

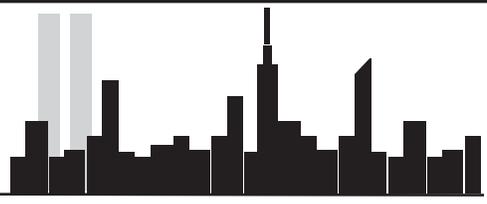
OCTOBER 2005

**VIEW** FROM  
P O I N T



**metro Tech**

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT



# Honor and Remembrance

*FDNY marks the fourth anniversary of 9/11 and honors those who made the Supreme Sacrifice*

Four years after the tragic events of September 11, 2001, thousands gathered at ceremonies around the City to remember the 2,749 lives that were lost at the World Trade Center.

“It is a day to remember and to honor the memory of all of our people and all of the first responders lost on 9/11, and all those who were in the Trade Center that day,” Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta said.

The day’s events included everything from the large, televised ceremony at the site to small, private firehouse tributes throughout all five boroughs. Yet no matter how Department members commemorated the anniversary of 9/11, everyone was mindful that it was a day to reflect, honor and remember.

## World Trade Center Memorial

As a symphony played on the corner of the stage and American flags and photographs were raised in hundreds of hands, 200 siblings of those lost on September 11, 2001 read aloud their loved ones’ names at an emotional ceremony at Ground Zero.

“We’ve come here to remember the names of those who were lost four years ago,” Mayor Michael Bloomberg said. “To remember them, not in death, but as they were in life.”

Bells tolled at 8:46 and 9:03 am, mark-



*On the fourth anniversary of 9/11, hundreds of family members gathered to lay flowers, wreaths, photos and notes in a reflecting pool located in the footprint of where the North Tower once stood.*

ing the times the planes hit the two Towers, as well as at 9:59 and 10:29 am, marking the times the Towers fell.

Then as the names were read, family members slowly descended the ramp to leave notes, pictures, flowers and wreaths in and around a small reflecting pool located in the footprint of where the North Tower once stood.

Gathering around the perimeter of the site were groups of firefighters and EMS personnel from as far away as Honolulu, Hawaii; Glendale, California; and Amsterdam, Netherlands, embracing FDNY members and quietly reflecting on the day. Representatives from every branch of the armed forces also came to pay their respects.

Family members and friends also paused around the area to share their recollections of the day and of those lost.

“Their memories become a part of the healing process,” said Rev. Dr. Oliver Schuegraf of St. Paul’s Chapel located directly across from the site.

## FDNY Headquarters

A small ceremony was also held at FDNY Headquarters, honoring the memory of all firefighters lost on September 11<sup>th</sup>, including First Deputy Fire Commissioner William Feehan, Chief of Department Peter Ganci, Assistant Chief Gerard Barbara and Assistant Chief Donald Burns, who responded from Headquarters on the morning of the terrorist

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# Update on the Personal Safety System



Commissioner's  
— Message

One week after we began distributing the new Personal Safety System (PSS) for firefighters and fire officers, an incident occurred demonstrating that if the device and system are not used as prescribed, there is the potential for the rope to jam inside the descent control device, called the EXO, manufactured by Petzl. The jam occurred during a training exercise and resulted in fraying of the rope. As a precautionary measure, I immediately ordered training halted and Chief of Operations Sal Cassano recalled the 250 ropes which had been distributed to the field.

On Monday, October 17, we met with Petzl engineers who offered some solutions to address the problem. The Bureau of Training immediately began testing a modified system, and that work is ongoing.

We consider this new Personal Safety System a vast improvement over the personal safety ropes that were issued years ago. The improvements include a hook to “anchor” to a substantial object; ease of deployment as the rope plays out from the bag; and the ability to control your descent using the EXO device that is easily accessed and utilized. A trained firefighter should be able to deploy the system in seconds. More than 7,500 tests of the system were successfully conducted during months of training and evaluations.

We remain confident that this is the best self-evacuation system for our members. It was developed in-house by our firefighters and fire officers, in conjunction with staff in the R&D Unit, Safety Command, Support Services and Training. We received valuable assistance from both the UFA and UFOA - as well as two nationally renowned consulting firms that have guided us during this process. We will all continue to work together on this project.

We believe we will resolve this problem quickly. However, we will not jeopardize the safety of our members in the interests of expediency, and will reissue the rope system only when we are certain it is the safest system which can be developed.

