FDNY Medal Day 2020

Honoring Members of the Fire Department — 2020 —
Dedicated to

JANET KIMMERLY
the longtime Editor of the Department’s annual Medal Day Books and countless other FDNY publications. She passed away on April 5, 2021. This book was her final completed work.

Publication of this 2020 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

Dorothy Marks
Honorary Fire Commissioner

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

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Cover
Queens Box 33-4302, 128-20 14th Avenue/128th Street, January 21, 2019.
Photo by FF Michael Gomez, Squad 288.

Firefighter John H. McCoy, Squad 288, operated at this incident and is receiving the Chief of Department Peter J. Ganci, Jr. Medal/ NYS Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal.

Back Cover
New York City has faced unprecedented challenges during the pandemic. FDNY stays committed to serving the citizens of New York City with courage, dedication, compassion and pride. FDNY will always respond when called for help. We are resilient. We are FDNY EMS and NYC STRONG. Photo by Deputy Chief Farooq Muhammad.
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Dear Friends:

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

Every day, the courageous men and women of the New York City Fire Department put their lives on the line to protect our residents and visitors throughout the five boroughs. New Yorkers of all backgrounds are rightfully proud of our firefighters and EMTs, and we owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude for their heroic work. In a year in which our city has faced an unprecedented crisis, our emergency personnel have remained steadfast in their mission to safeguard their fellow New Yorkers, and their unwavering dedication has been invaluable as we recover and rebuild from the effects of COVID-19. Over the past several months, we have asked more of these committed civil servants than ever before, and in the calm, steady way they have always handled crises, they fought back against the virus and saved countless lives.

Medal Day provides us with a welcome and wonderful opportunity to recognize New York’s Bravest for all they do to maintain our status as the safest big city in the nation. In such challenging times, this year’s celebration is even more important, and I am honored to join with all New Yorkers in recognizing the extraordinary members of this department for the tremendous sacrifices they have made. I am proud to commend all those being awarded today for their exemplary service. Together, we are forging a brighter and safer tomorrow for all.

On behalf of the City of New York, congratulations to today’s honorees. I offer my best wishes for a meaningful ceremony and continued success.

Sincerely,

Bill de Blasio
Mayor
Medal Day is our greatest day of celebration each year. Families gather to see well-deserved recognition for their loved one’s heroic act and witness a sea of FDNY members—fellow Firefighters, EMTs, Paramedics and Fire Marshals—competing to see whose collective support can outdo the rest. It is a wonderful day; and it is yet another tradition, unfortunately, taken from us this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Though the ceremony as we know it will not take place, we still celebrate the tremendous acts of bravery that are a hallmark of this event.

When speaking of bravery and tradition, the name that immediately comes to mind is my dear friend, Pete Ganci, our Chief of Department, who was killed while leading our rescue operations at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. This year, I made a long overdue change and created a new medal—the Chief of Department Peter J. Ganci, Jr. Medal—which replaces the James Gordon Bennett Medal as the highest annual honor for bravery awarded to a Firefighter or Fire Officer. This change does not erase history and it does not diminish the valor of those awarded the James Gordon Bennett Medal since its inception. Moving forward, we will cease including the name of an individual whose racist and abhorrent views have no place in any society and instead ensure that this tremendous honor will be named for an individual who swore an oath to serve others and crawled down a hallway as all of our Firefighters have done to rescue New Yorkers trapped by fire.

I salute the inaugural recipient of the Chief of Department Peter J. Ganci, Jr. Medal, Firefighter John H. McCoy of Squad Company 288, who rescued a man trapped by fire in a warehouse and removed him to safety just as the building became fully engulfed and the open bay door collapsed. This is the kind of extraordinary bravery we celebrate each year. I know Pete would have been proud.

Many of our medals are named for those who made the Supreme Sacrifice, including our highest annual award to a member of our Emergency Medical Service. The Christopher J. Prescott Medal honors a brave young man taken far too soon as he provided medical care to a fellow New Yorker. There is no greater form of bravery than giving your life to save others and I believe our medals should honor those who have made that sacrifice. This year’s recipients, Paramedics Niall C. O’Shaughnessy and Joshua S. Rodriguez of Station 4, exemplified that commitment by extricating an injured worker from a scaffold collapse and providing pre-hospital care to three other injured workers at the Manhattan high-rise construction site. Congratulations to them and to every member of EMS who was called upon to save others during this unprecedented time.

Among the more than 40 medals awarded this year, sadly, there is one awarded posthumously; the Emerald Society Medal to Firefighter Daniel R. Foley of Rescue Company 3. Firefighter Foley rescued two girls from a fire in the Bronx in February 2019. Just one year later, he lost his life due to World Trade Center-related cancer. His brother, Tommy, was killed on September 11, 2001. The Foley family epitomizes bravery and sacrifice. Their courageous acts will never be forgotten by our Department.

It has been an honor and a privilege to attend and preside over Medal Day ceremonies. Like you, I eagerly look forward to when we can gather in that manner once again. The love and support on display each year is a sight to behold. Medal Day is not simply about individual acts of bravery; it is a testament to the training, sacrifice and history of this great Department. Though we are not together as we wish to be, we still recognize the most courageous moments and this book will live on as a testament to the acts of valor by our members who bravely risked their lives to save others.
With tremendous pride, we celebrate the exemplary work of those members of our great Department who had gone above and beyond the call of duty in the calendar year 2019. This Medal Day, as I review the accounts of every heroic act, I once again find myself in awe of the caliber of people we have in the FDNY. Ordinary people risking their lives doing extraordinary things, each and every day—I can find no more appropriate words to describe our members and the work they do.

And while we celebrate numerous individual acts of exceptional bravery, we also acknowledge the fact that great teamwork will always play an important role and have a positive impact on fire and emergency operations. This year’s recipient of the Lt. James Curran/New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal is awarded to Engine 248 for their outstanding combined effort at a top-floor apartment fire in Brooklyn. The actions taken by Lieutenant Anthony R. Holz and Firefighters Darnell A. Arroya, Timothy E. Coffey, Jr., Conor J. Monaghan, Thomas M. Olsen and Ryan T. Sheehan demonstrate how effective the triad of courage, initiative and unit cohesiveness can be. Their aggressive search, challenging 16-length hose stretch and timely pre-hospital medical care directly resulted in the saving of three civilian lives.

In the performance of their patient care duties and responsibilities, it is not uncommon for our EMTs and Paramedics to encounter unstable and dangerous conditions. Such was the case for Paramedics Sylvia M. Martinez and Kimberly L. Verspoor, Station 50 U1, assigned in the middle of the night to a Queens multiple dwelling for a patient reporting chest pains and difficulty breathing. Upon encountering an initial victim on the second floor, their CO meters activated with an indication of potentially lethal levels of the odorless gas. They triaged the patient and, after receiving assistance from another unit, proceeded to the third floor to treat another victim—this time in a more hazardous atmosphere with even higher levels of carbon monoxide. Operating together, they removed the victim from a clutter-filled apartment to a safer location on a lower floor and provided urgent medical treatment. For their remarkable bravery and determination under such precarious conditions, Paramedics Martinez and Verspoor are the recipients of the Tracy Allen-Lee Medal.

I know every member we honor today considers him/herself fortunate to have been in a position to make that rescue, to save that life. I am equally certain that they will point to their training as a critical component to their success. Above all and without question, they will acknowledge the fact that their individual efforts would not be possible without the support of their fellow Brothers and Sisters.

To quote a poignant line from a classic Elton John song, “I thank the Lord there’s people out there like you…” I salute you all for working hard every day and putting yourselves at risk to protect the citizens of our great City. Thank you for your service and stay safe!
Deputy Chief
Robert E. Carroll
Division 1

Deputy Chief
Malcolm Moore
Chief of Rescue Operations

Deputy Chief
Daniel J. Murray
Chief of Marine Operations

Deputy Chief
Frances Simpson
Chief of Marine Operations

Deputy Chief
Mark A. Bonilla
EMS Special Operations

Deputy Chief
Joseph P. Lomino
EMS Division 1

Deputy Chief
Joseph N. Carlsen
Division 3

Deputy Chief
James J. Donlevy
Division 6

Deputy Chief
John A. Jonas
Division 7

Deputy Chief
Mark A. Ferran
Division 14

Deputy Chief
Brian Gorman
Division 8

Deputy Chief
Luis E. Basso
EMS Division 5

Deputy Chief
James R. McNally
Division 11

Division Chief
Joseph J. Patak
EMS Division 2

Division Chief
Mary Lou Aurrichio
EMS Division 7

Division Chief
Nancy J. Gilligan
EMS Division 4

Division Chief
Christopher J. Bilz
EMS Division 9

Deputy Chief
Stepphen G. Moro
Division 15

Division Chief
Robert Hannafey
EMS Division 8

Division Chief
Mark A. Ferran
Division 14

Division Chief
Robert Hannafey
EMS Division 8

Deputy Chief
James A. DiDomenico
Division 13

Division Chief
Nancy J. Gilligan
EMS Division 4

Division Chief
Christopher J. Bilz
EMS Division 9

SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

Deputy Chief
Malcolm Moore
Chief of Rescue Operations

Deputy Chief
Daniel J. Murray
Haz-Mat Operations

Battalion Chief
Francis Simpson
Chief of Marine Operations

Deputy Chief
Mark A. Bonilla
EMS Special Operations
Chief of Department Peter J. Ganci, Jr., responded to Queens Box 44-6945, 153-01 Northern Boulevard at 153rd Street, Flushing, December 9, 2000. Photo by John Leavy.
It was a bitterly cold 14 degrees on the morning of January 21, 2019, when at approximately 0740 hours, the voice alarm rang out. The housewatch announced that Squad 288 was responding to Box 4302, for a fire in a one-story warehouse with people missing. Battalion Chief William Hammel, Battalion 52, reported fire in the basement extending to the first floor.

Squad 288 arrived at a warehouse fire pushing thick, black smoke filling the street and was advised by the Chief that a person was still missing inside. Lieutenant Glenn Fischer sent FFs John H. McCoy and William Long to look for another entrance, while he and his extinguisher Firefighter entered the front entrance. Walking down the exposure #2 side of the building, FF McCoy heard an Urgent transmitted for low pressure in the initial hose-line. He located a door and he and FF Long masked up to start a search. Lieutenant Fischer notified FF McCoy that the line in the basement wasn’t moving and conditions were deteriorating rapidly.

As FFs McCoy and Long entered the door to the first floor, they encountered a heavy smoke condition and high heat from floor to ceiling. Firefighter Long searched right, while FF McCoy went straight into the building. He tried to use the thermal imaging camera to assist his search, but the screen instantly whitened out due to the high heat.

Firefighter McCoy continued straight, passing an open staircase from the basement with fire beginning to extend up the stairs. Another 20 feet into the warehouse, FF McCoy heard a man moaning. Moving toward the sound, he encountered boxes stacked throughout the floor, impeding his search. As conditions continued to deteriorate and the fire rolled up the stairs, FF McCoy heard the moans again and quickly moved to the location. Again, blocked by piles of boxes, he began to move them and dug his way through to find an unconscious male in the fetal position. He transmitted the 10-45 and recognized that he had to move the person quickly to give him any chance of surviving.

Firefighter McCoy grabbed the victim and lifted him up and over the boxes and debris that were covering him. Conditions had gotten so severe that the Chief ordered everyone to back out of the engulfed building. Feeling the heat through his bunker gear, the Firefighter knew he needed to exit as quickly as possible. He began to drag the victim toward the point where he believed he had entered. Dragging the man, he saw flames over his head, rolling throughout the black smoke. Continuing toward the now-open, roll-down gate, FF McCoy used all his strength to get the victim over the threshold and out of the building. Reaching the sidewalk with the man, the warehouse became fully involved and the open bay door collapsed due to numerous explosions and a large volume of fire.

Firefighter McCoy risked his life to save this man. He entered the warehouse with rapidly deteriorating conditions without the protection of a hose-line, in zero visibility and with a rapidly progressing fire. Firefighter John H. McCoy’s courage is recognized with the Chief of Department Peter J. Ganci, Jr. Medal/NYS Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal.—PB
Brooklyn Citizens Medal/FF Louis Valentino Award

Firefighter Timothy J. Stevens
Ladder Company 113
October 17, 2019, 0043 hours, Box 75-1092, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on September 25, 2005. Uncle, FF Vincent Frankini, is retired from Ladder 175; father-in-law, Supervising Fire Marshal Robert Thomson, is retired; brothers-in-law, Lieutenant Scott Thomson, is retired from Division 13, and Battalion Chief Michael Thomson, is assigned to Division 11; great grandfathers, FF Thomas Dealy, retired from Manhattan, and FF Lawrence Reilly, retired from the Bronx. Member of the Emerald Society. Holds a Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice from Molloy College. Resides in Massapequa Park, Long Island, with his wife, Kelly, and their son, Brady, and daughter, Charlotte.

At 0043 hours on a very windy October 17, 2019, night, first-due Ladder 113 was dispatched to a reported fire in a multiple dwelling. Ladder 113’s inside team on this night tour included Captain Robert Gibson, extinguisher Firefighter Robert Tilearcio and irons Firefighter Timothy J. Stevens.

On arrival, members confronted a large, six-story, I-shaped building at the end of a dead-end street. The members entered the building lobby and made their way to the rear wing of the I-shape. The fire was reported to be on the fifth floor. Making their way to the fifth-floor landing, the members found a badly burned woman who told FF Stevens that her brother was still inside the fire apartment.

Firefighter Stevens reached the fire apartment door, which was slightly ajar, and encountered heavy, black smoke pushing from the narrow opening. The Firefighter knew that the hose stretch was going to take some additional time due to the fire apartment’s location in the back of the large building and on an upper floor. This meant he would have to search the burning apartment without the protection of a hose-line, but FF Stevens knew a trapped man needed his help in order to survive.

Firefighter Stevens donned his mask facepiece and opened the apartment door. He began to crawl along the floor and made his way approximately 16 feet to the entrance of the living room, where he located the main body of the fire. Knowing the victim’s survival chances were diminishing, FF Stevens pressed on in the extreme heat. He crawled along another eight to 10 feet underneath the increasing flames where he located the man. The victim was unconscious, badly burned and prone on the floor next to his bed, which was fully involved in flames.

Firefighter Stevens transmitted a signal 10-45 over his handietalkie. He realized that he had to remove the unconscious man out of the burning apartment via the same way he came in and he would have to do it very quickly. The rescuer felt the heat through his bunker gear and no hose-line was in operation yet. In spite of these factors and working alone, FF Stevens dragged the injured man back, approximately 26 feet along the apartment floor toward the door and into the public hallway. He used his body to shield the victim from heat and flames.

Once in the public hallway with the man, FF Stevens was met by the members of Ladder 132 and turned the victim over to them. The victim then was removed to the street and turned over to EMS personnel for care and transport to the hospital.

Firefighter Stevens effected the rescue of a trapped and injured man (who regrettably died) without the protection of a hose-line and under dangerous and punishing conditions. His actions reflect the highest traditions of the FDNY. For his bravery, FF Timothy J. Stevens is presented with the Brooklyn Citizens Medal/FF Louis Valentino Award.—AJP
On the early Monday morning of November 11, 2019, Paramedics Niall C. O’Shaughnessy and Joshua S. Rodriguez were just starting their workday, which involved monitoring numerous radio frequencies, including the fireground radio. When a run came in for a collapse, the Paramedics immediately contacted their EMS Dispatcher to be placed on this assignment at a Manhattan, 58-story, high-rise building.

Arriving on-scene with Rescue 1, Paramedics Rodriguez and O’Shaughnessy made entry into the location, which was covered with scaffolding, construction equipment and unfinished stairways. Without hesitation, the two Paramedics traversed construction pathways from the 13th floor to the 17th floor to aid the injured construction workers. These pathways, consisting of wooden ladders and planks created as stairways to gain access to the victims, were in areas of active construction. This was all done while carrying extra, lifesaving pieces of equipment in-hand.

Reaching the 17th floor, Paramedics Rodriguez and O’Shaughnessy began triaging, assessing and performing acute stabilization of four injured construction workers. Paramedic O’Shaughnessy identified a seriously injured victim who required rapid extrication from the 17th floor. With the assistance of Rescue 1 personnel, an on-scene crane was converted into a means of victim extrication from this construction zone. Paramedic O’Shaughnessy stayed with the victim as they were lowered 170 feet to street level and into a waiting ambulance for transport.

Paramedic Rodriguez remained on the 17th floor, rendering additional aid to the three other victims. With Paramedic Rodriguez’s assistance and good communication relay with on-scene resources, the remaining victims were transported by crane to street level and into waiting ambulances for transport.

The actions of Paramedics O’Shaughnessy and Rodriguez exemplify the dedication and professionalism held by EMT Christopher Prescott, who made the Supreme Sacrifice in 1994. For their unwavering professional commitment and conviction to provide the best pre-hospital care in this unique and dangerous situation that featured a scaffold collapse with victims pinned and difficult access, the FDNY honors Paramedics Joshua S. Rodriguez and Niall C. O’Shaughnessy with the Christopher J. Prescott Medal (their second for Medal Day).—BR
Hugh Bonner Medal/Honor Legion Medal

Captain Theodore J. Conroy
Ladder Company 61 (assigned); Ladder Company 39 (detailed)

August 17, 2019, 0503 hours, Box 75-3854, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on January 27, 2002. Previously assigned to Ladder 32 as a FF and Ladder 39 as a Lieutenant. Father, FF Thomas J. Conroy, is retired from Rescue 3; brother, FF Thomas J. Conroy, Jr., is assigned to Rescue 3; grandfather, FF Francis A. Conroy, is retired from Ladder 147; grand uncle, FF John Conroy, is retired from Ladder 174; and uncle, Joseph Castiglie, is retired from Engine 209. Recipient of the Frank W. Kridel Medal, two Unit Citations and two Pre-Hospital Saves. Holds a Bachelor’s degree in Business from Baruch College. Resides in Montgomery, New York, with his wife, Dawn, and children, Mason and Logan O’Brien.

Ask any Firefighter what gets the heart pumping. Almost to the person, you’ll hear it’s when the Dispatcher says, “People trapped.” It was just this type of transmission that confronted the members of Ladder 39 on August 17, 2019. Captain Theodore J. Conroy (detailed from Ladder 61) and the members of Ladder 39, had been experiencing a relatively quiet tour. At 0503 hours, their day changed dramatically. Engine 63, Ladder 39 and Battalion 15 received a phone alarm for a fire in a three-story private dwelling.

While responding, Bronx Dispatchers notified Ladder 39 of reports of people trapped. As Ladder 39 pulled up in front of the house, dense, black smoke and fire were pushing out under pressure at the main entrance to the structure.

