 1981. (Page 47)

Lieutenant Arthy McElhearn Medal
A medal dedicated to a 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 in memory of Horticultural Battalion Chief Paul Sanner. (Page 48)

Battalion Chief Frank T. Tuttlemond 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 then-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 49)

Probationary Firefighter Thomas A. Wylie Medal
This medal is endowed by the members of Ladder Company 18 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 to a Probationary Firefighter who distinguishes himself as Tom did in his brief career. The medal depicts his caricature of a “Cano Man,” the traditional position of a “Dropper.” (Page 50)

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 51)

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 52)

New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal
The New York State Honor 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 66 years of service to the Firefighters of New York and their families. The medal, endowed 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 53)

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 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 54)

Deputy Commissioner Christine R. Godek Medal
Established and endowed 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 55)

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. Endowed by Engine 207. (Page 56)

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 57)

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 58)

Lieutenant James Curran/New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal/Father Julian F. Deeken Memorial Medal
Presented every three years to a unit that received the Lieutenant James Curran/New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal during the previous three years. Endowed by the New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation. (Page 59)

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.” Endowed by the New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation and Dr. Marc Kramer, Honorary Assistant Chief and Consultant to the Medical Division. (Page 60)

Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Medal
Endowed 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 61)

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 by the 9/11 parents and families. (Page 62)
Lieutenant Christopher J. Raguso  
Engine Company 302  
Died on March 15, 2018, as a result of injuries sustained in an American military helicopter crash in Iraq while defending our nation.  
Appointed March 8, 2005.

Fire Marshal Christopher T. “Tripp” Zanetis  
Bureau of Fire Investigation  
Died on March 15, 2018, as a result of injuries sustained in an American military helicopter crash in Iraq while defending our nation.  

Firefighter Michael R. Davidson*  
Engine Company 69  
Died on March 23, 2018, as a result of injuries sustained in the performance of duty at Manhattan Box 55-1638.  
(*Promoted posthumously to the rank of Lieutenant and designated Special Assignment, Special Operations Command)