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In Honor of Black History Month FDNY Pays Tribute to First Responders

The FDNY celebrated Black History Month on Feb. 27 by honoring trailblazing FDNY first responders. The event, which was held at the Department's Headquarters in Brooklyn, was hosted by the Office of Community Affairs.

The honorees for the evening were Commissioner Robert O. Lowery, Commissioner Augustus A. Beek-



FDNY First Deputy Commissioner Robert R. Turner II accepted the Trailblazing Award on behalf of his father, the late Battalion Chief Robert R. Turner, Sr. on Feb. 27.

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FDNY Honors Trailblazing First Responders

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man, Assistant Chief Ralph R. Palmer, Battalion Chief Wesley Williams, EMS Deputy Chief Michael J. Fields, Capt. David J. Floyd, EMS Capt. Tonya Boyd, Lt. Ella McNair, Fire Marshal Joann M. Jacobs, Firefighter James N. Temprow, the FDNY African Heritage Society and Battalion Chief Robert R. Turner, Sr.



The event included a special performance by the Brooklyn Express Drumline. In addition, our FDNY Fire and Emergency Medical Service Explorers and Firefighter Candidate Mentorship Program (FFCP) Junior Mentors were in attendance to help pay tribute to the honorees. ■

FDNY Celebrates Lunar New Year



FDNY First Deputy Commissioner Robert R. Turner II, third from left, Chief of EMS James Booth, fourth from left, Assistant Chief of EMS Michael Fitton, fifth from left, and Chief of Department James E. Leonard, center, along with members of the FDNY Phoenix Society, marched in the 2015 Lunar New Year Parade in Lower Manhattan on Feb. 22. This year's celebration honored the Year of the Sheep. ■



Photo courtesy of Richard Woehrle

‘Probies’ Follow in Their Father’s Footsteps



FDNY Probationary Firefighters Nathan, left, and Jason Thomas, right, celebrated their graduation from the Fire Academy with their father, Firefighter Robert Thomas, center, on November 18, 2014.

FDNY Probationary Firefighters Jason and Nathan Thomas definitely have a story that exhibits brotherly love.

Not only did they graduate from the same college, Bob Jones University in South Carolina, they also

earned the same test score on Exam 2000 and completed the Fire Academy together. Even more special is that they are the sons of longtime FDNY Firefighter Robert Thomas.

When they graduated from the Fire Academy on November 18, 2014, the two marked a milestone in their family by becoming second generation firefighters.

“Seeing them graduate from the Fire Academy was a real touching moment,” recalled Robert, who is completing his 33rd year of service at Engine 205 in

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Firefighting Brothers Graduate Together

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Brooklyn. “It’s a moment in time that I will never forget.”

Joining the Department, however, was an unexpected achievement for the Thomas brothers. Although they learned about being a Firefighter from their father growing up, they noted that the career wasn’t one they initially wanted to pursue. It wasn’t until they got older and finished college that they realized that serving as New York City Firefighters was their true calling.

“When I was in col-



FDNY Probationary Firefighters Nathan, left, and Jason Thomas.

lege, I decided that I wanted to work at a job where I’m helping people,” said Jason, 24, who serves at Engine 216 in Brooklyn. “That’s when I started to really learn more about this job from my Dad and really see how great it is to work here helping New York City.”

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Firefighting Brothers Graduate Together

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“In college, I really started to fully understand that being a Firefighter is a really noble job,” added Nathan, 22, who serves at Engine 219 in Brooklyn. “Firefighters help people in need and that’s really important.”

And completing the Fire Academy together was another memorable experience for the brothers. They exercised together, studied together, carpooled to “The Rock” together and helped each other persevere throughout the rigorous 18-week training.

“It was cool being in the same Fire Academy class as my brother,” Jason said. “We were able to talk about the different evolutions, give each other tips and really help each other improve in different areas.”

“We really helped each other stay on top of our game,” Nathan added.

And now the Thomas brothers said they hope to pass the firefighting tradition on to their children when they become parents.

“We have a new career tradition in our family and I think it would be cool to keep it going when I have kids someday,” Jason said.

Robert’s youngest son, Stephen, 20, is also waiting for his turn to join the Firefighter ranks. The U.S. Navy man is currently an Exam 2000 candidate.

“I always call my sons, ‘My three sons,’” Robert said with a smile on his face. “They are strong, smart, sharp and hard-working young men, and I’m very proud of all of them.” ■

Meet FDNY Firefighter Will Ko

FDNY Firefighter Will Ko said that the September 11th attacks deeply changed his life because it inspired him to become one of New York's Bravest.

After working nine years in advertising and marketing, in 2006, Ko decided to switch careers and join the Department to make a difference in the city that he has loved ever since he was a child.

"I grew up in Chinatown in Manhattan and I could see the World Trade Center from my bedroom window," he explained. "To see that happen to the World Trade Center really hit me and my family pretty hard. After 9/11 happened, I just



really wanted to help my city in any way that I can."

And since then, the 39-year-old Firefighter has been doing just that.

Ko, who serves at Engine 251 in
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Meet FDNY Firefighter Will Ko

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FDNY Firefighter Will Ko proudly serves at Engine 251 in Queens.

Mentorship Program (FFCMP). He noted that each role is another way for him to give back.

“I really like to get involved in this Department and help other people learn about this job,” he said. “This is just an awesome job, it’s the best job in the world and I love it a lot.”

The longtime Firefighter is also a devoted family man. He currently resides in Queens with his wife and twin daughters.

Queens, has also made an effort to remain active in different initiatives and organizations in the Department. He’s a recruiter, a Fire Trustee for the FDNY Phoenix Society and a Mentor in the Firefighter Candidate



UWF to Host Training for Candidates

The United Women Firefighters (UWF) is scheduled to host physical fitness training for women firefighter candidates in March at the New York Sports Club on Wall Street in New York City. The club is located at 30 Wall Street, New York, NY 10005. To be eligible to participate, every candidate must bring a gym lock, at least a 50



pound vest, fitness clothes and sneakers, water and a medical waiver. In addition, every candidate should attend the training properly hydrated and fueled and ready for an intense workout. Please note that these workout sessions are designed to prepare candidates for the physical training at the Fire Academy. To register for the sessions, please e-mail UWF President Sarinya Srisakul at sarinyyya@yahoo.com.

March 2015 UWF Training Schedule

March 8, 15 and 22 at 12 p.m.

March 12, 19 and 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Firefighter 101: Non-Structural Fires

The FDNY spends many hours at emergencies and minor fires, which involve incinerators, compactors, autos, manholes and more. In fact, in 2014, the Department responded to 16,867 non-structural fires and the average response time was four minutes and eight seconds. All FDNY Probationary Firefighters will learn in the Fire Academy how to deal with non-structural fires in a professional and safe way. Want to read more about this topic? Check out the “Probie” Manual on our website. <http://on.nyc.gov/1Kea0tF>

Start Studying Today! ■

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RECRUITMENT CORNER

FDNY HS Alumni Get Sworn In as EMTs



FDNY High School for Fire and Life Safety Alumni Chelsea Berry (Class of 2010) and Donald Grey (Class of 2013) were two of the 120 FDNY EMTs who were sworn in to the EMS Academy on Feb. 9.

The high school, housed in Thomas Jefferson High School in Brooklyn, is a small thematic school that educates students from 9th to 12th grade while introducing them to careers as Firefighters, paramedics and EMTs. It is largely funded by the FDNY Foundation, the official non-profit organization of the FDNY. #FDNYHS #FDNYfamily #FDNYHS4Life ■