Captain Conroy found a frantic man in the front of the house, who stated that his wife was trapped on the top floor. Simultaneously, the Officer heard muffled screams and momentarily spotted the woman gasping for air at a window on the top floor. Captain Conroy communicated via handie-talkie to Ladder 39’s outside vent (OV) Firefighter, Robert Painter, and ladder company chauffeur (LCC), FF Tony Ciero, to get a portable ladder and attempt to reach the woman, while he and his forcible entry team would attempt a rescue via the interior.

Captain Conroy and his forcible entry team, FFs James McConville with the extinguisher and David Cutrone with the irons, worked feverishly to gain entry through the front door. This proved to be a great challenge; blocking their way was a very heavy clutter condition. With heavy fire pushing out the door as they removed rubbish at the doorway, they got through the front entrance.

Captain Conroy directed FF McConville to hold the fire at the doorway with the extinguisher, while he attempted to locate the interior stairs to make his way to the top floor. Fire was rolling over their heads as the Captain and FF Cutrone dashed up the stairs to the top floor.

Searching the top floor in zero visibility and with heat growing more intense by the second, Captain Conroy knew time was at a premium. There was no hose-line in place and their escape route could be cut off at any moment. The Officer made one last push toward the bedroom and spotted the trapped woman. He heard faint coughing and cries for help through the blinding smoke. Following the cries for help, Captain Conroy found the semi-conscious victim, immediately transmitted the 10-45 and plotted their escape.

The rescuer carried the woman out of the bedroom and met up with FF Cutrone. Together, they maneuvered down the stairs, past the fire, just as Engine 63 was moving in with the hose-line. Captain Conroy and FF Cutrone shielded the woman with their bodies to prevent additional injury. They carried her to the sidewalk where CFR-D members administered care.

The immediate and decisive actions of Captain Conroy, with the coordinated operations of Ladder 39, provided a positive outcome at this fire for the victim. Captain Theodore J. Conroy’s courageous actions are being recognized today with the Hugh Bonner Medal/Honor Legion Medal.—CB

A 38-year FDNY veteran with 16 years as the Commander of Ladder 174, Captain Patrick W. McEvoy was working the overnight shift on December 3, 2019. At 0611 hours, the company responded to a reported fire in a private dwelling in the East Flatbush section of Brooklyn.

On arrival, there was no visible fire or smoke and Captain McEvoy and his forcible entry team--FF Timothy Meagher with the irons and Probationary FF Gregory Lawrence, detailed from Engine 257, with the extinguisher--began to examine the area. During this size-up, the team was met by two excited civilians, yelling that the fire was around the corner on East 57th Street and two people were trapped.

Racing after one of the civilians, Captain McEvoy radioed the newly received information to the responding units and ordered his chauffeur to reposition the apparatus. After running one and a half blocks, Captain McEvoy noticed Engine 283’s Officer, Lieutenant Michael Cain, at the top of the outside stoop leading to the second floor of the private dwelling. Black smoke was pushing under pressure from around the door.

Ascending the stairs and forcing open the front door, Ladder 174’s inside team was met with heavy smoke and high heat conditions. Initially, their entry into the structure was hampered by a kitchen table, chairs and clutter. Directing his Firefighters to remove the debris to facilitate the engine company’s hose-line advance, Captain McEvoy started his search for the fire and victims.

During this primary search, the Captain discovered an open, unenclosed staircase leading down to the first floor where the main body of fire was located. That staircase permitted huge amounts of toxic smoke and high heat to be forced toward his position. After radioing this valuable information to the Incident Commander and operating in a punishing and precarious position above the main body of fire, Captain McEvoy pushed on with his search, past the open stairs and toward the rear of the home, where he came upon an unconscious victim wedged in a hallway.

Transmitting a 10-45, Captain McEvoy retraced his route, past the open staircase, for approximately 30 feet to the entrance door. After handing the victim off to members on the stoop, Captain McEvoy re-entered the floor above the fire when he heard FF Meagher yell that he had found a second victim. Transmitting a second 10-45, Captain McEvoy assisted in removing the unconscious victim.

Operating on the floor directly above a raging fire, while being exposed to the by-products of the fire’s combustion via the open, unenclosed staircase, and without the protection of a hand-line or water can to extinguish the main body of fire, Captain McEvoy maintained great tenacity and composure. He exposed himself to danger, but his efforts directly resulted in saving a woman and assisting with the removal of a second victim, although, unfortunately, one of the victims perished. For his selfless persistence under punishing and difficult conditions, Captain Patrick W. McEvoy is awarded the Emily Trevor/Mary B. Warren Medal.—SM

Captain Patrick W. McEvoy (right) is shown with his son, FF Bryan McEvoy, Rescue 2, and future Firefighter, grandson, Patrick McEvoy. The Captain is receiving the Emily Trevor/Mary B. Warren Medal.
On the cold December 3rd morning, at 0611 hours, a Brooklyn phone alarm was transmitted for a fire in a private dwelling in the East Flatbush area. Ladder 174 arrived first-due and found no indication of a fire at the reported address. As the members exited the apparatus, they were met by two frantic residents, screaming that there was a fire around the block on East 57th Street, with people trapped inside the house.

As their truck was being repositioned, the Ladder 174 inside team of Captain Patrick McEvoy, FF Timothy Meagher and Probationary FF Gregory Lawrence (detailed from Engine 257), followed a panicked civilian on foot almost a block and a half away to the correct address. As they approached, they could see a heavy smoke condition emanating from the first and second floors of a private dwelling.

Engine 283 had repositioned their apparatus and Lieutenant Michael Cain was at the top of the front stairs with heavy, black smoke pushing from around the door as he waited for a hose-line. Firefighter Meagher and the inside team ascended the open interior stairs as the first hose-line still was being stretched. On the second floor, they were met by a blinding smoke condition and high heat from the fire burning below them. They forced entry into the second floor and were confronted with thick, black smoke and extreme heat, which drove them to the floor. Battling clutter, the inside team crawled through the darkened, second-floor rooms, searching for victims.

Captain McEvoy located the first trapped occupant and transmitted over his radio that he found a victim. Firefighter Meagher heard this and made his way to the second-floor entrance door to assist in the occupant’s removal to the safety of the front porch.

Knowing that other occupants still could be trapped inside the burning home, FF Meagher once again ascended the open interior stairs and re-entered the second floor to search for additional victims. Making his way through the blacked-out dining room under an intense heat condition, he found a second unconscious occupant. Working alone, he dragged the victim 25 feet back to the front door where other members assisted in removing the person outside. (Regrettably, one of the two victims perished.) An exhausted, but determined, FF Meagher then re-entered the fire building a third time to continue searching for trapped civilians.

Firefighter Timothy Meagher operated directly over the fire in a high heat condition and zero visibility without the protection of a hose-line. The open interior stairs made his position even more perilous. However, despite the extreme and obvious dangers, he acted bravely, in the highest traditions of the New York City Fire Department. His actions undoubtedly saved a civilian’s life. He is presented with the

Thomas E. Crimmins Medal.
When the tones go off during the holiday season and the housewatch alerts members of a reported fire, firefighters often wonder if it’s going to be food on the stove or a Christmas tree fire that puts residents in harm’s way. On December 21, 2019, Engine 95 and Ladder 36, located in the Inwood section of Upper Manhattan, turned out quickly for a reported fire on the second floor of a six-story multiple dwelling. As the units pulled into the block, there were no noticeable signs of fire at this large, H-type building, but the distinct odor of a job lingered in the air.

As Ladder 36 arrived on the second floor, Lieutenant Kevin Mitchell and Firefighters Paul Oleaga (irons) and Andrew Guarrasi (extinguisher) noticed smoke pushing from the door of the fire apartment. The door was hot to the touch. The thermal imaging camera (TIC) indicated high heat, confirming that this was the fire apartment, and the 10-75 was transmitted.

The irons team immediately went to work and forced multiple locks to gain entry into the apartment. When the door was opened, the company was met with a high heat condition and dense, black smoke. Prior to entering, they communicated with Engine 95 to control the door.

The inside team then began its search. Lieutenant Mitchell used the TIC to locate the fire toward the right of the apartment. He and FF Guarrasi proceeded in that direction, while FF Oleaga was directed to search off the left wall. The fire was located about six feet from the front door and it cut off the rear of the apartment. FF Oleaga had met up with the other members trying to contain the fire with the extinguisher and attempting to locate a door to try to conceal the fire and keep it inside the room. While the extinguisher pushed back the heat and flames, FF Oleaga crawled toward the rear of the apartment.

After he passed the fire, the extinguisher had been depleted, putting FF Oleaga in a dangerous situation. In zero visibility and high heat conditions, he pressed forward. As he made his way into the kitchen, he found a motionless woman on the floor. He yelled back to his Officer regarding the 10-45 and immediately began to drag the victim back toward the front door.

Shielding the victim with his body, he passed the fire again and handed the victim off to other members of the inside team. Although no hose-line was in place, he immediately put himself in harm’s way again as he ventured back into the apartment, past the uncontrolled fire, to continue his search. His valiant efforts paid off, as he located another victim at the end of the hallway near a bedroom door. A second 10-45 was transmitted and the victim was dragged back down the long hallway, just as Engine 95 began knocking down the fire.

To rescue two victims, FF Oleaga put himself at risk, not once, but twice, without the protection of a charged hose-line. Although the victims unfortunately died, FF Paul Oleaga performed in the highest traditions of the FDNY and is recognized with the Thomas A. Kenny Memorial Medal.—MNC

Firefighter Paul Oleaga, who passed fire twice to rescue two victims, is receiving the Thomas A. Kenny Memorial Medal. He is shown with other members of Ladder 36.
On the afternoon of December 30, 2018, Ladder 103 responded to a phone alarm. There was a heavy smoke condition in the street and on arrival, Ladder 103 transmitted a 10-75 signal, reporting a fire on the top floor of a two-story, attached multiple dwelling. Exiting their apparatus, members were met by panicky civilians, who were yelling that people were trapped on the second floor.

Heavy, black smoke was billowing out of the second-floor, dead man’s room window. The dead man’s room is an age-old Firefighter term, used to describe a front or rear room in a brownstone-type building that has only one interior exit into the hallway. Thus, the unfortunately named dead man’s room is of particular interest to experienced FDNY Firefighters because of this room’s inherent danger. Many fires have resulted in victims either at the window in need of rescue or unconscious due to the inability to get out.

Captain Daniel Florenco, along with Ladder 103’s inside team—FFs Robert S. Puckett (forcible entry) and Peter Romeo (extinguisher)—went to the second-floor hallway and found the door pushing black smoke from around the frame. The walls, ceiling and handrail were all on fire and tremendous waves of heat drove them down to the floor.

Firefighter Puckett was ordered to force the door to gain access and start an aggressive search for the trapped occupants. With a true sense of focus, he entered the apartment and began his search without the protection of a hose-line. Captain Florenco and FF Romeo, with the extinguisher, worked their way forward toward the front end of the hallway, believing that the main body of the fire was in the vicinity of the dead man’s room.

Firefighter Puckett found himself searching and probing deeper into the apartment under a veil of dark, black, turbulent smoke. His aggressive move was validated when he found a trapped female occupant, now unconscious and burned, but alive. He was faced with the daunting task of removing and protecting her from additional injury in this rapidly deteriorating environment. He radioed that he had found a victim and prepared to remove her.

The fire had burned through the rear door and began to roll over, where the smoke and gases at ceiling level ignited. In the blistering heat and now below rolling fire, FF Puckett began removing the woman from the fire area. Captain Florenco joined FF Puckett and assisted with dragging the victim out of the rear door of the apartment. Firefighter Puckett led the way to the hallway and then down the stairs, where other members attended to the woman’s injuries and handed her off to EMS personnel.

Although exhausted, FF Puckett re-entered the building with Captain Florenco and completed the primary search with negative results. Firefighter Robert S. Puckett operated under difficult and dangerous conditions. His daring efforts resulted in a woman being rescued from certain demise. His brave actions have earned him the honor of being recognized with the Walter Scott Medal.—MD

Shown are Ladder 103’s inside team—FF Peter D. Romeo, III, Captain Daniel C. Florenc and FF Robert S. Puckett—who operated at Brooklyn Box 75-1769. Firefighter Puckett rescued a woman at this incident and is being presented with the Walter Scott Medal.
On Sunday, February 24, 2019, Engine Company 255 and Ladder Company 157 were dispatched first-due to a telephone alarm at Box 2415 for a reported fire in a private dwelling in the Farragut section of Brooklyn. Of wood-frame construction, the building stood three stories high and measured 20 by 80 feet.

On arrival, Ladder 157’s inside team–comprised of Captain Damien Martin and Firefighters Dominic Muschello and Timothy J. Brunton–encountered heavy, black smoke pushing from the building’s first floor and basement windows. A frantic male occupant informed them that his two girls were trapped in the basement. A large orange glow was reflecting off the rear fence of the property, indicating that the rear exterior access was involved in fire.

Arriving at the rear of the building, Ladder 157’s inside team found fire emanating from an eight-by 10-foot room in the basement. The fire had extended to the rear wooden staircase that connected the first-floor kitchen and the basement. This meant that the only means of egress for the two females trapped in the basement was cut off because they were behind the fire.

Firefighter Brunton used the extinguisher to push back the flames of the fully involved rear staircase and fire room to gain access into the basement area. Without the protection of a hose-line and operating in high heat and zero visibility conditions, Firefighter Brunton rapidly searched toward the front of the basement apartment where he located and calmed the two trapped females in the front basement bedroom. Recognizing that the interior exit was not an option for removal of the victims, he located an alternative means of egress via a small bedroom window. With assistance from Ladder 157’s outside team, he was able to remove the two trapped victims.

Firefighter Brunton exhibited exceptional initiative and bravery under dire circumstances, passing the fire and locating and removing the two female victims. He placed his personal safety in jeopardy as he successfully carried out the rescue of two trapped occupants. His selfless actions reflect proudly on the New York City Fire Department and, today, Firefighter Timothy J. Brunton is presented with the John H. Prentice Medal.—JWD

Firefighter Timothy J. Brunton (right) is shown with FFs Kevin Diaz (detailed to Engine 281 at time of the photo), Michael Marchese, Rescue 4 (last tour in Ladder 157), Patrick B. Rooney, Thomas P. Hudson and Timothy M. Collins. Firefighter Brunton is receiving the John H. Prentice Medal (his second for Medal Day) for locating and removing two female victims.
It is traditional in many fire service families for the sons and daughters to follow in the footsteps of their parents and/or siblings. Some go further and even effect a rescue, as did their relative. Such is the case with FF Conor Norman, Ladder 120.

At 1858 hours on December 14, 2019, Engine 231/Ladder 120/Battalion 44 were dispatched to a fire in a 13-story, Class 1, high-rise, fireproof multiple dwelling, located across the street from the firehouse. The response was quick and Captain Daniel W. Kudlak, Division 15, UFO Ladder 120, and Ladder 120’s chauffeur, FF Peter Carroll, exchanged size-up information: A smoke condition on the building exterior, a strong west/northwest wind, a small group of civilians who seemed to be pointing toward the upper floors and a sidewalk shed that encircled the building, obstructing the view of members trying to access the main entrance.

Because of elevator problems, Ladder 120 used the B elevator car to transport equipment and members—Captain Kudlak and FFs Patrick Coraggio (irons), Joseph Ciaravino (extinguisher), Conor Norman (outside vent) and Andrew Eckstein (roof). Arriving on the 10th floor, Battalion Chief Jeffrey Meister, UFO Battalion 44, told the members that people were trapped in the fire apartment and smoke was reported on the 12th and 13th floors.

A woman at the open fire apartment door screamed that her baby was still inside and begged members to save him. Members began removing the woman to safety when, in her anxiety and fear, she kicked open the controlled fire apartment door, causing members of the inside team to be blown to the floor by high heat and acrid smoke.

Due to the elevator problems, FF Norman was working with the inside team and entered the fire apartment, finding a heavy body of fire in the living room. Without the protection of a hose-line, he advanced under, around and past the fire to access the hallway and beyond to the bedrooms. Performing a right-handed search down the hallway, he found a semi-conscious young man on the floor. The Firefighter transmitted the 10-45 and began victim removal.

Retracing his steps, FF Norman carried the victim toward the apartment door. Firefighter Ciaravino was holding back the fire as best he could with the extinguisher. He then shielded FF Norman and the victim with his own body. Flames and heat surrounded all rescuers now and the living room windows failed, resulting in deteriorating conditions and forcing all members to retreat to the controlled apartment door.

Engine 231 then entered the fire apartment and used their hose-line to extinguish the fire in the living room, allowing FF Norman to complete removal of the victim. He transferred care to CFR-D members and then EMS members took over with care and transport to the hospital.

Firefighter Norman passed wind-impacted fire twice without the protection of a hose-line. Furthermore, he knew that a second means of egress from the fire apartment was not an option. He has made his father (a retired Deputy Assistant Chief) and brother (a Lieutenant), as well as the FDNY, proud. For his tenacity and bravery, FF Conor Norman is presented with the Henry D. Brookman Medal.—JK

The members of Ladder 120—FFs Joe Ciaravino and Pete Carroll, Captain Daniel Kudlak, Division 15, and FFs Patrick Coraggio, detailed from Ladder 146, Andrew Eckstein and Conor Norman—are shown after rescuing a male from the fire apartment at Brooklyn Box 1674. Firefighter Conor Norman is receiving the Henry D. Brookman Medal for his actions at this incident. Photo by Brooklyn Dispatcher Brian Grogan.

Firefighter Conor Norman
Ladder Company 120

December 14, 2019, 1858 hours, Box 77-1674, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on June 12, 2017. Father, Deputy Assistant Chief John W. Norman, III, Chief of the Special Operations Command (SOC), is retired and brother, Lieutenant John W. Norman, IV, is assigned to SOC. Holds a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science from the University of Hawaii. Resides in Amityville, Long Island.
It’s common in the Emergency Medical Service to expect the unexpected. On the cold, clear morning of January 22, 2019, around 0845 hours, Lieutenant Yahki L. Langford was assisting a crew on a trauma job with a stable victim. He noticed smoke coming from the windows of three apartments on the fifth floor of a multiple dwelling across from his location. Without hesitation, the Lieutenant notified Dispatch of the fire location and advised that he was entering the building to evacuate the occupants.

Once Lieutenant Langford arrived on the fifth floor, he encountered a heavy smoke condition coming from the fire apartment’s door frame. He immediately started banging on the door as hard as he could. No one answered. He then proceeded to knock on the other apartment doors adjacent to the fire apartment, while simultaneously contacting Brooklyn North and informing officials of the smoke conditions on the floor.

As Lieutenant Langford was evacuating the fire floor, screams from the building’s occupants could be heard during his radio transmissions. He continued to evacuate in an orderly process, while remaining calm at all times.

Fire suppression units then arrived at the fire floor. The Lieutenant did not retreat, but remained on the floor until Firefighters confirmed that there were no fire apartment victims who required his assistance. Lieutenant Langford gave updates throughout the rescue, went downstairs and assumed the role of Medical Branch Director.

