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FDNY Graduates 305 ‘Probies’



On May 5, FDNY graduated 305 Probationary Firefighters during a ceremony at the Christian Cultural Center in Brooklyn.

The ceremony began with a moment of silence in memory of Police Officer Brian Moore, who was fatally shot on May 2.

In his speech, Commissioner Daniel A. Nigro recognized the Lucena family who came to cheer-on Probationary Firefighter Jason Pinerio. Jason’s girlfriend and her family lost everything in a 4th-alarm fire earlier this year in Queens.

When this class learned what happened, they

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'Probies' Graduate from the Fire Academy

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Forty percent of the FDNY's latest Probationary Firefighter class identified as people of color.

rallied around the Lucenas, raising money to help them rebuild.

The family wrote a letter in gratitude to the class, saying that "We couldn't be more grateful to know that this is the new, beautiful and thoughtful family that Jason is becoming a part of."

Chief of Department James E. Leonard lauded the 58 graduates who are veterans of the United States Armed Forces, including Probationary Firefighter Frank Minieri who was not able to attend graduation because he is taking part in a training exercise with the U.S. Army.

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'Probies' Graduate from the Fire Academy

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This graduating class of Probationary Firefighters represents the growing diversity of the Department, with 43 percent of graduates identifying as people of color. Sixteen percent identified as Black, 23 percent as Hispanic and 3 percent as Asian.

Probationary Firefighter Daniel C. Clifford was named the class Valedictorian, Probationary Firefighter James T. MacKay Jr. was Salutatorian and also received the Physical Fitness Award.

Over their 18 weeks at the FDNY Training Academy, this class was extensively trained in all aspects of their job as Firefighters: fire suppression and medical response, hazardous materials, collapse and confined space rescue training, and auto extrication, building inspections and procedures for engine and ladder operations. These probationary firefighters will be assigned to firehouses throughout the city, where they will gain field experience under the guidance of senior firefighters and officers. ■

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UWF to Host Training for Candidates

The United Women Firefighters (UWF) is scheduled to host physical fitness training for women firefighter candidates in June 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.

June 2015 UWF Training Schedule

June 4, 11, 18 and 25 at 7:30 p.m.

June 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 12 p.m.

'Probies' Reunite with Flag They Signed

F DNY Probationary Firefighters Washington Sarmiento, left, and Jose Salas truly have a story that shows how the past can resurface in the present.

While serving in Iraq as U.S. Marines in 2003, the two joined many of their fellow soldiers to sign Lance Corporal Jorge Pena's flag just before his tour ended. Pena later joined the FDNY as a member of Probationary Firefighter Class 3 of 2003 and donated the flag to the FDNY



Bureau of Training after he graduated as a “token” of his “appreciation.”

“They gave me a great send-off,” said Pena, who is now assigned to Engine 92 in the Bronx. “The job has always been great to veterans.”

Salas and Sarmiento were recently reunited with that special flag at the Academy while they were training to become New York City Firefighters.

“I didn’t know when I signed the flag that day that it would end up at the Fire Academy or that I

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'Probies' Reunite with Flag They Signed

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would become a New York City Firefighter,” explained Sarmiento, 32, who served in the Marines for 10 years. “It’s pretty amazing how life works sometimes and to see that flag at the Academy was very special.”

“It’s great to see that flag each time I visit the Fire Academy,” added Salas, 33, who now serves in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves.

Since the FDNY is a paramilitary organization, they both also noted that the Department has many similarities to serving in the Marines. The two graduated from the Fire Academy on May 2 as members of Probationary Firefighter Class 3 of 2014, which included 58 veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

“As a Marine, I learned about helping my country, helping those in need, showing initiative and the FDNY has since reinforced those life lessons,” Salas said. “I’m very happy to be working here and to be wearing the FDNY uniform.”

Salas and Sarmiento are helping to keep New York City safe at Ladder 135 in Queens and Engine 64 in the Bronx, respectively.

“I chose to work for the FDNY because it has that family work environment like the military and we get to help people each day,” Sarmiento said. “I grew up in the Bronx and to be able to give back to the community by working for this Department is really important to me.”



Firefighter 101: Housewatch

The FDNY member performing housewatch duty is responsible during the assigned watch for the receipt of all communications directed to all units assigned or relocated to quarters. The most important communications received by the housewatch are those which direct units to respond to alarms of fires and emergencies. In addition, the receipt of the alarm and the communication of that alarm information to the units assigned is the responsibility of the member assigned to housewatch. Want to read more about this topic? Check out the “Probie” Manual on our website. [http:// on.nyc.gov/1Kea0tF](http://on.nyc.gov/1Kea0tF)

Don't Procrastinate! Start studying today to get ready for the Fire Academy! ■

Train FDNY Style

Preparing for the Fire Academy? Don't forget that there are two Probationary Firefighter School Physical Training Session videos on the Join FDNY You Tube page. Check it out TODAY and start training like an FDNY Probationary Firefighter!

<http://bit.ly/1Dizfuy> <http://bit.ly/1uFY6XQ>

RECRUITMENT CORNER

FDNY HS Hosts Inaugural Alumni Dinner

The FDNY High School for Fire and Life Safety hosted its Inaugural Alumni Dinner at FDNY Headquarters in Brooklyn on May 18.

During the event, FDNY First Deputy Commissioner Robert Turner, II, Executive Officer Captain Elizabeth Cascio, Bureau of EMS Training Chief Roger Ahee and As-



sistant Commissioner for Recruitment and Diversity Michele Maglione commended the students for their outstanding educational and career accomplishments. The Department's new life safety mascot, Siren, also congratulated the students for their post high school success.

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RECRUITMENT CORNER

FDNY HS Hosts Inaugural Alumni Dinner

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The school, which is housed in the Thomas Jefferson High School Campus 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.



RECRUITMENT CORNER

High Schoolers Compete in Annual EMS Games

Motivated high schoolers faced off in the Ninth Annual FDNY High School for Fire and Life Safety EMS Games on May 13. The event was held at the FDNY EMS Academy at Fort Totten in Queens.



#FDNYHS

This year's event featured students from the FDNY High School for Fire and Life Safety in Brooklyn and Grace Dodge Career and Technical

Education School in the Bronx competing on either the blue, orange and red teams.

With direction from veteran FDNY EMS members, the students faced off in the first-time ever CPR Proficiency Game, as well as the College Bowl, Rapid Take Down Challenge, Tech Bag Relay and Spelling Bee.

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RECRUITMENT CORNER

High Schoolers Compete in Annual EMS Games

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In the end, the orange team was named as this year's winner.

Each year, students utilize their academic, athletic and life-saving skills to succeed in the competition, which also emphasizes the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship

and perseverance.

Located on Pennsylvania Avenue in Brooklyn, the high school is a small thematic school that serves students in 9th through 12th

grades. The annual games are part of a host of educational initiatives that help to expose students to the Paramedic and EMT careers. ■