\* \* \* \* \*

We recently issued fatal fire reports on both tragedies that occurred on January 23 where members of the Department died in the line-of-duty (Lieutenants Curtis Meyran and John Bellew, and Firefighter Richard Sclafani). These reports were prepared by 10 senior battalion chiefs (five assigned to each investigation) and the effort was supervised by the Safety Command and First Deputy Commissioner.

The chiefs who worked on these reports spent months conducting interviews, recreating timelines, examining floor plans, reviewing audio recordings and writing comprehensive reports. They deserve our thanks for performing a critical and necessary function that every firefighter and fire officer must respect and accept. These reports offer an unsparing, critical review that,

while not always welcome, must be done. These reports are factual, impartial and offer an unbiased view into the sequence of events that occurred on that day. They are not meant as a tool to lay blame or criticism on any individual. Rather, the Department must extract lessons and guidance from the recommendations and findings contained within these reports. There are critical lessons that we must learn so as not to endure another tragedy.

On September 14, the Department released these fire reports - first to the families, and then to Department members and the public.

I am satisfied that both of these reports are thorough in their analysis and accurately represent the tragic events of that day. Both reports recommend a number of procedural and operational improvements and many of them have already been implemented. As a result of these investigations and the actions we take, we will be able to better prepare our members ensuring greater safety.

That means providing you with new equipment including the Personal Safety System. It also includes providing an emergency alert button on handie-talkies, increasing training at the Academy and developing new training and teaching methods to increase operational discipline on the fire ground.

Firefighters across this City face unpredictable and dangerous conditions everyday. Some of these conditions we can control and others we can only try to predict. What we can do is ensure that this Department vigorously implements the recommendations contained in these reports so that we may never face another January 23rd.

\* \* \* \* \*

On September 11, 2001, the Fire Department suffered a devastating loss when 343 of our members were killed at the World Trade Center. It was a day that left an indelible mark on this Department. Four years later, we continue to honor the memory of those we lost and in ceremonies across this City, we celebrated their lives and paid tribute to their enormous sacrifice. It is within this tradition of remembrance that this Department grows stronger.

We will never forget.

# Honor and Remembrance

(Continued from page 1)

attacks.

"We didn't lose 343 firefighters that day, we lost a firefighter 343 times in one day," said First Deputy Commissioner Frank Cruthers. "We want other people to remember what the people we loved stood for."

The emotional ceremony included music by Firefighter Daniel Walker, a photo retrospective and a video clip from one of Chief Ganci's speeches at Proby Graduation. Flower arrangements and a wreath were also placed next to the memorial wall in the lobby at Headquarters.

Numerous fire officers, family members and friends spoke fondly of those lost and of the strength of those who assisted in the recovery efforts.

"We have lost many, but we have been blessed by their memory and by you, their families and friends, who keep their memory alive," said FDNY Chaplain Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, who presided over the ceremony with FDNY Chaplain Monsignor John Delendick.

"September 11<sup>th</sup> is global. So many other people have been affected and changed by the events that day," said Monsignor Delendick. "If we are going to move forward, we have to forgive each other and forgive ourselves."



Many firefighters, family and friends gathered at the Firefighters Memorial on the Upper West Side of Manhattan to honor the 343 members lost on September 11, 2001.

Commissioner Scoppetta added that the City should not forget those currently suffering in the Gulf States in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

"We were the ones to see how big the arms of the world were," he said. "Now they are the ones in need."

## Firefighters Memorial

Firefighters of Battalion 18 again gathered at the Firefighters Memorial Monument on the Upper West Side of Manhat-

tan to honor their own.

Commissioner Scoppetta, First Deputy Commissioner Frank Cruthers, Chief of Department Peter Hayden and Chief of Operations Salvatore Cassano laid a wreath in front of the white marble monument before heading to the World Trade Center site for the ceremonial reading of the names.

"It is a day we shall never forget," Commissioner Scoppetta said. "Three hundred forty three members of the Department gave their lives in a valiant effort to save others. We remember their sacrifice, we thank them for their courage and we gather here today to pay tribute to their enduring spirit. We will forever honor their memory."

Later, the four moments of silence were observed to honor the victims, and an additional wreath was placed at the memorial by four German firefighters who have been training with the FDNY for several weeks.