Lieutenant Langford was in the right place at the right time for the occupants of this Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn, building. His immediate notification to the Dispatcher, advising of the need for fire resources, and his quick evacuation of the fire floor, resulted in multiple lives being saved. For his intelligent decision-making and courage, Lieutenant Yahki L. Langford is presented with the Chief Ulyses Grant Leadership Medal, which is bestowed on an EMS Officer who has displayed leadership and performed an outstanding act of bravery in the line of duty.— MV
Housed in the Riverdale section of the Bronx, Engine 52/Ladder 52 crews were beginning their day on November 4, 2019, when the tones struck for a reported fire on West 240th Street. On arrival, Lieutenant Gilbert M. Cabanas, Ladder 52, led his members to the reported sixth-floor fire apartment at this irregular, seven-story, H-type multiple dwelling, in spite of civilians claiming that the roof was on fire.

When they reached the sixth floor, no fire was showing. A search of the public hallway revealed the fire apartment door was discolored and puffing dense, black smoke. The 10-75 was transmitted as the door was being forced. Once the door was forced, Lieutenant Cabanas informed them that according to the CIDS information, the engine would be delayed in reaching the rear of the wing because a long stretch was required.

As members entered, the team encountered heavy heat escaping from the apartment and they quickly controlled the door. Lieutenant Cabanas used the thermal imaging camera to help locate the fire as he led his team (FFs Manuel Boya and Roberto Flores) inside the apartment. Suddenly, they were cut off by the rapidly extending fire. The entire living room was ablaze and now Ladder 52 was receiving reports of people trapped in the rear bedroom.

Lieutenant Cabanas ordered the can Firefighter to use the extinguisher to control the fire so he could attempt to pass it. As he tried to move past the fire, the room suddenly lit up, without warning, engulfed the Lieutenant in flames and threw him into the wall and the members. Burned and disoriented, he regained his composure, saw the intensity of the fire and pulled his team back to the safety of the public hallway. While waiting for Engine 52 to get their hose-line in place, there were reports of people hanging out the windows, preparing to jump. A roof rope rescue operation now was being set up.

Ensuring that his members were okay and despite receiving burns to his face and hands, Lieutenant Cabanas made a second attempt to get past the fire to the trapped victims. Conditions still were unbearable. Engine 52 had arrived and he instructed the nozzle team to push in toward the left to extinguish the large living room fire. Lieutenant Cabanas led Engine 52 down the hallway, made his way past the fire and went to search the opposite end of the apartment.

Entering the rear bedroom with zero visibility, he found a female victim at the window and reassured her she would be safe. Lieutenant Cabanas then decided that the victim should be removed via the interior. He shielded the line still was knocking down the fire. A second victim was removed from another window via the aerial ladder. Both victims were transported to the hospital.

Although burned, Lieutenant Gilbert M. Cabanas demonstrated Herculean efforts, putting the lives of others ahead of his own to effect this rescue. His heroism is recognized with the Hispanic Society/23rd Street Fire Memorial Medal of Valor.—MNC
There are few—if any—factors that motivate New York City Firefighters more than a report of children trapped by fire. In the late winter of 2019, FF Kyle A. Jones, along with the members of Engine 50 and Ladder 19, were faced with this exact scenario; they were confronted with a fire in a 21-story, high-rise multiple dwelling, with several children trapped.

As FDNY members began operating at the scene of the fire, the gravity of the situation became clear when FF Brian Mulroy, Ladder 19’s chauffeur, observed children waving frantically at a seventh-floor window. Smoke was pushing out of the opening around them and they were screaming for help.

Simultaneously, Ladder 19’s inside team—including FF Jones—was making its way toward the fire apartment on the seventh floor. Heavy smoke filled the public hallway and the fire apartment door was locked. Firefighter Jones immediately forced entry into the apartment and received orders from his Officer, Captain Francis Aughavin, to perform a right-hand search. The Captain and FF James Spencer, Engine 50, searched to the left.

As he crawled down the apartment’s hallway on his hands and knees, FF Jones encountered a bedroom on his left-hand side that was fully involved in fire; flames were extending out into the hallway. He understood that passing this doorway, without a charged hose-line, meant that there would be no secondary means of egress on the other side; a dangerous maneuver. But he also knew that there were children in imminent peril and that his fellow Firefighters in Engine 50 would stop at nothing to advance their hose-line behind him and extinguish the fire.

Firefighter Jones dropped as low as he could and shot past the flaming door. Visibility was zero as he continued down the hallway. Finally, he reached the back bedroom at the end of the hall and entered the room. The Firefighter quickly discovered a child lying on the floor in a semi-conscious state. He transmitted a signal 10-45 and began removing the child from the bedroom, shielding the victim with his own body as he passed the fire.

After transferring care of the child to FDNY members in the public hallway, FF Jones returned to the back bedroom and was informed by Lieutenant Michael Conboy, Rescue 3, that two additional children, who had been positioned at the window, had been secured. Firefighter Jones then located a fourth semi-conscious child on a bed. By this time, Engine 50 was advancing their hose-line and extinguishing the main body of fire, so FF Jones and Lieutenant Conboy decided to shelter the remaining victims in place.

Firefighter Jones is a quiet professional who quickly dismisses any accolades. But his courage in the face of danger saved a child’s life. His act of valor embodies the culture and traditions that bring great honor to the FDNY and it is for these reasons that FF Kyle A. Jones is presented with the M.J. Delehanty Medal. —JC
On Wednesday, April 24, 2019, at 0242 hours, Engine 38 and Ladder 51 responded first due to Bronx Box 3695, for a reported fire on the 13th floor of a 14-story, fireproof multiple dwelling. When units arrived on scene, a 10-77 was transmitted for fire out the window on the 13th floor.

Ladder 51’s inside team for the night tour included Lieutenant John T. Cassidy and FFs Thomas Irizarry (irons) and Rostantin W. Kruczowy (extinguisher). They arrived on the 13th floor and were met with a smoke-filled hallway. Fleeing occupants from neighboring apartments directed the members to the fire apartment and noted that they had not seen the occupant exit.

Given the time and after encountering several engaged locks on the fire apartment door, Ladder 51’s inside team was confident that someone was inside the apartment. After forcing the door, entry to the fire apartment was very difficult due to a large accumulation of items stored directly behind the door. Once inside, members encountered thick smoke, high heat conditions and a heavy clutter condition. They could feel the intensity of the fire coming from the hallway leading to the bedrooms and began their search in that direction.

While crawling down the long hallway, Ladder 51’s inside team could see fire rolling out of the first bedroom doorway into the hallway. Before they could reach the bedroom, they had to remove a bicycle, shopping cart and other contents from the narrow hallway. Arriving at the first bedroom door, FF Kruczowy used his extinguisher to hold the fire at bay, while Lieutenant Cassidy and FF Irizarry tried to clear debris away from the door in order to control it. However, the fire already had begun burning through the bedroom door.

With fire now lapping out into the hallway again and the occupant not yet accounted for, FF Kruczowy crawled past the first bedroom and located the door to the second bedroom. After forcibly pushing his way in, FF Kruczowy climbed over waist-high clutter under high heat conditions just to enter the bedroom. He began his primary search and reaching the mattress, found no one on it. He continued to search in the vicinity of the bed and came across the occupant’s leg, in between the mattress and wall. The Firefighter alerted Lieutenant Cassidy of the 10-45 and then began the arduous task of removing the unconscious victim, who was entangled in debris at the farthest point in the bedroom from the door.

Firefighter Kruczowy dragged the victim back over the clutter to the doorway, where he passed the woman through the partially opened door to FF Irizarry in the hallway. Conditions inside the apartment were worsening, but Engine 38’s hose-line was entering the apartment. Engine 38 opened their hose-line to protect FFs Kruczowy and Irizarry while they dragged the victim down the hallway toward the apartment door. Exiting the apartment, FF Kruczowy removed the victim and she received pre-hospital care.

Initiative and heroic actions under intense conditions were exhibited by FF Kruczowy. Unfortunately, the woman ultimately perished. To honor his bravery, FF Rostantin W. Kruczowy is presented with the Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia Medal.

Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia Medal

Firefighter Rostantin W. Kruczowy
Ladder Company 51

April 24, 2019, 0242 hours, Box 75-3695, Bronx


Shown are FF Santiago Rosado, Lieutenant John Cassidy and FFs Rostantin W. Kruczowy, Thomas Irizarry, Kevin Wacha and David Holdampf. Firefighter Kruczowy is receiving the Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia Medal for removing a woman under intense fire conditions.
At 0341 hours on April 14, 2019, Rescue 3 was special-called, along with Ladder 38 and Battalion 27, to assist Engine 88 at Keating Hall, on the campus of Fordham University. Keating Hall is a four-story, collegiate, Gothic-style building with a 160-foot-tall bell tower in the center of its structure. Lieutenant Kevin Kouril, Engine 88, had special-called the ladder company to assist in the removal of an injured woman, who had fallen through an open access panel in the bell tower, approximately 40 feet to the level below, about 125 feet above street level.

The Bronx Communications Office, with knowledge of the University’s campus, also assigned a Battalion Chief and the Rescue. Anticipating a high-angle rescue, FF Joseph S. Drury, Rescue 3’s extinguisher/entry Firefighter, donned a Class III harness. On arrival, Lieutenant Thomas E. Clair, Rescue 3, reported to Battalion Chief Gregory Lehr, Battalion 27, and provided him with details of the woman’s fall. Use of a stokes basket was impossible because the staircases were in a tight, enclosed shaft. Additionally, because of the layout of the building, the tower was inaccessible from aerial and tower ladders.

With their complement of high-angle equipment, Rescue 3 entered Keating Hall and proceeded up the spiral staircase, single file. At the end of the spiral stairs was a 27-inch-wide, short-run scissor stairwell leading to the victim. Reaching the location, Rescue 3 found Engine 88, Ladder 38 and EMS members packaging the woman onto a long board.

After a brief conference to discuss removal options, Lieutenant Clair ordered his members to prepare a horizontal stokes basket lower via rope to circumvent the tower’s stairwells and told FF Drury that he would be the attendant. While members raised the stokes basket to their location via utility rope, FF Drury found an anchor point directly opposite the window that would be used for the removal. The woman quickly was lifted into the stokes basket and secured inside via diamond-lashed webbing. A quick assessment of the victim prior to beginning the evolution determined that she had gone into cardiac arrest.

Firefighter Drury and the other members of Rescue 3 lifted the stokes basket up and out the small window, ensuring the stokes bridle was evenly loaded. Assisted by Lieutenant Clair, FF Drury climbed onto the windowsill, securing himself to the bull ring of the bridle, and climbed out the window. Hanging precariously 95 feet above the transfer point, FF Drury leveled the stokes basket and maneuvered it past the 18-inch ledge so the members could begin lowering them to the roof below. Firefighter Drury adjusted his attachment strap to put himself in a better position to provide aid to the woman during the approximately two-minute controlled descent. Once at the roof level, FF Drury detached the main and safety ropes from himself and the woman (who regrettably died) and continued aid until he was relieved by EMS personnel.

Performing a unique and extremely dangerous operation, while continuing patient care during this complex, high-angle rope evolution, FF Joseph S. Drury exhibited his training and bravery. He is presented with the William F. Conran Medal.—TM

William F. Conran Medal

Firefighter Joseph S. Drury
Rescue Company 3

April 14, 2019, 0341 hours, Box 3375, Bronx

Engine 248 received a phone alarm for a fire in a top-floor apartment in a large, six-story, non-fireproof multiple dwelling on October 21, 2019, at 1524 hours. Engine 248 was a few blocks away from the address and members knew that they would be operating alone initially because Ladder 113, the first-due truck, would be delayed.

Lieutenant Anthony R. Holz, Battalion 33 (detailed to Engine 248), knew that the reported address had four separate entrances and it was important to locate the correct one for the reported fire apartment. Once Lieutenant Holz determined the correct entrance, he relayed this information to the other members of Engine 248. After reaching the sixth floor via the stairway, the Officer located the fire apartment and saw smoke pulsating from the door jamb, causing a medium smoke condition in the public hallway. The fire apartment was the farthest from the street, so Lieutenant Holz knew it would be a long hose-line stretch. (It took 16 lengths to reach the fire apartment.) He advised Battalion Chief Frank Abbatemarco, Battalion 41, to transmit a 10-75 and informed his members of the fire location.

Lieutenant Holz opened the closed, but unlocked, door. While entering the apartment, he heard moaning from the rear of the apartment and was met with high heat and heavy smoke, resulting in zero visibility. With a confirmed life hazard, he realized he had to locate the victim, even though he was operating alone and without the protection of a hose-line. He performed a right-handed search and after going approximately 15 feet, he found fire in the kitchen. Lieutenant Holz was unable to confine the fire and informed Chief Abbatemarco and Engine 248 members, who were stretching the hose-line.

The Officer continued his search, passing the fire, and again heard moaning from the rear of the apartment. The moaning sounded like it was coming from a small child. As heat and smoke continued to intensify, Lieutenant Holz moved rapidly toward the moaning and made a right turn down the hallway toward the bedrooms. He found a young boy lying on the floor and transmitted a 10-45 to Chief Abbatemarco, telling the Chief that he was going to remove the child through the interior of the apartment.

Lieutenant Holz picked up the child and began to retrace his steps to the front door, again passing fire that was extending from the kitchen. The fire was growing in intensity and he knew that he had to get to the apartment door before his path of egress was cut off. The Officer used his body to shield the child from the heat and smoke and made a push to the door. Exiting the apartment, Lieutenant Holz passed the child to Lieutenant Peter Tronolone, Engine 255. Lieutenant Holz then proceeded to supervise Engine 248 with fire extinguishment.

For his determined and aggressive actions, including passing the fire twice without the protection of a hose-line to rescue a young boy, Lieutenant Anthony R. Holz is presented with the Chief John J. McElligott Medal/FFs Fitzpatrick and Frisby Award.—NG
There are many reasons why people join the fire service: camaraderie with other members, the willingness to serve and help others in need, desire to follow in their parents'/siblings’ footsteps and the action/excitement that gets the adrenalin going. But when a Firefighter rescues someone, that is the icing on the cake and can be the highlight of one’s career. Many members experience a whole career and never participate in a rescue. Others, such as Lieutenant Victor Spadaro, just seem to be in the right place at the right time and facilitate numerous rescues throughout their careers.

Lieutenant Spadaro, Ladder 157, again reached that career pinnacle at Brooklyn Box 75-1571 on October 21, 2019. At 1524 hours, his company was dispatched to a report of fire at a six-story multiple dwelling.

Arriving at the building, the Lieutenant entered with his forcible entry team—FFs Raymond Eger, detailed from Engine 255, with the extinguisher, and Timothy Brunton with the irons. Firefighter Eger held back the fire in the kitchen area, while Lieutenant Spadaro and FF Brunton began a right-handed search. Moving down the hallway, they met up with Lieutenant Anthony Holz, Engine 248, who was exiting with a toddler.

Continuing down the heavily charged, L-shaped hallway past the fire room, without the protection of a hand-line, their search of the bathroom and far bedroom proved negative. The pair then retraced their steps, searching on the opposite side of the hallway.

Lieutenant Spadaro and FF Brunton discovered the closed door to a second bedroom, which had been partitioned from a living room. A three-foot gap at the top of the partition wall at the apartment ceiling caused this room to be fully charged with heat and potentially lethal, heavy, black smoke. Firefighter Brunton searched right and Lieutenant Spadaro searched left, although he had to move in a diagonal direction due to heavy clutter and furniture in the room.

The Lieutenant then came upon a flipped-over crib and called the Firefighter to help him right it. Firefighter Brunton removed the crib and Lieutenant Spadaro then found an unconscious woman. Again, the Lieutenant called on FF Brunton for assistance. The pair placed the victim in a seated position and FF Brunton threaded webbing around the woman’s torso and underneath her arms to facilitate her removal.

Lieutenant Spadaro, with FFs Brunton, Eger and Christopher Viviano (Ladder 157), carried the woman to the elevator, where EMS members provided care and transport to the hospital.

The Lieutenant put his own life in jeopardy, passing fire and searching for a victim without the protection of a charged hose-line in place. His efforts were rewarded when he rescued a female victim. For these reasons, Lieutenant Victor Spadaro is presented with the Thomas F. Dougherty Medal. -- JK

Thomas F. Dougherty Medal

Lieutenant Victor Spadaro
Ladder Company 157

October 21, 2019, 1524 hours, Box 75-1571, Brooklyn


Fire Department, City of New York • Medal Day 2020
On October 21, 2019, at 1524 hours, Ladder 157 received a ticket to respond first-due to a reported fire on an upper floor of a large, six-story, non-fireproof multiple dwelling. This is normally a second-due Box for Ladder 157. As the inside team was ascending the interior stairs, Lieutenant Anthony R. Holz, Engine 248, transmitted the 10-75. When the truck members reached the sixth floor, they encountered a medium smoke condition. Lieutenant Holz informed the truck members that there was a kitchen fire on the right side of the apartment, about 15 feet in.

The Ladder 157 members opened the fire apartment door and were met with heavy, black smoke, which completely filled the hallway. Firefighter Timothy J. Brunton, the irons Firefighter, and the rest of the inside team donned their facepieces and entered the apartment without the protection of a hose-line. Firefighter Raymond Eger used the extinguisher to control the kitchen fire, so that Lieutenant Victor Spadaro and FF Brunton could continue their primary search past the extending fire. They made a right-hand search, passing worsening conditions. They met up with Lieutenant Holz, who was carrying an unconscious toddler.

Lieutenant Spadaro and FF Brunton continued down the L-shaped hallway and searched the rear bedroom and bathroom. Both rooms proved negative for victims. Firefighter Brunton continued his search in the heavily charged hallway with a high heat condition and located a second bedroom with a closed door. As the inside team entered the bedroom, FF Brunton checked behind the door and then made a right-hand search of the bedroom.

After he finished searching his side of the bedroom, FF Brunton heard Lieutenant Spadaro ask for help in moving an upside-down crib. They flipped the crib on its side and FF Brunton dragged it to the opposite side of the room. While in the process of moving the crib, Lieutenant Spadaro located an adult female against the far wall. As FF Brunton was coming back to assist his Officer, he discovered a young girl. Firefighter Brunton informed Lieutenant Spadaro of his 10-45 and proceeded to carry her out of the bedroom and into the hallway, where he passed the child to FF Christopher Viviano, Ladder 157’s chauffeur.

Firefighter Brunton was exhausted, but determined, and he re-entered the bedroom to assist Lieutenant Spadaro with victim removal. The Officer had flipped the motionless victim onto her back. He and FF Brunton managed to place the victim into a seated position and FF Brunton used his rescue webbing to tie a girth hitch around the woman. Lieutenant Spadaro called for assistance and FFS Eger and Viviano entered the bedroom to assist in the removal. The four members worked together to remove her from the apartment, down the hallway and into an elevator. The victim was transferred to EMS members in the building’s lobby.

By removing a child and assisting in the removal of another victim from a hot and smoky fire, FF Timothy J. Brunton exhibited his courage. His actions are worthy of the Albert S. Johnston Medal. — NG

Firefighter Timothy J. Brunton shown in action. He found and removed a child and assisted in the removal of another victim. He is receiving the Albert S. Johnston Medal (his second for Medal Day).
On December 12, 2018, at 0725 hours, Ladder 156 was dispatched to a phone alarm for smoke in a Brooklyn, five-story multiple dwelling. On arrival, the members of Ladder 156 were faced with a heavy smoke condition in the lobby. Ladder 156’s inside team was able to quickly identify the apartment as A2. As Firefighter Peter Haggerty, assigned to the extinguisher position, and Firefighter Paul Monahan, the forcible entry Firefighter, were preparing to force entry into the apartment, Lieutenant James Gervasi was receiving reports that the two occupants of the apartment were believed to still be inside.

Once the door was forced, the Ladder 156 crew members were faced with high heat and zero visibility from a heavy fire condition in the kitchen, extending into the interior hallway that leads deeper into the apartment. Firefighter Haggerty, a 15-year veteran with Ladder 156, positioned himself at the doorway to the kitchen and was able to suppress the fire enough to allow Lieutenant Gervasi and FF Monahan to get past the kitchen and begin a search in the back bedrooms. Firefighter Haggerty continued to discharge the extinguisher until the 2½ gallons of water were depleted. At this point, he began to search the living room adjacent to the kitchen.

Passing fire, FF Haggerty entered the living room and quickly discovered an unconscious female, who had suffered burns. He reported this 10-45 and prepared to transport the woman to safety. As he was removing her, he discovered a second unconscious female. Hearing FF Haggerty’s radio transmissions, Lieutenant Gervasi and FF Monahan met up with him in the living room. FF Haggerty removed one victim and FF Monahan and Lieutenant Gervasi, assisted by Ladder 156’s outside vent Firefighter, removed the other one.

Both women had to be shielded from the heat as they passed the kitchen because the narrow hallway could not accommodate hose-line operations and removal of the victims simultaneously. Once safely out of the apartment, the victims were handed to waiting EMS personnel for care and then transported to burn centers for medical treatment.

For his determination, courage and skill that led to the rescue of the two women, Firefighter Peter D. Haggerty is recognized with the Ner Tamid Society/Franklin Delano Roosevelt Medal.—CF

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Ladder 156 operates at Brooklyn Box 77-3073, Kings Plaza, on September 17, 2018. Photo by Brooklyn Dispatcher Brian Grogan.
At 0238 hours on February 21, 2019, Paramedics Sylvia M. Martinez and Kimberly L. Verspoor, Station 50 U1, were assigned to a report of a victim with difficulty breathing and chest pain on the third floor of a multiple dwelling.

On arrival, they encountered a locked door and quickly called for the assistance of Fire personnel and NYPD. Engine 315 members forced entry, allowing access for both the police department and EMS. Once entry was made, the pair of Paramedics headed for the third floor.

As they approached the second floor, the CO meter alerted and showed a reading of 500 ppm. Paramedic Verspoor remained on the second floor to triage a victim as Paramedic Martinez continued on to the third floor. Here, she found the person who prompted the initial call and now the CO meter was reading at 930 ppm.

On the arrival of an additional unit, 50Y1, Paramedic Verspoor went to help Paramedic Martinez on the third floor. The team quickly assessed the victim and knew that a quick exit was imperative. Due to tight quarters and clutter, Paramedic Martinez lifted the victim under his arms and Paramedic Verspoor had his feet as they made their way down to the second floor.

Once on the second floor, the man was placed in the stair chair and brought to the ambulance for pre-hospital care and interventions. Not feeling well themselves, Paramedics Martinez and Verspoor attended to their call and transport to the hospital. After completion of transfer, both Paramedics were evaluated at the hospital and cleared back to duty.

Displaying superior dedication and teamwork and in spite of being hindered by clutter throughout the residence, Paramedics Sylvia M. Martinez and Kimberly L. Verspoor successfully treated and evacuated victims from a dangerous carbon monoxide situation. For their actions, they are presented with the Tracy Allen-Lee Medal. —AF
The members of Engine 37 and Ladder 40 are very familiar with a certain building located on West 125th Street. This Class III multiple dwelling presents various challenges because rehabilitative services are offered primarily to adults with a mental disability. In the early-morning hours of December 30, 2018, the alarm tones sounded in the quarters of Engine 37 and Ladder 40 and a response to this structure was announced, stating there was a fire in the building.

As Ladder 40 arrived, Lieutenant Frederick S. Simms transmitted a 10-75 for heavy fire visibly blowing out a window on the fourth floor. The Lieutenant sized up the building with Firefighters Brian J. Usher (forcible entry) and Brian C. Rodriguez (extinguisher). Numerous people were seen on the front fire escape. The inside team proceeded to enter the building and arrived at the fourth-floor landing; the fire was located in apartment 4B. Entering the fire apartment, the inside team was met with heavy smoke, high heat and zero visibility. These punishing conditions warned of a very difficult search. FF Rodriguez began his search to the left, while Lieutenant Simms and FF Usher began their search to the right.

Shortly after starting his search, FF Rodriguez came across the motionless body of an adult male and immediately transmitted a 10-45. As FF Rodriguez began dragging the victim toward the entrance door of the apartment, he was met by FF Usher. At this point, the fire had begun to extend toward their position and no hose-line was in operation yet. The two Firefighters removed the victim to the public hallway and quickly determined that he was unconscious, not breathing and burned. The rescuers then carried the victim down to street level to EMS members for aid.

Reaching street level, Battalion Chief Stephen DeLoughry, Battalion 12, informed the Firefighters that EMS was not on-scene yet. Using oxygen from the apparatus of Engine 37, FF Rodriguez began rescue breathing on the victim. After several minutes, the man was resuscitated. EMS personnel arrived shortly thereafter and assumed patient care. Firefighters Rodriguez and Usher returned to the fire apartment and continued their primary duties.

FF Rodriguez’ actions on this early morning in December 2018 exemplified bravery and dedication to the Department. He operated without the protection of a charged hose-line and placed himself in jeopardy to rescue a victim. For his heroic actions, FF Brian C. Rodriguez is presented with the Vincent J. Kane Medal.—AC
A risk vs. reward analysis should be performed at every fire. As such, when searching for life, one must risk a lot. On January 5, 2019, this couldn’t ring more true. On this morning, Ladder 61 received a phone alarm for a fire located in the Bronx. The ticket indicated the fire was on the fifth floor. While en route, the Bronx Dispatcher advised Ladder 61 of multiple calls. On arrival, a building resident met Ladder 61 in the lobby and directed members to the A stairwell, stating the fire was in an apartment on the fifth floor. The inside team, comprised of Captain Theodore J. Conroy and Firefighters Joseph A. Aviles (irons) and Richard Gurecki (extinguisher), proceeded up the stairs.

Arriving at the apartment, Ladder 61 was met with zero visibility due to heavy smoke in the hallway. Captain Conroy proceeded to the fourth floor to verify the location of the fire apartment. With the location verified, the inside team then exited the stairs and crawled down the hallway toward the fire apartment, the last apartment on the left. While advancing down the hall, Captain Conroy found the first 10-45 and removed the victim to the stairwell.

Ladder 61 then proceeded to enter the apartment where members were met with heavy, black, acrid smoke, high heat and fire. Firefighter Gurecki positioned himself outside the kitchen, attempting to contain the fire with the extinguisher, allowing Captain Conroy and FF Aviles to begin a right-handed search. They discovered beds in the living room and dressers in the hallway, contrary to the layout provided by Ladder 61’s roof firefighter. Clutter conditions in the hall impeded their access to the rear bedrooms. Maneuvering past the obstacles, Captain Conroy came to the first door in the hall, which was locked. He ordered FF Aviles to force the door and search the room as he continued searching down the hall.

Firefighter Aviles forced the door and began a search in what turned out to be a bathroom. As he swept the floor, he found an unconscious child, backed up against the bathtub. He transmitted the 10-45 and removed the boy from the apartment via the interior stairs. Removing the child to the third floor, he realized the boy was not breathing and initiated rescue breathing, while carrying him down three flights of stairs to the street, resuscitating the victim to a semi-conscious state. The youngster was transported to the hospital.

Firefighter Aviles made a determined effort to rescue the trapped, unconscious child under dangerous conditions, putting himself in a precarious position. If not for his diligent and proficient actions, the outcome for the boy most certainly would have been tragic. Operating without a charged hose-line in place, FF Joseph A. Aviles risked his safety to achieve a greater reward. For these reasons, he is recognized with the Brummer Medal.—JG
On January 5, 2019, Ladder 61 responded to a reported fire in the Co-op City section of the Bronx. Numerous callers said the fire was on the fifth floor of the 24-story building. Captain Theodore J. Conroy and his inside team--FFs Joseph Aviles (forcible entry) and Richard Gurecki (extinguisher)--went up the A stairs. Simultaneously, FF Jeffery McGovern, outside vent, alerted Captain Conroy that dense smoke was pushing out windows on the fifth floor.

Reaching the fifth-floor public hallway, the thick, toxic smoke obscured visible light. Captain Conroy went to the fourth floor to verify location of the G line of apartments. The smoke-filled public hallway was a sign that the fire apartment door had been left open, but now Ladder 61’s Officer and inside team had essential information: The fire was in the last apartment on the left, though they had to crawl several feet in blackout conditions to reach it and before a hose-line was put in place.

As the three members headed toward the fire, Captain Conroy came across a victim, just outside the fire apartment. He ensured that the fire apartment door was closed and removed the man to the safety of the public stairwell landing. He crawled back and rejoined the inside team, who had made their way into the fire apartment, where they were met with intense heat and fire extending from the kitchen into other parts of the apartment. The Captain then directed FF Gurecki to hold back the fire with the portable extinguisher.

Firefighter Daniel Santiago, the roof Firefighter, radioed the layout for the G line from the sixth floor directly above the fire apartment. He also conveyed wind conditions. Then, the roof Firefighter from Ladder 51, who was tending to the first victim, radioed Captain Conroy that the victim said other people were in the fire apartment. Captain Conroy and his crew crawled toward the bedrooms.

The Captain and his inside team found beds in the living room, but not the bedrooms. They worked their way back, encountering some obstructions. After clearing the area of clutter near FF Joseph Aviles, Captain Conroy located an open bedroom, but found no victims. Continuing his search, the Captain found a closed bedroom door and entered, finding a mother and two children. Firefighter Aviles radioed that he had found another child in the bathroom and was removing the victim to a lower floor.

The mother said another child was in the previous bedroom. With FF McGovern sheltering the three confirmed victims still in the apartment behind a closed bedroom door, Captain Conroy retraced his path to the first bedroom, but still could not locate another child. He radioed FF Aviles to determine how many victims he removed in an attempt to get an accurate tally. Proceeding back to FF McGovern’s location, Captain Conroy determined there were three children in the apartment: One with FF Aviles and two with the mother. All reported victims had been found.

Rescuing a family of five required a team effort. Individually, Captain Theodore J. Conroy’s actions, bravery, determination and ability to adjust to incoming information while in harm’s way were exceptional. For these reasons, he is presented with the Frank W. Kridel Medal.—SN
Firefighter Daniel R. Foley was destined to work in Rescue 3. On September 11, 2001, he was on light duty, assigned as the RAC 3 Firefighter, which was quartered with Rescue 3. On that fateful morning, he watched longingly as his brother, Tommy, climbed aboard Rescue 3’s apparatus on his way to Box 55-8087—his final alarm. Firefighter Tommy Foley died in the line of duty at the World Trade Center while serving his City and nation. He stood for everything that is good in this world and FF Danny Foley was determined to follow in his brother’s footsteps as a Firefighter in Rescue 3. So, it is only fitting that on FF Danny Foley’s last day working in Rescue 3, he would be cited for lifesaving bravery for the 11th time in his career.

As Rescue 3 was arriving at Bronx Box 2764, FF Foley could see several small hands waving frantically through a child gate in a seventh-floor window of a 21-story multiple dwelling. Thick smoke billowed from the window. Nothing could have been more urgent—children were trapped inside a burning apartment. But FF Foley was an experienced Firefighter with a default-aggressive mind-set. With robotic professionalism, he ascended to the fire floor.

Exiting the attack stairway on the seventh floor, FF Foley was forced to his knees to don his facepiece. Conditions in the public hallway were severe, which only intensified his resolve to reach the children in the fire apartment. As he entered the fire apartment, he heard Ladder 19’s Officer transmit a 10-45 and soon he could see members through his thermal imaging camera (TIC) removing a limp body through the apartment’s living room. He also could see high heat—indicated in red on his TIC—blowing out of a bedroom doorway, which was blocking access to the back bedroom where the trapped children were clinging to life.

Crawling on his hands and knees to stay below the scorching heat, the Firefighter made his move. As he maneuvered past the fire room, he was able to close the door, buying time for Engine 50 to advance their hose-line. As he entered the rear bedroom, he methodically searched through the thick, black smoke. Just then, he located two young children, who were huddled together at a window. One of the girls had lost consciousness and the other was fading quickly.

Firefighter Foley calculated that passing the fire again with the two girls might expose them to a lethal dose of toxic smoke and heat, so he decided to shelter them in place while Engine 50 aggressively attacked the fire. The gamble paid off. Moments later, the fire was knocked down and members of Rescue 3 and Ladder 19 were able to remove the victims from the fire apartment and deliver them to the expert care of EMS members.

Tragically, after a long battle with World Trade Center-related pancreatic cancer, FF Foley became the second member of his family to lay down his life for his City and nation. He will never be forgotten and his spirit—as well as his brother, Tommy’s—will live on in the quarters of Rescue 3 for eternity. Posthumously, FF Daniel R. Foley is presented with the Emerald Society Medal. —JC

Emerald Society Medal
(Awarded Posthumously)
Firefighter Daniel R. Foley
Rescue Company 3
February 20, 2019, 1322 hours, Box 75-2764, Bronx


The brothers Foley—Tommy (left) and Danny (right)—in much happier times. Firefighter Daniel R. Foley is being honored posthumously for rescuing two young girls from a fire apartment.
On a clear, hot summer night at 0300 hours, Ladder 138 received an alarm for a fire in the Corona section of Queens. Firefighter Edwin J. Rodriguez has been working in Corona for several years and knows the area well. He understands the complexities of the buildings in the area and how dangerous they can be for civilians and Firefighters.

A 10-75 was transmitted for a fire on the fifth floor of the six-story, occupied multiple dwelling. When FF Rodriguez and the remainder of his team, Captain John Speck and FF Joseph Zanca, arrived at the fire apartment, they observed smoke pushing out from under the door. Firefighter Rodriguez knew the difficulties of stretching the hose-line in a building of this size.

Hearing reports of multiple civilians inside the apartment, Captain Speck and Firefighters Rodriguez and Zanca opened the front door to the apartment and began their search of the large, two-bedroom residence without the protection of a hose-line. Firefighter Rodriguez navigated through the smoke and heat, passing the fire in the front room as he headed to a rear bedroom. Before entering the building, FF Rodriguez had observed a female victim at the window of this bedroom. Once inside the 100-square-foot bedroom, he closed the door and searched for victims. With the door to the room partially burnt away, FF Rodriguez could feel the heat from the expanding fire. He made it to the window, where the woman last had been seen. He was relieved to find that she was safely in the bucket and now was being lowered via tower ladder. The Firefighter finished searching the room and continued onto the neighboring bedroom to reconvene with the remainder of his firefighting unit.

While proceeding to the adjoining bedroom, FF Rodriguez heard his Captain transmit a 10-45 to the Incident Commander (IC), indicating a found victim. Firefighter Rodriguez hurried to assist the rest of his unit with removal of the victim. Once the victim was removed from danger, FF Rodriguez remained in the clutter-filled bedroom to continue with a search.

Firefighter Rodriguez navigated the cluttered bedroom and discovered a motionless man wedged between a bed and a dresser. He imme-

Ladder 138 in action at Queens Box 8388. Firefighter Edwin J. Rodriguez, a member of Ladder 138, is receiving the Chief Wesley Williams Medal for his remarkable rescue efforts of a male victim. Photo by EMS Lieutenant Kyra Neeley King.
In the early hours of July 29, 2019, Engine 289 and Ladder 138 received a phone alarm for Box 7957 in Corona, Queens. The run was dispatched at 0300 hours and shortly after, the companies were notified that the Dispatcher was loading up the Box, due to the quantity and quality of the incoming calls.

On arrival, Ladder 138 members conducted a size-up and observed a victim hanging out of the fifth-floor window on the exposure #4 side of the building. Captain John Speck ordered the inside team to the fire apartment to rescue the victims. Firefighters Joseph A. Zanca, with the extinguisher, and Edwin Rodriguez proceeded to ascend the interior stair to the fifth floor of the B wing.

Arriving on the fifth floor, the doorway to the fire apartment was pushing smoke. The team members then donned their SCBA and made entry into the apartment. Due to the intense heat and smoke conditions, members were forced to their knees as they made entry and began their primary search. Numerous civilian reports, in addition to the handie-talkie transmissions, indicated there were several individuals trapped in this apartment.

One immediate objective was to locate the civilian who was seen at the window. Members pushed into the fire area. Just feet into the apartment, they were met with heavy fire, which was held back by FF Zanca. He then passed the fire and crawled into the first bedroom in search of the victim. After discovering that the female victim was safely removed via Ladder 138’s bucket, he continued to vigorously search as additional reports indicated that a child could be in this room as well.

As additional information was received regarding two males still in the apartment, the inside team moved from the first bedroom and out past the fire, without the protection of a hose-line, and into the second bedroom. Firefighter Zanca searched and found a male victim on the bed. He pulled the man to the floor and began removing him to safety through a substantial clutter condition. As Engine 289 positioned the hose-line, FF Zanca dragged the victim out of the apartment and into the hallway. He passed off care to the CFR-D engine. Unfortunately, the man ultimately expired.