## EMS Memorial at Fort Totten

An intimate ceremony was held at the EMS Training Academy at Fort Totten, honoring all emergency service personnel who were killed on September 11, 2001.

"The motivating factor of EMS is sav-



Cicilia Lillo honors her husband, fallen Paramedic Carlos Lillo, at the EMS 9/11 Memorial Wall in Fort Totten. The wall contains the names of all emergency service personnel and government workers who were killed that day.

(Continued on page 4)

# Four Years Later:

(Continued from page 3)

ing lives,” said Chief of EMS Training J.P. Martin. “So each year at the memorial we focus on continuing life.”

More than 100 people gathered around the Academy’s 9/11 memorial for the ceremony, which included music, prayer, poetry and quiet remembrance.

Those attending were invited to water the two spruce trees that were planted in 2002, honoring the lives of Paramedic Carlos Lillo and Paramedic Lieutenant Ricardo Quinn, killed on 9/11.

Several individuals also spoke, including Cicilia Lillo, the widow of Carlos Lillo.

Two moments of silence were observed, marking the times the planes hit the Twin Towers. After each pause, the memorial fountain for that tower was turned on. Paramedic Instructors James Fallar and Joseph Hudak, as well as other EMS members erected the memorial in 2003, all on their own time.

“This is an open memorial for all first responders,” Chief of EMS John Peruggia said.

Everyone attending the ceremony was also given the opportunity to place a car-



President George Bush visited New Orleans on September 11<sup>th</sup>, to survey the area and greet Hurricane Katrina relief workers, including FDNY firefighters.

nation by the memorial wall, which honors each life lost on September 11. The wall was erected in 2004 and includes the names of the paramedics killed on 9/11, as well as those of firefighters, police officers, court officers, FBI workers and a rescue dog.

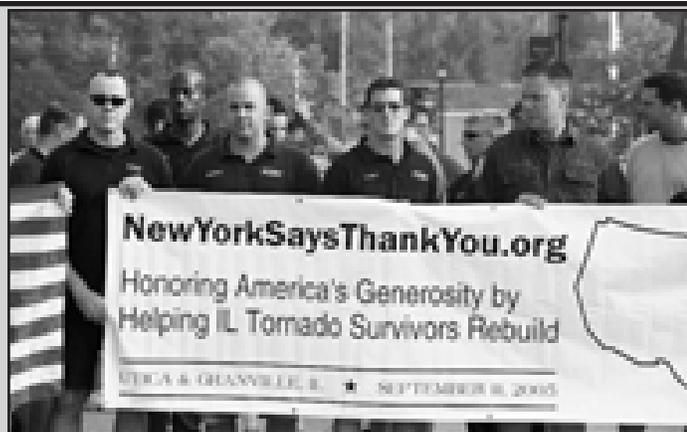
“We wanted to make sure that everyone was included,” said Chief Martin. “Someday we hope this will be a primary gathering place on 9/11.”

## Ceremony in Louisiana

An emotional memorial marked the anniversary of 9/11 for hundreds of FDNY members who were 1,300 miles away from New York City.

More than 500 FDNY members, relief workers and military personnel who were in Louisiana for the Hurricane Katrina relief effort paused to remember the tragic day at a ceremony at the Base Camp,

(Continued on next page)



Seventeen firefighters planted trees in Utica and Granville, Ill. as part of New York Says Thank You Foundation.

**A**round the City and across the country, firefighters remembered 9/11 in many unique ways. Here is a snapshot of some of the other tributes honoring the memory of those lost on September 11, 2001.

## H O N O R I N

### SERVICE TRIPS

**W**hile many FDNY members spent the anniversary of 9/11 at events around the City, in their firehouses or quietly reflecting at home, others volunteered as a way to commemorate the generosity extended to New Yorkers by people across the country after that tragic day.

Seventeen FDNY firefighters and 14 other volunteers traveled to Utica and Granville, Illinois, as part of the New York Says Thank You Foundation. They helped restore landscape that was destroyed on April 20, 2004 when 19 tornadoes touched down in the area.

“It was really unbelievable,” said Firefighter Paul Franco of Engine 76, who traveled with the group for the first time this year. “[The people of Illinois] thought that they were forgotten. Everything they had was destroyed by the tornado. We provided them with a lot of moral support.”

Members assigned to Engines 16, 22, 47, 71, 76 and Ladder 51 planted 418 new trees, each with a tag bearing the name of a member from the FDNY, NYPD and PAPD who was lost on 9/11.