Recognizing his heroism, Acting Battalion Chief Carmine Calderaro, Battalion 46, stated that “given the circumstances, FF Joseph Zanca went above and beyond the call of duty in accomplishing this task. FF Zanca had to make an aggressive search past the fire and into the bedroom. He did not hesitate to take action and enter the bedroom to find the victim and quickly start the removal process.” It is in the finest traditions of Ladder Company 138 and the New York City Fire Department that FF Joseph A. Zanca is presented with the Holy Name Society Medal (Brooklyn/Queens).—TW

Diagram depicts the route that Firefighter Joseph A. Zanca took to rescue a male victim from a fire apartment without the protection of a charged hose-line. He is receiving the Holy Name Society Medal (Brooklyn/Queens) for his bravery.
Attaining the rank of Paramedic is no easy task. Members are trained to perform lifesaving techniques at any time in a pre-hospital setting that produces unique and dynamic challenges for any healthcare provider. Evaluating patients, deciphering cardiograph rhythms, administering precise amounts of medications, defibrillation, IV catheters, intubation to maintain airways and sustaining situational awareness to keep themselves safe are just a few of the tasks they perform on a daily basis.

As trained FDNY Paramedics, both Lieutenant Alicia B. Elkadi, with 14 years of experience, and Paramedic Dukens R. Jean Baptiste, with 10 years on the job, were ready for a unique assignment that tested their resolve on a cold and cloudy January 21, 2019, afternoon.

Lieutenant Elkadi, Station 55, and Paramedic Jean Baptiste, Station 54, checked out their vehicle at the start of the day, ensuring that all of the lifesaving equipment onboard their ambulance was in proper working condition and the medications were fully stocked and up to date. After responding to several assignments during the day, the following EMS call was transmitted over the radio at 1229 hours: Five Zero Young, respond to a reported unconscious. Be advised, possible multiple patients at location.

Arriving at a multiple dwelling in Queens, the crew members made contact with two adults and two pediatric patients in front of the location. As the victims were evaluated, it was determined that they had signs and symptoms consistent with carbon monoxide exposure. Recognizing the building from which the victims had emerged, Paramedic Jean Baptiste continued patient care, while Lieutenant Elkadi entered the location. Her carbon monoxide meter alarm immediately was triggered, warning her of the high levels of carbon monoxide, confirming what the two Paramedics had suspected. Without hesitation, she proceeded to alert and evacuate approximately 20 of the building’s residents, preventing additional exposure to the deadly gas.

On this assignment, Lieutenant Foley requested Haz-Tac unit 52 Henry Tour 2, operated by EMTs Kevin McKeon and Kevin Steinle, as well as 54 Edward Tour 2, operated by EMTs Graciela Cuevas DeLeon and Tyara Butcher, for assistance with pre-hospital care and transport.

Thanks to the quick thinking and selfless actions by Lieutenant Elkadi and Paramedic Jean Baptiste, proceeding into a known, deadly gas environment to warn the residents (including children) and evacuate them, they prevented an even larger victim count, including a potential loss of life that could have occurred. In recognition of their superior decision-making, Lieutenant Alicia B. Elkadi and Paramedic Dukens R. Jean Baptiste are presented with the Chief James Scullion Medal. — TM

Lieutenant Alicia B. Elkadi
Station 55

January 21, 2019, 1229 hours, Queens

EMT-P
Dukens R. Jean Baptiste
Station 54
Appointed to the FDNY as an Emergency Medical Technician on July 12, 2010. Previously assigned to Station 39. Attended the Borough of Manhattan Community College and Brooklyn College. Resides in West Hempstead, Long Island.
It was a frigid beginning to February 2019, and the Bronx Vikings already had responded to an early-morning blaze where multiple frozen hydrants had been encountered. Firefighter Lirim Begai was coming to the end of his night tour in Ladder 61, when members received a first-due phone alarm for smoke on the upper floors of a 26-story, fireproof multiple dwelling. Class 1, high-rise buildings such as this one are found throughout Co-op City and are Engine 66’s and Ladder 61’s bread and butter responses.

The Officers of Engine 66 and Ladder 61 noticed smoke pushing from the 22nd floor and notified Battalion Chief William Bonasera, Battalion 20, who then transmitted the 10-77. Ladder 61 recalled the elevators to the lobby and headed up to the 20th floor. They made their way up the stairs to the 22nd floor, where they were met with heavy, black smoke, pushing around the door frame on apartment 22A.

Lieutenant Ronald Littlejohn, Ladder 61, confirmed with Captain Paul Newman, Engine 66, the apartment number and FF Begai began forcing the door to the apartment with the assistance of FF Clinton Hall (Engine 66, detailed to Ladder 61). As the multi-lock steel door began to give, Ladder 61 was hit with heavy heat as the visibility rapidly reduced to nothing. This is when Ladder 61 members realized they had more to deal with than just the fire in the apartment. The door had been forced, but would open only 16 inches, no matter what the members tried. It was at this point they realized there were heavy clutter conditions in the fire apartment, which was going to hamper normal operating procedures.

Realizing the severity of the situation, FF Begai used his training and performed a swim move to gain entry into the apartment. He began a right-handed search in zero visibility conditions and soon encountered the fire, which was consuming the kitchen and adjacent dining area. The Firefighter passed the main body of fire and continued his search, all without the protection of a hose-line. As FF Begai progressed forward in rapidly deteriorating conditions, he encountered a semi-conscious female on the floor of the living room. He transmitted the 10-45 and began dragging the victim, over the clutter, past the main body of fire, eventually carrying her down to the 20th floor, where he transferred her care to Engine 89.

Thanks to his determination and knowledge of the buildings in his response area, FF Begai rescued a trapped occupant, operating without the protection of a hose-line, putting himself in danger. For upholding the highest traditions of the FDNY, FF Lirim Begai is presented with the Captain Denis W. Lane Memorial Medal.—JT
The 1800 hour roll call was being concluded when the tones alerted the members of Squad 270 for a report of a house fire. On this March 22, 2019, Friday evening, the members quickly donned their gear and responded. Normally second due to this Box, Squad 270 arrived at the scene first, avoiding heavy traffic on other roadways that other responding units encountered.

Lieutenant Michael J. Brady, Squad 270, transmitted the 10-75 and quickly sized up the structure, a three-story taxpayer with apartments on both the second and third floors. Smoke was emanating from the top-floor windows on the exposure #1 and #4 sides of the building. As his members began to stretch a 1-3/4-inch hose-line to the entrance, the Lieutenant entered the building to locate the most effective route to stretch that line to the fire apartment.

While climbing the stairs to the second floor, Lieutenant Brady was informed by his chauffeur, FF John Hoffman, that a woman and child were seen at a top-floor window on the exposure #4 side. The Officer continued his climb to the third floor and immediately was met by heavy smoke. Without a hose-line in place, Lieutenant Brady entered the fire apartment and began a search. He quickly encountered high heat and the bright glow of the fire, which was located in an open kitchen area. Still with no line in place, he crawled past the fire and entered a bedroom, where he found two victims—a woman and a young child. He immediately moved them to a window and was joined by Lieutenant Travis Gallagher, Engine 308.

In an effort to secure fresh air for the victims, Lieutenants Brady and Gallagher vented two windows in the front room before the hose-line was in place. This introduction of air revealed a burning mattress in the room. Lieutenant Gallagher removed the mattress from the room, re-entered and isolated the room by shutting the bedroom door. Lieutenant Brady attempted to gain control of the woman and child by bringing them to an open window.

At this point, the only option was to shelter in place with the two victims, who were in a state of panic and continued to pull away from the Lieutenants. The two Officers worked in tandem to calm the woman and assure her that she and the child were in good hands. The Ladder 126 inside team soon entered the room and an aerial ladder was placed to the third-floor window by the Ladder 126 chauffeur. Lieutenant Brady then assisted the inside team in removing the two occupants through the window and onto the aerial ladder where they were assisted to the ground by members of the Ladder 126 outside team.

Thanks to Lieutenant Brady’s experience, training and, above all, his heroism for passing the main body of fire without the protection of a hose-line, he was able to bring this life-threatening situation to a successful conclusion by rescuing a woman and child. It is with great pride that the Fire Department of the City of New York presents Lieutenant Michael J. Brady the Uniformed Fire Officers Association Medal.—JB
Engine 62 and Ladder 32 were drilling with their newer members on forcible entry and search, unaware that a few hours later, these skills would be tested. It was 0625 hours when the tones rang out for Box 3466, a 23-story, high-rise multiple dwelling, with a report of smoke on the 15th floor.

Firefighter Thomas M. Brogan, Ladder 32, knew this building well, because it was the site of his first working fire as a Probie. While en route, the Bronx Dispatcher informed both companies that the fire apartment housed a handicapped person.

Captain Joseph Castellano, Engine 62, reached the fire apartment first and confirmed the location via radio to Battalion Chief William Carroll, Battalion 27 (detailed from Division 7). Reaching the apartment, Ladder 32’s inside team was met with thick, black smoke pushing out from around the door.

Lieutenant Sean Mannion, Ladder 32, and FF Brogan began to mask up, while FF Karim Washington quickly began forcing the door, knowing there was a disabled victim trapped inside. As FF Washington popped the door open, a wall of thick, black smoke and heat rolled out. With zero visibility and high heat conditions, Lieutenant Mannion and FF Brogan entered the apartment, while FF Washington masked up to enter.

Ladder 32’s inside team then heard there would be a delay in supplying the standpipe system because of construction outside the building. Even though Engine 62 was able to get their hose-line into position quickly, they had no water pressure and notified all units.

Firefighter Brogan started a left-handed search, as FF Vincent A. Musacchio, Ladder 32’s roof Firefighter, radioed a detailed layout of the fire apartment. With this information, FF Brogan now could visualize the apartment through which he was crawling. Making his way down the hall, the punishing heat continued to intensify, forcing him closer to the floor. With fire rolling over his head, FF Brogan knew he was heading toward the seat of the fire.

Finally reaching the end of the hall, the Firefighter found an unconscious woman at the doorway to a bedroom fully involved with fire. Pulling her through some clutter, he knew the dangers: No hose-line moving in for protection and a bedroom window that could fail at any second, making this already untenable fire apartment fatal to both himself and the victim. Dragging the woman away from the fire, he called out, 10-45, to Lieutenant Mannion and FF Washington. Firefighter Washington crawled toward FF Brogan and transmitted the 10-45 over his radio. The two Firefighters removed the unconscious victim from the fire apartment.

The woman was hospitalized for her injuries. However, she is alive today because of FF Brogan’s courageous and selfless actions. He crawled under flames to the seat of a fire without the protection of a hose-line to find a disabled victim who surely would have perished. For these reasons, the FDNY is proud to present FF Thomas M. Brogan with the Dr. Albert A. Cinelli Medal.—PK
Ladder 127 was assigned to a report of fire in a multiple dwelling on June 16, 2019. Due to a second alarm in the Rosedale section of Queens and other activity, Ladder 127 was responding first-due to their normally third-due Box. On arrival, Engine 315 gave a 10-75 for heavy smoke coming from the top floor of the seven-story building. The inside team of Ladder 127 was forced to search for the open apartment door in zero visibility. Members knew that this building required a very long hose stretch and there would be a delay in getting water on the fire, hampering their operation.

Entering the apartment, Ladder 127’s Officer, Lieutenant Christopher LeBarron (covering), instructed the first-due engine Officer to control the door. He ordered his iron Firefighter, Robert Wassmer, to search to the right into the kitchen and FF Christopher J. Morrissey, the extinguisher Firefighter, to the left. Firefighter Morrissey came to a closet door and quickly searched it with negative results. He continued a few more feet down the hallway to a door that opened only a few inches. The Firefighter tried to push it open and realized that something was behind it, blocking it from opening. He reached inside the door and felt what he thought was a pile of clothing. The Firefighter began squeezing himself into the door and felt the victim’s head. He verbally communicated to his Officer that he had a 10-45 and needed help due to all the clutter and the victim’s location behind the door.

Firefighter Morrissey called FF Wassmer to his location and told him they would need to take the door off the hinges to gain access to the victim. Once FF Wassmer dislodged the two bottom hinges, he used his hook to remove the last hinge, due to the rapidly deteriorating conditions above him. He grabbed the victim by the arms and began to pull her out of the apartment. Removing the victim was an arduous process due to clutter, zero visibility and significant heat, which rapidly increased, along with a violent rush of air. Firefighter Wassmer worried for both FF Morrissey and the victim and placed the free-floating door in the hallway, attempting to shield them, unaware that they just experienced a smoke explosion.

Firefighter Morrissey made his way out of the apartment and relied on his training and experience to follow his landmarks through the hallway, which was part of the immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) environment, back to the stairwell unguided. He again called for FF Wassmer for assistance to get the woman down to the sixth floor. As occupants fled their apartments, they left their belongings, including a shopping cart, on the stairs. Finally making the sixth-floor hallway, FF Morrissey handed the victim off to Engine 298 and members began aid. The woman was brought to the hospital by EMS members.

Firefighter Christopher J. Morrissey put himself in the path of the fire without the protection of a hose-line to rescue a woman. His courage and determination under dangerous conditions are acknowledged with the Fire Chiefs Association Memorial Medal.—RL
Firefighter Terence F. McSweeney
Ladder Company 126

January 23, 2019, 1338 hours, Box 44-4763, Queens


On the afternoon of January 23, 2019, Ladder 126 and Engine 303 received a phone alarm for a reported fire in a private dwelling. Ladder 126 arrived as the second-due truck and found heavy fire involving the first and second floors and the attic of the initial fire building. As they began their operations, the volume of fire expanded and fire now was in the two adjoining private dwellings.

The amount of fire in the original fire building prevented the first- and second-due trucks from entering. The only access into the building was a small bathroom window on the second floor at the exposure #3/4 corner. As the companies waited to enter, a charged hose-line was stretched for initial attack on the fire.

Outside vent FF Terence F. McSweeney, Ladder 126, brought his 24-foot extension ladder to the rear to gain access to that bathroom window. On arrival, he found heavy fire blowing out the rear bedroom windows on the second floor. He placed the ladder to the small window. At this time, Lieutenant Christian Corbin, Ladder 126, and his inside team made entry and began their primary searches.

Firefighter McSweeney climbed the portable ladder and vented the window. Heavy, black smoke began pulsating from it. With great difficulty, he entered the window, just barely able to fit through it. He immediately searched for the bathroom door to close it due to the punishing heat and blackout smoke condition. Doing so prevented fire from entering this room. After closing the door, FF McSweeney continued his search. He found the victim wedged between the bathtub and toilet and transmitted the 10-45 to the Incident Commander.

The victim’s size prevented removal via the bathroom window. Firefighter McSweeney informed Command that he had to remove the victim down the interior stairs, but had to wait until Engine 275 began to knock down fire that was cutting off his escape. Engine 275 knocked down fire in the interior hallway and began to drive the fire back into the bedrooms, giving FF McSweeney the opportunity to quickly move the victim from the bathroom with the help of Ladder 133’s extinguisher Firefighter. As this fire rapidly escalated to a fourth alarm, they removed the victim down the interior stairs to the front of the fire building where EMS members were waiting to perform the initial assessment. EMS members promptly removed the victim to the hospital.

First-to-arrive then-Battalion Chief Charles Downey, Battalion 50, observed the heavy fire conditions and had received reports of people trapped. Acknowledging the very harsh fire and smoke conditions FF McSweeney endured, he added that the communications by FF McSweeney were clear and concise, which assisted with removal of the victim. On his arrival, Deputy Chief Daniel Browne, Division 13, also noted the fire conditions and recognized FF McSweeney for his act of personal bravery. Unfortunately, the victim expired, but this in no way diminishes FF Terence F. McSweeney’s bravery. He is recognized with the Community Mayors for Special Children, Inc./Lt. Robert R. Dolney Medal.—TW
EMT David K. Ansu

EMD-PSAC 1

February 7, 2019, 2126 hours, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY as an Emergency Medical Technician on July 11, 2005. Prior assignments include Stations 31 and 32. Member of the Vulcan and Phoenix Societies. Attended Nassau Community College as a Mortuary Science major. Resides in Queens with his wife, Ebony, sons, David, Jr., and Honor, and daughter, Goddess.

MT David K. Ansu went to work as he normally does for his evening shift at Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD), PSAC 1. Daily, high-volume calls come through the 911 system and Dispatchers must be very attentive to each call.

On the evening of February 7, 2019, a “difficult breather” call came in. Following procedure, EMT Ansu dispatched it to a crew, while simultaneously recognizing that something just didn’t seem right with the caller’s information. Following his instincts, the EMT then requested NYPD for a possible assault incident and to back up the assigned EMS crew.

When the crew arrived at the apartment building, they spoke with the male occupant, the father of the two children in the apartment. The crew members observed a young male mouth the words, “Help me,” while the father’s back was turned. NYPD arrived on-scene and the crew explained what they saw from the child inside. Crew members asked NYPD to try to speak to the children in the apartment, but the father refused them entry.

NYPD ESU was dispatched to gain access to the apartment. Once entry was gained, NYPD and EMS members discovered that the apartment was empty. The EMS crew and NYPD then were notified that the children were found bruised at the mother’s house a few blocks away, where the father had dropped them off and left.

Had EMT Ansu not been persistent and cleared the EMS crew off the job without requesting NYPD presence, the children might have been harmed even more severely. EMT David K. Ansu trusted his instincts and experience. By doing so, his vital communications may have saved two children. His actions warrant FDNY recognition with the Lieutenant Kirby McElhearn Medal. --MV
On the morning of April 24, 2019, a seemingly routine incident became anything but that. At 0947 hours, Tower Ladder 7 responded to and was operating at a manhole incident in front of a high-rise commercial building. The covers of two manholes in front of that building had dislodged due to minor pressure explosions from a fire in the equipment below. Con Ed personnel requested that FDNY members flow water into the manholes to extinguish the burning equipment. The Units on-scene began to check the adjoining buildings for carbon monoxide fumes that can seep into basements via the electrical conduits as a result of the burning electrical equipment. Firefighter Peter J. Utschig, the chauffeur, received his assignment to check and vent the basement of the high-rise building.

Firefighter Utschig and other members of Tower Ladder 7 and Ladder 21 entered the building to check conditions. He met up with the building superintendent who provided the Firefighter with access to the cellar. Firefighter Utschig instructed the superintendent to return to the street out of harm’s way. Firefighter Utschig searched the cellar, checking the levels of CO—already dangerously elevated—with his meter. While checking the boiler room, he found a door that provided direct ventilation to the street. Firefighter Utschig radioed his location, the high CO readings and that he was going to attempt to ventilate the area via the street door. He began to work on opening the door, when without warning, a violent CO explosion occurred in the boiler room.

The force of the explosion threw FF Utschig approximately 20 feet across the room. He was injured from the explosion; disoriented; with significant pain to his left ear, back, shoulder and knee. He made his way back to the entrance door, now filled with smoke, and discovered it was jammed shut from the explosion. While forcing the door open using his Halligan Tool, FF Utschig heard someone nearby groaning. He forced open the door and began searching for the source of the moaning. He found the building superintendent lying on the floor, approximately 15 feet from the boiler room door.

Firefighter Utschig transmitted a 10-45 and began to drag the victim toward the cellar exit. With the worsening smoke condition and high CO levels, the rescuer believed another explosion was possible. FF Utschig dragged the victim about 20 feet over debris to a relatively protected area near the cellar stairs where members of Ladder 21 met up with the pair. They assisted FF Utschig in removing the victim to the street. EMS personnel immediately treated the injured victim and removed him to the hospital. FF Utschig was transported to the Cornell Burn Center and was treated for numerous injuries, which resulted in more than four months of Medical Leave.

Injured himself, FF Utschig put the needs of the injured civilian first. He showed no hesitation in searching for the man and then performed the arduous task of removing him toward safety, all while in a volatile environment. The victim survived, thanks to his actions. Firefighter Peter J. Utschig displayed courage in the highest traditions of this Department and is awarded the BC Frank T. Tuttlemondo Medal.—AJP
Fear can keep a man out of danger, but courage only can support him in it.—Thomas Fuller

The courage displayed by the men and women of the FDNY on a daily basis is boundless. Many people may believe the heroic acts of members are limited to operating in burning buildings and smoked-out basements in high heat conditions. However, the adverse conditions and challenges FDNY members constantly train and prepare for are not limited to structural firefighting. This was proved once again on July 30, 2019.

At 1958 hours, Engine 265 received an alarm for people in distress in the Atlantic Ocean at the location of Beach 59th Street and the Boardwalk. En route to Box 1247, the Queens Communications Office updated the responding unit that they now were receiving reports of multiple drowning victims.

Arriving at the scene, Lieutenant Gerard Walsh learned from civilians the approximate location of two swimmers in distress. After locating these swimmers, Firefighter Brian T. Levings retrieved a water rescue torpedo from the apparatus and proceeded toward the ocean. Firefighter Levings had sized up the situation and realized its severity. Adding to the danger, it was after-hours for beach lifeguards. Although Engine 265 is not a surf-trained rescue unit, using his experience as an ocean lifeguard, the Firefighter identified the severe rip current and extremely rough surf, as well as the fact that daylight soon would retreat.

Faced with a treacherous situation that included high winds and a nearby jetty, Firefighter Levings dashed into action, entering the choppy waters of the Atlantic Ocean. He struggled through the unforgiving surf and finally reached a semi-conscious, teenaged victim. With the help of FF James Hayden, Ladder 121 (detailed from Engine 275), he secured the young man and began the return to shore.

Firefighter Keith McDonnell, Ladder 121 (detailed from Ladder 134), met the two rescuers and victim with a rescue surfboard tethered to the shore. Together, Firefighters Levings and Hayden transferred the victim to the rescue surfboard and returned him to shore. The teenager was transferred to waiting EMS units and transported to the hospital. At this point, Firefighter Levings then returned to the ocean to search for an additional 30 minutes before he was called back to shore by the Chief in Charge. Unfortunately, the second victim perished.

In keeping with the highest traditions of the Department, Firefighter Levings relied on his Fire Department and ocean lifeguard training and experience to effect this rescue. He displayed bravery above and beyond the call of duty. For his heroic actions, Firefighter Brian T. Levings is awarded the Dr. John F. Connell Medal.—SI
On Tuesday, July 30, 2019, at approximately 2000 hours, Ladder 121 received a phone alarm reporting a water rescue. While on their way to the Arverne section of Queens, they were notified by the Queens Dispatcher that there were reports of multiple people in the water. Tower Ladder 121 is one of the busiest surf rescue companies in the City and members’ knowledge of geography and expertise regarding how water behaves in their area, training and experience were tested on this day.

As members donned their personal protective equipment (PPE) and made their way to the water, they were receiving reports from frantic civilians, stating that two children had entered the water. There were reports of strong riptides and the children possibly being in the path of these dangerous phenomena. Lieutenant Daniel Bellew and his crew used binoculars to confirm two children in the surf, approximately 150 yards offshore. The size of the waves--some as high as 10 feet--crashed into the jetty with such force that members of Ladder 121 knew that mother nature was actively working against them.

Firefighter James R. Hayden, the irons Firefighter, was the designated rescue swimmer for the night tour. He entered the water without hesitation. With only his water rescue torpedo, he fought through the swells and rough tide to get to the victims as quickly as possible. As FF Hayden swam to the victims, the rest of Ladder 121 implemented a safety tether operation. Because there were two victims spotted, FF Brian Levings, Engine 265, entered the water as a backup rescue swimmer. Once the safety tether system was in place, Lieutenant Bellew went to the jetty to act as a guide for FF Hayden, who could not see the victims or judge how much farther he had to swim. As each wave rose and fell, high winds blew salt water in his face, affecting his ability to breathe, complicating this rescue.

Lieutenant Bellew observed one of the victims go under and not return to the surface. The other victim appeared to be unresponsive and was floating face up as FF Hayden arrived at his location. The Firefighter grabbed the victim and prepared his return to shore with FF Levings. The pair brought the victim closer to the shore, where they were met with a tethered surfboard staffed by FF McDonnell. Firefighter Hayden took charge of the operation, getting the victim on the board and signaling to the shoreline to haul the surfboard back to shore. Within minutes of FF Hayden getting to the victim, the youngster was off the board, out of the water and into the care of EMS personnel and transported to the hospital. Determined to find the second victim (who ultimately expired), FF Hayden continued his search, exhausting all his energy, until he was ordered out of the water by the Incident Commander (IC).

The efforts of FF Hayden that day saved the life of a young male. He repeatedly placed himself in harm’s way, as the rough surf and high winds made this a life-threatening situation. For rescuing this youngster, FF James R. Hayden is awarded the Fire Bell Club Medal.—RL
Although known as the Fire Department, City of New York, that moniker describes only part of the FDNY’s varied and diverse expertise. With four of the five boroughs located on islands and the remaining borough of the Bronx bordered on two sides by large rivers, there are also countless numbers of creeks, canals, bays and wetlands that the FDNY must protect. Proficiency in cold water, swift water and SCUBA rescue are fundamental FDNY requirements.

On Wednesday, September 4, 2019, off-duty Captain Frank Stonitsch, Engine 10, was riding his bicycle with his 18-month-old daughter to the Brooklyn Bridge Park. As they approached Pier 6 at the south end of the park, Captain Stonitsch saw a departing ferry 50 feet off the pier. One of the crew members was shouting repeatedly, Man overboard! Captain Stonitsch’s rescue instincts kicked in and he rode to the railing to see if he could locate the victim. The Captain yelled to the ferry crew regarding the location of the victim. They responded that the victim had been drawn under the pier by the strong northbound current.

At this point, a woman offered to watch the Captain’s daughter so he could help. Trusting the woman, Captain Stonitsch—a former ocean lifeguard and accomplished swimmer—scanned the murky waters for visible hazards, such as boulders, cement, exposed wood or jetsam/flotsam debris. After careful evaluation, he looked back at his daughter to assure her well-being and then jumped into the water.

Entering the water, Captain Stonitsch was able to make out the victim, desperately clinging to a pylon amid the darkness underneath the pier. Carefully swimming among exposed rebar and submerged debris to the panicked young woman, the Captain asked her if she was alone and could not swim. Putting his lifeguard experience and swimming skills to the test, Captain Stonitsch instructed her to grab his arm and release her death grip on the pylon. Swimming against the current while continuously reassuring the victim, the Captain again navigated his way through the water hazards, out from under the pier to the ferry and an NYPD Harbor patrol boat. With one arm securing the victim, Captain Stonitsch was able to submerge a rescue basket—lowered from a boom on the ferry—under and around the victim. As she was safely being raised to the ferry’s deck, he looked up to his daughter on the pier, who appeared amused by the whole ordeal.

Once raised to the ferry’s deck, on the way to be reunited with his daughter on the pier, Captain Stonitsch asked the victim if she was okay. The victim gave the Captain a heartfelt thank-you and, in kind, he offered his appreciation to the woman who watched his daughter during his valiant rescue.

For his off-duty heroics and skilled professionalism under dangerous conditions, Captain Frank J. Stonitsch, is awarded the Firefighter David J. DeFranco Medal.—SM

Firefighter David J. DeFranco Medal
Captain Frank J. Stonitsch
Engine Company 10
September 4, 2019, 1729 hours, Box 8098, Brooklyn

Quarters of Engine 10/Ladder 10. Photo by Brooklyn Dispatcher Brian Grogan.
The mission of the Bureau of Fire Investigation (BFI) is to expertly ascertain the origin and cause of all complex, fatal and suspicious fires within the City of New York. When fires are determined to be deliberately set, a complete and thorough criminal investigation is conducted. One such investigation began on May 28, 2019, when at 0425 hours, FDNY units were dispatched to the first of five arson fires in two separate buildings located in East New York, Brooklyn.

Firefighters from Engine 225 and Ladder 107 responded to a phone alarm for a fire on the fifth floor with 911 calls reporting “people trapped.” Reaching the fifth floor, units discovered a fire at the doorway to apartment 5F, hindering the escape of those inside. After placing the all-hands fire under control, Battalion 39 transmitted a 10-41, code 1, requesting a Fire Marshal response.

BFI dispatched members from the Citywide South (CWS) Command to initiate an investigation. Supervising Fire Marshal John Orlando and Fire Marshals Joseph M. Chidichimo and James Beringer responded to the incident. Working with other BFI members, a thorough forensic examination of the fire scene was conducted. A strong odor of gasoline and a pour pattern were identified in the area of origin. The BFI K-9 Unit was requested and FM Joseph DiGiacomo responded with K-9 Bucca to search for the presence of accelerants. Evidence discovered and collected from the fire scene resulted in the conclusion that the fire was of “incendiary” origin, the result of arson.

When a second fire occurred at the same apartment, FM Chidichimo returned to investigate. After a detailed scene examination, he verified this fire to be intentionally set and the perpetrator once again used an accelerant. With the assistance of BFI’s Special Investigations Unit, a multi-layered investigation was set in motion. Members began an extensive canvass of the area to develop leads and locate potential witnesses. As the team diligently worked to identify a person of interest, two more incendiary fires were ignited in the same building at the front door to apartment 4F, causing injuries to an apartment occupant and family pet. This serial arsonist was becoming more brazen, raising extreme concern among the building occupants and investigators.

With the number of fires escalating, FM Michael Tracey, Jr., and additional members from the CWS Command were assigned to assist with the investigation. Committed to find the individual responsible for these crimes, FMs Chidichimo and Tracey worked relentlessly to uncover any factor that could break the case. A critical lead in the investigation developed when the Marshals interviewed a NYCHA employee who provided a crucial piece of information, helping to identifying a resident of an adjacent building as a person of interest.

In the early-morning hours of November 7, 2019, FDNY units responded to a fire in the same building and on the same floor where the suspected perpetrator resided. FM Tracey quickly responded and confirmed the method of operation at this fire was the same as the previous incidents—an ignitable liquid pour at the apartment door. A search of the fire scene by the BFI K-9 Unit resulted in a positive indication for an accelerant and uncovered additional key evidence. Through close work with the Brooklyn DA’s office, Fire Marshals were able to obtain a warrant for the suspect’s apartment, which led to the discovery of items used to set fires at the victims’ apartments. The arsonist was apprehended without incident and indicted on an array of charges, including attempted murder and arson.

The perpetrator in this case showed a depraved indifference to human life by igniting numerous fires fueled by an accelerant at the front door to the apartments of sleeping victims. The initiative and resourcefulness of FMs Joseph M. Chidichimo and Michael Tracey, Jr., resulted in the apprehension of this violent felony offender. Their actions represent the highest traditions in law enforcement. For these reasons, they are honored with the Deputy Commissioner Christine R. Godek Medal. “MJK”

Deputy Commissioner Christine R. Godek Medal

November 7, 2019, 0448 hours, Box 75-1870, Brooklyn

Fire Marshal
Joseph M. Chidichimo
Citywide South, BFI

Fire Marshal
Michael Tracey, Jr.
Citywide South, BFI

Appointed to the FDNY on November 19, 2006. Previously assigned to Engine 273 and Ladder 129. Member of the Fraternal Order of Police. Recipient of two Unit Citations and multiple pre-hospital saves. Attended SUNY at Oneonta. Resides on Long Island.

Appointed to the FDNY on May 25, 2004. Previously assigned to Engine 279 and Ladders 131 and 79. Member of the Bravest Boxing and Bravest Football Teams. Studied Computer Science at Kingsborough Community College and the College of Staten Island. Resides on Staten Island.
On the afternoon of Tuesday, January 15, 2019, Hook and Ladder 167 was returning to quarters from Battalion 53. They were in the vicinity of Bell Boulevard and 53rd Street when they received a phone alarm for a fire in a non-fireproof mixed occupancy. Ladder 167 responded and being only a few short blocks away, arrived within seconds of the call.

They transmitted the 10-75 and began to operate as the only unit on-scene. They were confronted with heavy fire blowing out of the second-floor window of a taxpayer, with residential apartments on the second floor. As the members headed to their assigned positions, the chauffeur, FF Thomas Johnson, placed the aerial up to the roof and roof Firefighter, Brian Durkan, prepared to climb the aerial to access the roof for vertical ventilation. The members of Ladder 167 quickly masked up outside the building and readied themselves to make entry.

Lieutenant Otto A. Rodriguez ordered FF Todd Neckin with the irons to quickly force the front door. The Officer and inside team of FFs Neckin and William Hothan made their way to the second floor. Finding the door locked, the team forced entry. Opening the door, they found the apartment fully involved. Firefighter Hothan, using the extinguisher, attempted to hold back the fire with little progress.

Lieutenant Rodriguez then held the door closed while FF Neckin searched the adjoining apartment. Firefighter Durkan began to cut the roof and Engine 306, the first to arrive, stretched a 2-1/2-inch line to the fire apartment door. Engine 306 opened the line and Lieutenant Rodriguez and the inside team crawled into the punishing conditions to begin their search. The Officer split the team since time was crucial. He moved into the bedroom and found an unconscious male victim. He quickly called to FF Neckin to assist him in her removal. Firefighter Neckin carried the victim to the street where Paramedics provided care and quickly transported her to the hospital.

The Lieutenant continued down the hallway and searched the second bedroom. Here, he found a male victim, also unconscious. Faced with an extremely difficult maneuver, the Officer again called to his inside team, as well as FFs Guy Kirschberg (outside vent) and Johnson, to assist with the man’s removal. They worked methodically as a team and quickly removed the man. They brought him to the street where he was turned over to Paramedics for aid and then was transported to the hospital. Lieutenant Rodriguez returned to the fire apartment to complete his primary search.

Lieutenant Otto A. Rodriguez persevered; his efforts resulted in finding two victims, both of whom, regrettably, died. Because of his brave actions, this man and woman were given the chance to survive. He operated in the highest traditions of the New York City Fire Department and is proudly presented with the Firefighter Kevin C. Kane Medal by the City of New York.—TW
New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) properties are densely populated buildings found in all five boroughs. They present unique challenges and often lead to difficult fires. On March 1, 2019, the Firefighters of Harlem’s Ladder 43 faced one of those extremely hot and smoky fires.

At 1015 hours, Engine 53 and Ladder 43 were turned out for a phone alarm reporting a fire at First Avenue and East 105th Street. While responding, the Manhattan Dispatchers “loaded up the Box” due to the vast number and quality of 911 calls. Firefighter Stephen P. Janicki, Ladder 43’s extinguisher Firefighter, smelled smoke in the air as the apparatus was getting close to the address, a 20-story NYCHA property. Ladder 43’s outside vent Firefighter reported heavy, black smoke coming from the third floor, “C” line, of apartments as the Officer of Engine 53 transmitted a 10-77.

Making their way to the third floor via stairway A, Ladder 43’s forcible entry team (Lieutenant Kevin Duddy, detailed from Battalion 10, and FFs Amir Francis with the irons and Janicki with the extinguisher), stopped briefly at the second floor to familiarize themselves with the apartment and hallway layouts. This momentary size-up tactic ultimately proved extremely beneficial.

As the team arrived at the third floor, they encountered high heat and heavy smoke banked down to floor level in the hallway. Reading this as an indication that the fire apartment door was open, they blindly made their way into this fire area and crawled directly towards the “C” apartment, the location of which they had identified on the floor below just seconds earlier.

Entering and controlling the apartment door, the team could feel higher heat conditions coming from the left side of the apartment. Firefighter Janicki and his Officer crawled in that direction, down a narrow and severely cluttered hallway, toward the ever-increasing heat. Just as they arrived in the vicinity of the seat of the fire, FF Janicki located an unconscious woman on the floor. While shielding her from the fire now rolling over their heads, FF Janicki had the astute foresight to close the bedroom door to contain the raging fire and transmitted a 10-45.

Navigating his way past shopping carts and other debris in the narrow hallway, FF Janicki dragged the victim approximately 25 feet toward the apartment door, down the long public hallway and handed her off to Firefighters in the stairwell. Exhausted, FF Janicki then crawled back down the long hallway to assist his team in completing their primary search and overhaul assignments.

The injured woman was transported to the hospital. Although the woman regretfully perished, if not for the poise and determination of FF Janicki, she would have had no chance at survival. For his heroism and fortitude, under severe fire conditions and without the benefit of a protective hose-line, Firefighter Stephen P. Janicki is awarded the Captain John J. Drennan Memorial Medal.—SM
Tuesday, December 10, 2019, started like most days for Paramedics Niall C. O’Shaughnessy and Joshua S. Rodriguez. Inspection of their vehicle and equipment was complete and they were stationed at their assigned cross-street location. At 0733 hours, a call for assistance from FDNY Paramedic Unit 04 Young Tour 2 was broadcasting over the EMS Manhattan radio frequency. The crew of 04 Young Tour 2 reported that both their carbon monoxide meters were reading high levels and additional resources were needed.

Without hesitation, Paramedics Rodriguez and O’Shaughnessy requested the assignment to provide additional aid. Arriving on-scene, the crew of 04 Young Tour 2 evacuated five delicatessen workers. The workers confirmed that one person was unaccounted for and last was seen in the basement. Carbon monoxide levels were so high at the doorway to the basement, the crew of 04 Young Tour 2 were unable to make entry into the recessed basement.

Knowing the unseen, life-threatening dangers of carbon monoxide levels, Paramedics O’Shaughnessy and Rodriguez donned their personal protective equipment (PPE) and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) to safely make entry into the basement as fire resources had not yet arrived on-scene.

Entering the basement, carbon monoxide levels were registering at more than 600 parts per million. In spite of this hazard, the two Paramedics continued into the basement, traveling more than 100 feet through a labyrinth of basement storage until finding an unconscious victim by the boiler. The basement boiler had become a cauldron of carbon monoxide, slowly causing the victim to breathe more and more slowly.

Taking immediate and decisive action, Paramedics O’Shaughnessy and Rodriguez carried the unconscious, but still breathing, victim out of the basement, up through a steep staircase. Reaching street level, the patient’s breathing slowly started to improve. The victim was expertly treated and transported to the hospital.

For their selfless and decisive actions in the face of a dangerous and challenging situation, Paramedics Joshua S. Rodriguez and Niall C. O’Shaughnessy are presented with the Jack Pintchik Medal (their second for Medal Day).—BR
While returning to quarters on October 21, 2019, Engine 248 was assigned to a fire in an occupied multiple dwelling. In approximately one minute, the company arrived at the six-story, 200- x 225-foot, building. The chauffeur, FF Timothy E. Coffey, Jr., positioned the apparatus for a back-stretch at a hydrant past the courtyard entrance and across the street, allowing ample room for the ladder companies.

Although nothing was showing on the exterior, members noted a strong, burning odor in the street. They started to stretch a hand-line into the courtyard and stood fast until the fire apartment was located. This extremely large building has four separate entrances in the courtyard, but are not interconnected inside. The floors are lettered A (first floor) to F (sixth floor) and the apartments are numbered unusually.

The normally assigned, first-due truck, Ladder 113, was returning from a relocation, delaying their arrival. Lieutenant Anthony R. Holz, Battalion 33 (detailed to Engine 248), proceeded through entrance C in the rear of the courtyard and ascended to the sixth floor, finding a medium smoke condition. He discovered heavy smoke pushing from around the edges of the fire apartment door. The Officer transmitted the fire apartment information to Battalion 41 and ordered Engine 248’s nozzle team to bring the line to this location. The fire apartment was in the farthest part of the building from the street; on the top floor, in the rear, on the exposure #4 side corner. Engine 248’s members worked as a team, expeditiously stretching 16 lengths of hose, including two lengths on the fire floor to reach the fire apartment.

Lieutenant Holz heard moaning coming from the fire apartment and with no ladder company yet on the fire floor, he entered to search for the source. He discovered fire coming from a room that had no door to confine it. Pressing on, the Lieutenant heard crying. He passed the fire room and found a young boy in the hallway. Shielding the child, Lieutenant Holz retraced his route, passed the fire again and removed the boy to the public hallway, where he handed him off to another member for removal to the street.

Engine 248’s nozzle team arrived at the apartment door, along with Ladder 157’s inside team. Lieutenant Holz informed Ladder 157 of the fire location and that a complete primary search had not been made in all rooms. Engine 248 charged their hose-line, entered the apartment and confronted the heavy smoke, heat and now extending fire. They advanced down the hall into the fully involved kitchen and extinguished the fire.

The rapid, aggressive attack by Engine 248 enabled Ladder 157 members to locate and remove two more unconscious victims from a bedroom past the burning kitchen. One of the victims, a young girl, was handed off to Engine 248’s control Firefighter, FF Darnell A. Arroya. He carried the child down six stories to the street, proactively initiating rescue breathing and then assisting EMS members with care.

Engine 248’s actions epitomized teamwork. The members demonstrated how a well-trained, disciplined and coordinated engine company can save the lives of trapped victims, as well as prevent additional fire extension and destruction. For their superb efforts, the above-listed members are presented with the Lt. James Curran/New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal.—AP
Rescue 3 was special-called on April 14, 2019, to use their skills to help remove a female from a precarious location in a clock/bell tower at Fordham University. Lieutenant Thomas E. Clair, III, and his members surmised this would call for a high-angle-type rescue. On arrival, they reported to Battalion Chief Gregory Lehr, Battalion 27, for a situation report. Members assembled their equipment and began a 95-foot climb, in single file, up a narrow, spiral staircase to the woman.

EMS, Engine 88 and Ladder 38 members and NYPD ESU were providing care. Firefighter Joseph S. Drury, wearing a Class 3 harness, was assigned to be the litter attendant lowered with the injured woman. He and FF Robert J. Athanas immediately began the process of anchoring the main rope line to a window opposite the one from which FF Drury and the woman would be lowered. Firefighters Robert B. Ryan and Rod J. Ford (detailed from Rescue 4) procured the stokes basket and bridal, bringing the equipment to a second-floor roof setback directly below the window from which the victim would be lowered.

A utility rope was dropped down to them and they secured the stokes. Firefighter Michael J. Lindy, assisted by Engine 88 and Ladder 38 members, hauled the stokes up. The young woman was secured to a backboard first and then the stokes by FF Drury, who used webbing in a diamond lash fashion. Firefighters Athanas and Lindy began securing an anchor point for the safety rope line. They used Ladder 38’s lifesaving rope, wrapping a stationary enclosure, and then attached the safety line to that. Once completed, FFs Drury and Athanas attached webbing tether lines to the foot and side of the stokes basket and quickly instructed the tethering members to make sure it cleared the window properly.

Firefighter Drury assisted with maneuvering the stokes up and out of the 27-inch-wide window and ensured the bridal was horizontally loaded evenly. Once in position, Lieutenant Clair assisted FF Drury onto the windowsill where he secured his attachment strap to the bull ring of the stokes’ bridal. He crawled out the window and across the stokes basket, where they now were dangling 95 feet above the setback roof.

In position, but before the lowering could begin, FF Drury had to maneuver the stokes basket past an 18-inch ledge below the window, but out of reach from the interior. Once that was cleared, FF Drury readjusted his attachment strap so he could be higher than the victim, allowing him to continue care. Lieutenant Clair coordinated the lowering operation, both visually and verbally, via handie-talkie with FF Ryan on the second-floor roof setback.

On Lieutenant Clair’s command, FFs Lindy and Athanas slowly and methodically lowered the stokes basket and FF Drury. The smooth, controlled descent took approximately two minutes. Firefighter Ryan gave reports from below, aiding FFs Lindy and Athanas with the lowering operation. Firefighter Ford monitored the descent from an angle that differed from FF Ryan’s, to be certain the stokes basket was clear of any obstructions. Once FF Drury and the woman were on the roof, FFs Ryan and Ford disconnected the ropes andbridle from the stokes, carried the basket across the roof and passed it through a window to EMS personnel to continue patient care. (Unfortunately, despite their heroic efforts, the woman perished.)

In his endorsement of Rescue 3’s actions, Division 7 Commander, Deputy Chief John A. (Jay) Jonas stated that “Rescue 3’s operation was professional, coordinated and heroic. This was an outstanding company operation based on teamwork and cooperation.” For their actions, Rescue 3 is awarded the Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Medal.
A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.—Christopher Reeve. As Firefighters in the greatest fire department in the world, our uniformed members operate at a wide array of challenging situations. However, in certain instances, members must confront multi-faceted obstacles. This is precisely what the members of Ladder 30 encountered on the afternoon of October 18, 2019.

At 1452 hours, Ladder 30 was assigned to Manhattan Box 1534, reporting smoke in a multiple dwelling on West 131st Street. Pulling into the block, Ladder 30 was flagged down by NYPD members who informed Captain James B. Leach that they had an active shooter situation with one confirmed victim down, as well as smoke in the first-floor hallway. Captain Leach advised his members of the situation and ordered his roof Firefighter, Robert Hodges, to the roof of the fire building using the exposure #2 building.

Captain Leach and his inside team, Firefighters Randall J. Santana and Kenneth P. Haughton, approached the front of the fire building, where they were told by the NYPD incident commander that there was one confirmed shooting victim down and the perpetrator had barricaded himself in an apartment in the rear exposure #2/3 corner. To gain a better size-up while maintaining a defensive position, Ladder 30’s inside team made their way through exposure #4 to the rear of the fire building where they observed smoke coming from both first-floor rear apartments.

Realizing that FDNY members would be delayed entering while waiting for NYPD ESU, Captain Leach had his members raise a portable ladder to the front fire escape balcony so that the drop ladder would not impede FD/PD operations and facilitate access to the floors above for search. Firefighter Robert B. Hodges then transmitted to Captain Leach that a fourth-floor occupant had self-evacuated onto the fire escape due to the increasing smoke condition in her apartment. Firefighter Hodges quickly descended the fire escape and assisted the victim onto an adjoining roof to safety.

NYPD ESU was attempting to make entry into the perpetrator’s apartment, but now was requesting the FDNY to enable their advance due to increasing fire conditions. Ladder 30’s inside team made their way into the apartment to facilitate searches and extinguishment by Engine 35. Due to heavy clutter, Engine 35 operated from the apartment entrance. Captain Leach ordered his inside team members to clear the clutter to make way for Engine 35. Passing the fire, Captain Leach discovered an unconscious victim in the rear of the apartment and transmitted a 10-45. Knowing the conditions at the front of the fire apartment the Captain ordered his ladder company chauffeur (LCC), FF Russell J. Miklitsch, and outside vent (OV) Firefighter, Marc A. Victorio, to bring the stokes basket to the rear fire escape where they removed the victim (who expired).

For their quick and decisive actions, coupled with discipline and cohesion, in the face of great adversity in an uncommon situation, the above-listed members of Ladder 30 are awarded the World Trade Center Memorial Medal.—SI
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Rating A</th>
<th>Service Rating B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FF Joseph A. Aviles, L-61</td>
<td>FF Brian C. Rodriguez, L-40</td>
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<td>FF Lirim Begai, L-61</td>
<td>FF Edwin J. Rodriguez, L-138</td>
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<td>Lt. Michael J. Brady, SQ-270</td>
<td>Lt. Otto A. Rodriguez, L-167</td>
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<td>FF Thomas M. Brogan, L-32</td>
<td>Lt. Victor Spadaro, L-157</td>
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<td>FF Timothy J. Brunton, L-157</td>
<td>Capt. Frank J. Stonitsch, E-10</td>
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<td>Capt. Theodore J. Conroy, L-61</td>
<td>FF Peter J. Utschig, L-7</td>
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<td>FF Daniel R. Foley, R-3</td>
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<td>FF Craig E. Bielawski, L-5</td>
<td>FF William I. Tonner, M-1</td>
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<td>FF Patrick J. Bouman, L-1</td>
<td>FF Jonathan V. Turetsky, L-22</td>
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<tr>
<td>FF Louis D. Carballo, E-325</td>
<td>FF Thomas J. Zurica, L-136</td>
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**BUREAU OF FIRE INVESTIGATION—BFI**

**SERVICE RATING A**

January 20, 2019, FM John J. Simmons, SIU
February 11, 2019, FM Stephen R. Launeno, SIU
March 19, 2019, FM Craig T. Gundersen, CWS
May 16, 2019, FM Michael J. Pritchett, SIU
May 17, 2019, FM Enrico S. Stassi, CWN
October 24, 2019, FM Michael J. Pritchett, SIU
November 7, 2019, FM Joseph M. Chidichimo, CWS
November 7, 2019, FM Michael Tracey, Jr., CWS

**SERVICE RATING B**

January 28, 2019, FM Jason G. Blackburn, CWN
February 17, 2019, FM William R. Woodward, CWN
May 17, 2019, FM John J. Simmons, SIU
October 30, 2019, FM Matthew J. Lewis, CWN
November 6, 2019, FM Larry S. George, CWS
November 22, 2019, FM Cletus S. Mullin, CWS

**UNIT CITATIONS**

Citywide North Command
September 20, 2018, Box 1196

Special Investigations Unit
April 9, 2019, Box 1595

Citywide South Command
May 28, 2019, Box 1836

Special Investigations Unit
October 24, 2019, Box 0319

Citywide South Command
June 13, 2019, Box 3324

Special Investigations Unit
November 5, 2019, Box 0618

Citywide North Command
February 17, 1972

Citywide North Command
September 3, 2019, Box 5556

Special Investigations Unit
December 4, 2019, Box 0389
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| **Rescue Company 1**  
June 2, 2018 Box 0051 | **Ladder Company 20**  
February 15, 2019 Box 0319 | **Engine Company 65**  
June 10, 2019 Box 33-0856 | **Ladder Company 138**  
July 29, 2019 Box 75-7957 |
| **Engine Company 88**  
August 25, 2018 Box 22-2977 | **Engine Company 226**  
February 18, 2019 Box 33-0626 | **Engine Company 8**  
June 10, 2019 Box 33-0856 | **Engine Company 91**  
August 28, 2019 Box 1277 |
| **Ladder Company 108**  
November 8, 2018 Box 75-0253 | **Ladder Company 157**  
February 24, 2019 Box 75-2415 | **Ladder Company 4**  
June 10, 2019 Box 33-0856 | **Engine Company 91**  
September 16, 2019 Box 7396 |
| **Squad Company 252**  
December 8, 2018 Box 22-0817 | **Rescue Company 1**  
March 1, 2019 Box 75-1069 | **Ladder Company 2**  
June 10, 2019 Box 33-0856 | **Ladder Company 14**  
September 21, 2019 Box 7393 |
| **Ladder Company 103**  
December 30, 2018 Box 75-1769 | **Ladder Company 35**  
March 1, 2019 Box 75-1069 | **Rescue Company 1**  
June 10, 2019 Box 33-0856 | **Engine Company 35**  
September 21, 2019 Box 7393 |
| **Ladder Company 61**  
January 5, 2019 Box 77-4426 | **Ladder Company 174**  
March 11, 2019 Box 2317 | **Engine Company 254**  
June 13, 2019 Box 44-3324 | **Engine Company 240**  
September 21, 2019 Box 7242 |
| **Engine Company 66**  
January 5, 2019 Box 77-4426 | **Rescue Company 2**  
March 11, 2019 Box 2317 | **Ladder Company 156**  
June 13, 2019 Box 44-3324 | **Engine Company 233**  
September 25, 2019 Box 75-0861 |
| **Rescue Company 2**  
January 9, 2019 Box 75-0863 | **Ladder Company 126**  
March 22, 2019 Box 75-6058 | **Engine Company 315**  
June 16, 2019 Box 75-4909 | **Engine Company 58**  
September 30, 2019 Box 1349 |
| **Squad Company 252**  
January 9, 2019 Box 75-0863 | **Engine Company 96**  
March 25, 2019 Box 75-2898 | **Engine Company 314**  
June 16, 2019 Box 22-2806 | **Marine Company 8**  
October 17, 2019 Box 3479 |
| **Ladder Company 176**  
January 9, 2019 Box 75-0863 | **Ladder Company 146**  
March 26, 2019 Box 7123 | **Engine Company 245**  
June 17, 2019 Box 33-3550 | **Ladder Company 28**  
October 18, 2019 Box 22-1534 |
| **Ladder Company 22**  
January 11, 2019 Box 22-1135 | **Engine Company 69**  
March 30, 2019 Box 1626 | **Engine Company 234**  
June 20, 2019 Box 1013 | **Ladder Company 30**  
October 18, 2019 Box 22-1534 |
| **Engine Company 8**  
January 12, 2019 Box 75-0877 | **Ladder Company 153**  
April 1, 2019 Box 3236 | **Engine Company 95**  
July 9, 2019 Box 7299 | **Squad Company 41**  
October 18, 2019 Box 22-1534 |
| **Ladder Company 48**  
January 14, 2019 Box 2475 | **Rescue Company 3**  
April 14, 2019 Box 3375 | **Ladder Company 36**  
July 9, 2019 Box 7299 | **Engine Company 248**  
October 21, 2019 Box 75-1571 |
| **Engine Company 298**  
January 16, 2019 Box 22-9881 | **Ladder Company 50**  
April 21, 2019 Box 22-4240 | **Engine Company 316**  
July 10, 2019 Box 22-7687 | **Ladder Company 701**  
November 2, 2019 Box 7318 |
| **Ladder Company 127**  
January 16, 2019 Box 22-9881 | **Engine Company 201**  
May 1, 2019 Box 1455 | **Ladder Company 126**  
July 10, 2019 Box 22-7687 | **Engine Company 52**  
November 4, 2019 Box 75-4981 |
| **Ladder Company 119**  
January 20, 2019 Box 0354 | **Marine Company 4**  
May 5, 2019 Box 1077 | **Ladder Company 4**  
July 18, 2019 Box 7009 | **Engine Company 274**  
November 22, 2019 Box 4472 |
| **Engine Company 275**  
January 23, 2019 Box 44-4763 | **Squad Company 252**  
May 10, 2019 Box 0133 | **Engine Company 68**  
July 25, 2019 Box 44-2353 | **Engine Company 201**  
December 11, 2019 Box 44-1457 |
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February 5, 2019 Box 75-0669 | **Engine Company 271**  
May 27, 2019 Box 75-4040 | **Ladder Company 49**  
July 25, 2019 Box 44-2353 | |
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February 5, 2019 Box 1229 | **Engine Company 54**  
June 10, 2019 Box 33-0856 | **Engine Company 289**  
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Fire Department, City of New York  •  Medal Day 2020

CFR-D PRE-HOSPITAL SAVE COMMENDATIONS

MAY 2019
Engine Company 3, May 11
Squad Company 18, May 5
Engine Company 28, May 17
Engine Company 38, May 22
Engine Company 69, May 28
Engine Company 75, May 1
Engine Company 83, May 4
Engine Company 89, May 17
Engine Company 97, May 6
Engine Company 151, May 4
Engine Company 225, May 11
Engine Company 233, May 16
Engine Company 234, May 1 and 31
Engine Company 235, May 1
Engine Company 245, May 20
Engine Company 249, May 11
Engine Company 276, May 7
Engine Company 292, May 3
Engine Company 299, May 18
Engine Company 307, May 17
Engine Company 308, May 26
Engine Company 309, May 13
Engine Company 321, May 15
Engine Company 324, May 20

JUNE 2019
Engine Company 4, June 25
Engine Company 6, June 29
Engine Company 7, June 4
Engine Company 48, June 1
Engine Company 54, June 17
Engine Company 67, June 7
Engine Company 79, June 25
Engine Company 93, June 6
Engine Company 225, June 14
Engine Company 229, June 21
Engine Company 234, June 20 and 24
Engine Company 265, June 13
Engine Company 266, June 6
Engine Company 283, June 5
Engine Company 284, June 3 and 14

JULY 2019
Engine Company 42, July 4 and 9
Engine Company 43, July 23
Engine Company 46, July 14 and 16
Engine Company 62, July 29
Engine Company 73, July 15
Engine Company 74, July 15
Engine Company 166, July 14
Engine Company 234, July 25
Engine Company 240, July 9
Engine Company 247, July 27
Engine Company 268, July 20
Engine Company 284, July 26
Engine Company 297, July 25
Engine Company 304, July 26
Engine Company 315, July 2
Engine Company 317, July 15

AUGUST 2019
Engine Company 8, August 14 and 26
Engine Company 21, August 9 and 15
Engine Company 22, August 8
Engine Company 40, August 16
Engine Company 45, August 21
Engine Company 50, August 6 and 12
Engine Company 60, August 19
Squad Company 61, August 28
Engine Company 69, August 16
Engine Company 74, August 31
Engine Company 76, two saves on August 31
Engine Company 91, August 5
Engine Company 97, August 13
Engine Company 156, August 21
Engine Company 168, August 3
Engine Company 220, August 8
Engine Company 225, August 12
Engine Company 229, August 5

SEPTEMBER 2019
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Engine Company 52, September 25
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Engine Company 164, September 18
Engine Company 167, September 6
Engine Company 210, September 27
Engine Company 211, September 14
Engine Company 214, September 4
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Engine Company 236, September 22
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**OCTOBER 2019**

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Fire Department, City of New York • Medal Day 2020
2019 PRE-HOSPITAL SAVE AWARDS

*Number in parentheses indicates multiple saves.*

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Lieutenant Awilda Gomez
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Lieutenant David Greenidge
Paramedic Jason Greibesland
Lieutenant Jeremy Griffl
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MD Christopher Guszack
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Paramedic Lana Hagai
Paramedic Christopher Hagemann
EMT Sharna Hagler
Paramedic Claude Hall
Lieutenant Elise Hallon
Paramedic Lorena Hanton
Paramedic Luke Hardcastle
EMT Rajindra Harinaran
Paramedic John Harney (5)
Paramedic Dindeyal Haricharan
Paramedic Jaclyn Harris (2)
Lieutenant Bevonia Harrison (3)
Paramedic Lauren Hartnett (2)
EMT Onar Harvey
EMT Kenneth Haughton
EMT Noel Haughton
EMT Devante Hazel (3)
Lieutenant John Heer
EMT Tiana Hendricks
EMT Duna Henricksen
EMT Sandra Henriques (2)
Paramedic Juan Henriquez (2)
EMT Tyani Henry
Paramedic Brendon Hernandez
EMT Brittany Hernandez (3)
EMT Davi Hernandez
Paramedic Henry Hernandez
Paramedic Henry Hernandez, Jr.
EMT Doris Herrera-Lozado
EMT Orlando Hewitt (3)
Paramedic Madelyn Higueras (2)
Paramedic Luke Hill (3)
Paramedic Walter Hochbrueckner (2)
EMT Edward Hochhauser
Paramedic Andrew Hodges (4)
Paramedic Simon Holyland (2)
Paramedic Shoshana Holzberg-Pill
EMT Ivan Horn
Paramedic Chandal Homer
Paramedic Jimmy Hong
Paramedic Michael Hod (2)
Paramedic Andriy Hrycky (3)
Paramedic Joseph Hudak
EMT Keston Huggins
EMT Marshall Hunt (2)
Paramedic Robert Hunt (2)
Lieutenant Oneil Hunter
Paramedic Mohammad Hussain
Lieutenant Derek Hutchinson
Paramedic Alis Huyacint
EMT Robert Hyde
Lieutenant Bruce Hydock, Jr. (2)
Paramedic Jennifer Hypolite
EMT Tara Ihnken
Paramedic Eric Ingram (3)
EMT William Iommi
EMT Jermaine Irving (2)
Lieutenant Amanda Izenberg
Paramedic Derron Israel (4)
Lieutenant Matt Jachyra (2)
EMT Daniel Jakubczak
Paramedic Dennis Jamieson (2)
EMT Tony Jarani (2)
EMT Samuel Jaroslawicz (2)
EMT Ra Jassir (2)
EMT David Jean-Baptiste
EMT Dukens Jean-Baptiste
EMT Chavy Jennings
EMT Marcus Jerome (2)
EMT Jonathan Jeronimo
EMT Samuel Jimenez
EMT Chauncey Johnson
EMT Josha Johnson
EMT Andre Jones
EMT Andrew Jones
EMT Brenda Jones (2)
EMT Daniel Jones
EMT Reasame Jones
EMT Suzette Jordan (2)
EMT Jeffrey Joseph (5)
EMT Francis Jost
EMT Paula Josten (4)
EMT Sean Josten
EMT Juanita Juania
EMT Cendra Jules
EMT Kakeh
EMT Raymond Kane
EMT Deana Kavgordova
EMT William Keating
EMT Jessica Keeley (2)
EMT Edward Keenan
EMT Althea Kelly
EMT Kathleen Kelly
EMT Robert Kelly
EMT Bikini Kemp
EMT Cept Kennedy, Jr.
EMT Travis Kessel (2)
EMT Adil Khalid (2)
EMT Omar Khan (2)
EMT Pavel Kihryenko
EMT K Hyun Kim
EMT Sin Tae Kim
EMT Jannell King (2)
EMT Rodrick King
EMT Andrey Kirichenko (3)
EMT Sergei Kiseljuk (2)
EMT Rossi Kissoon
EMT Moshe Klein (3)
EMT Steven Kleinberg (2)
EMT Michael Klimkiewicz
EMT Christian Komondora (2)
EMT Brendan Konrad (2)
EMT Peter Koretzky
EMT John Korinek
EMT Ewa Koszowska (3)
EMT John Kozak
EMT Marc Koski
EMT George Krostallis
EMT Marcel Lacertos
EMT Monique Lacroze (2)
EMT Amy Lagaris
EMT Erica Lague (2)
EMT George Lampon (3)
EMT Paul Lananna
EMT Esteban Landa (2), Jr.

Lieutenant Yahki Langford (4)
Lieutenant Nicholas Larocca
Lieutenant Kevin Laron
EMT Laticia Larrier (2)
EMT Frank Latino
Lieutenant Terrace Lau (5)
Paramedic Crystal Lawrence
EMT Tyler Lawson
EMT Adrian Lazar
Lieutenant Jason Lazar
Lieutenant Pierre Lazarre (2)
Paramedic Andy Le
Lieutenant Kevin Lebby (6)
Lieutenant Kenneth Levow (2)
Paramedic Juan Lebrun (4)
Paramedic Peter Ledwith
EMT Hyo Gap Lee (2)
EMT Daniel Lefebvre
EMT Kenneth Leger
Lieutenant Nancy Leger (2)
EMT Robert Leich
EMT Alexa Leo
Paramedic Christopher Leon
Lieutenant Vito Leone
Paramedic Wayne Leslie (2)
EMT Thomas Leto
EMT Shane Lewis
EMT Anne Li
EMT Christine Li
Paramedic Randy Li (2)
Lieutenant Ron Li
EMT Xue-Hua Li
Lieutenant Justin Lin (5)
EMT Zhang Kai Lin (2)
EMT Jesse Lipton
Lieutenant Maureen Little
Paramedic Krystle Liz
Paramedic Darren Lolk
Paramedic John Lomagno
EMT Michael Lombardi (2)
Lieutenant Alice Lomino (3)
EMT Hoover Lopez (2)
Lieutenant Lisa Lopez (2)
Paramedic Mussael Lopez-Sanchez
EMT Shirley Lorquet
EMT Michael Loscalzo (2)
Lieutenant Alexander Loutsky (5)
Paramedic Josue Luciano
Paramedic Geraldine Luna
EMT Gary Luten (2)
EMT Sondra Luzzicone
Paramedic Andrew Mach (2)
Lieutenant Richard Machado
EMT Dennis Machtel
Paramedic Nicholas Magro
Paramedic Kevin Maher
Paramedic Ralph Maisonneuve
EMT Delroy Maitland
Lieutenant Valeri Makaret (2)
Lieutenant David Malavey (3)
EMT Pedro Malo
Paramedic Andrew Malone (3)
EMT Jessica Mancino (2)
Lieutenant Neil Mancuso
EMT Christina Manno (2)
Paramedic Wilfredo Manrique (2)
Paramedic Anthony Maraisca (2)
Paramedic Raymond Marinos (3)
Lieutenant John Marino (2)
Paramedic David Mark
Captain Julio Marrero
Lieutenant Michael Maris
Lieutenant Thomas Marsden (2)
EMT Dazmine Marshall
EMT Hayden Marshall
EMT Jermaine Marshall
Paramedic Matthew Marshall
EMT Segar Marshall
EMT Harry Marthone
EMT Felicitas Martin, Jr.
Lieutenant Michael Martin
EMT Jesse Martinez
EMT Marvin Martinez
EMT Orlando Martinez
Paramedic Sergio Martinez (2)
Paramedic Noel Martinez Garcia
Lieutenant Anthony Marullo, Jr. (4)
Lieutenant Renae Mascol
EMT Sabrina Mason
EMT Franklin Mateo (2)
Paramedic Daniel Mathieu
Paramedic Eric Matonis (3)
Lieutenant Conrad Mathews (4)
Paramedic James Mathews (2)
Lieutenant Kurt Maurer (5)
EMT Jacqueline Mauro
Paramedic Vincent Mazzarella
Lieutenant Daniel Mboh (2)
Paramedic Ainsworth McCalla, Jr.
Lieutenant Charles McCarren, Ill (2)
EMT Amanda McCarthy
Paramedic John McConnell
EMT Dylan McCoy
Paramedic James McVea, Jr.
EMT Christopher McShan (2)
Lieutenant James McGe (3)
Captain Sean McGrath
Paramedic Cullen McGraw
Paramedic James McGuire
Paramedic Brian McIlroy
EMT Kyle McKenna
EMT Matthew McKenzie
EMT Kevin McKeon
EMT Michael McKeon
EMT Michael McNe
Paramedic Thomas McQuoid (2)
EMT Stephanie McVear (2)
Lieutenant Joe McWilliams (2)
Paramedic Graceelyn Medina (2)
EMT Rafael Medina (2)
EMT Sonia Medina
EMT Brian Melaragno
Lieutenant Michael Melas
EMT Jennifer Melendez (2)
EMT Manuel Melendez
Paramedic Theodore Melnick
Paramedic Byron Mello
EMT Jonathan Mendez
EMT Randy Mercedes
Captain William Merrins
Paramedic Kenny Metellus (2)
Paramedic Vincenzo Mezzacappa
Lieutenant Alexandre Mihalewscu
EMT Michael Miller
Paramedic Robert Miller
EMT Matthew Millet
EMT Michael Mitnik
EMT Rahjane-Anto Mitto
EMT Gladimy More (2)
EMT Frank Montana, Jr.
Paramedic Edith Moog
EMT Joseph Mora
Paramedic Giovao Morales
Paramedic Joe Morales
EMT Joshua Morel (3)
Lieutenant Julie Moreland
EMT Christopher Moreno (2)
Paramedic Melanie Moreno (2)
EMT Shane Morris (2)
Paramedic Brian Morrissey (3)
EMT Kelvin Moti
EMT Brian Moti
EMT Dom Mott (2)
EMT Samerih Nagi
Paramedic Johanna Nan (2)
EMT Jamilah Nance
EMT Ciro Napolitano
EMT Matthew Neary
EMT Ciena Negron
Captain Jonathan Negron (2)
EMT Carey Nelson, Jr.
Lieutenant Moses Nelson
EMT Natasha Nemhard (2)
Paramedic Vladimir Nikulin
EMT Natirman Niyazov
EMT Sade Noel
Paramedic Heather Norden
Paramedic Stephen Northmore (2)
Paramedic Kamala Nosivosva
EMT Nina Niam
Lieutenant Eric Nunez
EMT Orlando Nunez
Lieutenant Marat Nurillo (2)
EMT Joanna Ocana
Lieutenant Jason Ochoa
EMT Kerry O’Connor
Paramedic Krista O’Dea
Paramedic Justin O’Grady (4)
Paramedic Kevin Oh (2)
Paramedic Kevin O’Hara
EMT Charles Okai
Paramedic Cristina Oliver
EMT Carlos Olivera
EMT Michael Olsen
Paramedic Meleki O’Neal (3)
Paramedic Arcelis Oquendo
### EMS UNIT OF THE MONTH—2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Station</th>
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<tr>
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<td>EMTs Luke Cohen, Craig Mogilovsky, John Scanlon</td>
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<td>55</td>
<td>26F2</td>
<td>EMTs Conor Costello, Neil Torres, Frank Vela</td>
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<td>EMTs Claire Harewood, Ciara Ortiz, Stacey Schellong</td>
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<td>47</td>
<td>47F2</td>
<td>EMTs Maria Azzinaro, Tyler Ostrander, Jason Romero</td>
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Medal and Award Donors

Chief of Department Peter J. Ganci, Jr. Medal
Established in 2020, this medal is named for Chief of Department Peter J. Ganci, Jr., the highest ranking uniformed member of the Department killed on September 11, 2001. Chief Ganci is one of 343 FDNY members who made the Supreme Sacrifice that day. He gave his life while leading the rescue effort to the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center. The medal is to be awarded annually for the highest act of bravery by a Firefighter or Fire Officer and takes the place of the James Gordon Bennett Medal, which was awarded annually from 1869 until 2019. (Page 11)

Brooklyn Citizens Medal/FF Louis Valentino Award
In 1896, a committee of Brooklynites endowed this medal “to be given to the most deserving Firefighter in the Brooklyn Fire Department, as he/she shall be selected by the Fire Department of the City of New York.” The 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 12)

Christopher J. Prescott Medal
Named in honor of EMT Christopher Prescott, the first EMS member to make the Supreme Sacrifice 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 13)

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 14)

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 14)

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 15)

Thomas E. Crimmins Medal
First awarded in 1912. In memory of her father, Thomas E. Crimmins, contractor, builder, loyal New Yorker and son of a volunteer Fireman, Mrs. May M. Burke provided for the endowment of the Crimmins Memorial Medal. Additional award from Honorary Fire Commissioner Dorothy Marks, in memory of Jeffrey S. Childs, great-grand-son of Thomas Crimmins. Also funded by the Fire Foundation of New York, Inc., Kenneth Bronstein, President. (Page 16)

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 Honorary Fire Officers Association of the FDNY. (Page 17)

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 18)

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 19)

Henry D. Brookman Medal
Mrs. Marion Prentice Brookman, in endowing this award, wrote, “to help the authorities in installing into the Department the fact that the service rendered by the Firefighters is of a character to be worthy of the old fidelity and ambition held by the late Henry D. Brookman for the FDNY.” First awarded in 1921. (Page 20)

Chief Ulysses Grant Leadership Medal
Named in honor of Chief Ulysses 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 experience and wisdom need not die with him, but become his legacy. (Page 21)

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 22)

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 23)

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 24)

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 Santer. (Page 25)

Chief John J. McElligott Medal
FFs Fitzpatrick and Frisby Award
Named in honor of the late Chief and Fire Commissioner, Chief McElligott. He joined the Department in 1965 and retired in 1994 after a long and fruitful career. This medal was endowed by William F. Conran and first was awarded in 1937. Recipient also is awarded the Fitzpatrick and Frisby Award, a medalion endowed by the Firebrick and Frisby Foundation, in memory of these two Firefighters who made the Supreme Sacrifice. The UFA funds this award. Recipient is awarded cash, donated by Honorary First Deputy Commissioner Brian F. Mulhern, in memory of his father, Joseph A. Mulhern, a friend of the FDNY. (Page 26)

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 technical and efficacy of ventilation. First awarded in 1937. (Page 27)

Albert S. Johnston Medal
Albert S. Johnston was a Captain in the New York Fire Patrol with a record of 50 years of faithful service. Ten years after his retirement in 1927, this medal was endowed by William F. Conran. (Page 28)

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 29)

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 30)

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 31)

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 32)
Fire Department, City of New York • Medal Day 2020

Frank W. Kridel Medal
Awarded by the Hotel Association of New York City to a member of the FDNY in recognition of an act of valor above and beyond the call of duty. First awarded in 1962. Endowed by the New York City Fire Department. (Page 33)

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 34)

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 35)

Holy Name Society Medal (Brooklyn/Queens)
Endowed/funded by the Holy Name Society (Brooklyn-Queens) in memory of Chaplain Emeritus Very Reverend Monsignor Merrit E. Yearger. First awarded in 1967. (Page 36)

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

Captain Denis W. Lane Memorial Medal
Endowed in honor of the late Captain Denis W. Lane. Established by the Honorable Joseph M. Lane and Ms. Joan M. Lane. Captain Lane was appointed to the Department in 1913. A life-long member of the FDNY Anchor Club, he retired in 1958 after a long and dedicated career. Awarded to a deserving member of the uniformed force in recognition of an outstanding act of bravery. First awarded in 1976. Endowed by the New York City Fire Department. (Page 38)

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 39)

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

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

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 an attempt to save the life of a Firefighter. However, if an act of this nature does not occur during the year, it then will be presented to a member who performed an outstanding act of heroism. First awarded in 1981. (Page 42)

Lieutenant Kirby McElhearn Medal
A dedicated professional with a passion for communications, Lieutenant McElhearn is remembered for his instrumental involvement in the research and development of the first modern-day Field Communications Unit (FieldComm) for EMS. Sponsored in memory of Honorary Battalion Chief Paul Sanner. (Page 43)

Battalion Chief Frank T. Tuttlemondo Medal
This medal is endowed/funded by the members of the 444th Battalion in honor and memory of their late, beloved Chief, who served the Brooklyn area of Brooklyn most of his firefighting career and gave his life to save his men. The medal was designed by former firefighter George Guinan, formerly of Ladder 120. It is presented annually to a member of the Department who performs an act of bravery and courage in keeping with the highest traditions of the FDNY. First awarded in 1982. (Page 44)

Dr. John F. Connell Medal
Awarded since 1983 in honor of the late Dr. John F. Connell, adopted in 1923 by Engine 2, in what was then Helf’s Kitchen. With encouragement of Firefighters who became his substitute fathers, he received his medical degrees from thousands of fires, treating Firefighters and civilians without a thought of personal recognition. Endowed/funded by his son, the late John F. Connell, Jr., and first awarded in 1983, the award continues from Rosemary Connell, the widow of John F. Connell, Jr. (Page 45)

Fire Bell Club Medal
The Fire Bell Club, the oldest and largest such association in the nation, 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 1959. First awarded in 1984. Funded by the Fire Bell Club. (Page 46)

New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal
The New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association, Inc., founded in 1950, is an independent, non-profit and tax-exempt organization, dedicated to promoting the interests of the Firefighters of the State of New York. The active Association is affiliated with the New York State Professional Fire Fighters Association and is celebrating 70 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 47)

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

Deputy Commissioner Christine R. Godek Medal
Established and endowed by Honorary Fire Commissioner Dorothy W. Marks and the late 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 49)

Firefighter Kevin C. Kane Medal
This medal has been established in honor of Firefighter Kevin C. Kane, who made the Supreme Sacrifice in the discharge of his duties, protecting life and property on September 13, 1991. This medal is awarded bi-annually to a member of the Department who performs an act of outstanding bravery and courage as deemed by the Board of Merit. Funded by Engine 207. (Page 50)

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 51)

Jack Pintchik Medal
Following successful resuscitation from cardiac arrest by EMS Paramedics, Jack Pintchik, founder of the Pintchik Home Improvement Stores, was 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 52)

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 53)

Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Medal
Endowed by the United 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 54)

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 Medal of Honor is awarded to a member of the New York City Fire Department who performed an act of outstanding bravery and courage as deemed by the Board of Merit. Endowed by the 9/11 parents and families. (Page 55)
Lieutenant Brian J. Sullivan
Squad Company 41
Died on August 10, 2019, as a result of injuries sustained in the performance of duty at Bronx Box 2150.
Appointed October 25, 1992.