Firefighter Franco said that in Utica, the trees were planted in a meadow just behind a ball field; and in Granville, they were planted in the front lawns of individual homes.

# A Reflection on September 11, 2001

(Continued from previous page)

temporarily set up to run fire operations, in New Orleans at Our Lady of Holy Cross College.

Firefighter Robert Fraumeni, along with Firefighters Ismael Rivera and Joe Pomilla, helped create a makeshift memorial for the ceremony, using the few supplies and tools they had lying around the Base Camp.

They created a white and red Maltese cross that stood in front of a model of the Towers, and ornamented it with a welded cross made of steel from the Trade Center that one of the firefighters carried with him. The memorial was placed on the stage during the ceremony alongside a plaque they presented to the New Orleans Fire Department (NOFD) on their last day in Louisiana.

"Together we came up with something that would help us through that day," said Firefighter Fraumeni of Ladder 147. "Every firefighter from New York City was at the memorial. That will always be a tough day for us."

The ceremony included speeches, prayers, songs and the music of bagpipes. And FDNY members were presented with



Firefighters from the FDNY, who were deployed to Louisiana to aid in the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, were joined by members of the New Orleans Fire Department on the campus of Our Lady of Holy Cross College, to pay tribute to those lost on September 11, 2001.

the gift of a bell from a church whose steeple was destroyed by the hurricane less than two weeks earlier.

President George Bush also stopped by

the Base Camp later that day to visit with firefighters and other relief workers in order to lend support and encouragement to the effort.

## M A N Y W A Y S

"It was something different to do on 9/11, something to give back," Firefighter Franco said. "I'd go again in a second."

To learn more about the program, you can visit their website at: [www.newyorksaysthankeyou.org](http://www.newyorksaysthankeyou.org)

*This photo of members of the Emerald Society Pipe Band at a line of duty funeral was part of the FDNY's staff photographers' exhibit at a gallery in Tribeca.*



### FDNY PHOTO EXHIBIT

On September 8, eight of the FDNY's staff photographers opened an exhibit of their work at a gallery in Tribeca.

Soho Photo Gallery featured a display of 19 photos from various Department events, fires and other emergencies since 2001, many of which were September 11<sup>th</sup> related.

"We chose to feature this exhibit in order to show the public another side of New York's firefighters," said Larry Davis, President of Soho Photo and member of the committee that selected the images for the exhibit. "We chose these images because we felt that they represented the creativity of the photographers as well as their bravery and their commitment."

The free exhibit was open through October 1. For more information visit [www.sohophoto.com](http://www.sohophoto.com).

### ENGINE 55

Artist Gordon Roy Press unveiled a painting he created for Engine 55, honoring the four members the company lost on 9/11.

The oil painting, which hangs 10 feet by 6 feet, depicts the lost firefighters' gear hanging in company quarters.

Since 2001, the artist has created several images for the members of Engine 55, including a mural on the wall of their quarters that took three months to paint.

Captain Richard Sautner of Engine 55 thanked Press for having created "some very beautiful and detailed pieces of artwork for the members of our company."

# Fire Promotions From A World Away

*From a phone in Iraq, Firefighter Gregg Magi rises to the rank of lieutenant*

On August 17, the applause and fanfare of fire promotions could be heard on the other side of the world.

Firefighter Gregg Magi of Squad 18, currently serving with the Air National Guard in An Nasiriyah, Iraq, was promoted – over the phone – to lieutenant, along with 26 other Fire Department members at FDNY Headquarters.

“You are in charge, and you are expected to take charge,” Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta said. “That is what leadership amounts to. You must enforce accountability, discipline, and the rules and regulations of this Department.”

Through a crackling phone connection, Lt. Magi took the oath of office as the crowd saw a photo of him in combat gear light up the screen behind the stage. Afterwards, the audience congratulated him with a standing ovation and a thunderous round of applause.

In all, 11 members were promoted to captain and 16 to lieutenant, in front of a jam-packed auditorium of friends and family.

Chief of Department Peter Hayden congratulated the group and told the promoted members, “you are in a unique position

because you can set the tone in the firehouse. You are the backbone of the company.”

Also among those promoted to lieutenant was Firefighter Anna Schermerhorn-Collins of Ladder 9, President of the United Women Firefighters Association. As she posed for numerous photographs with friends and family who attended the event, she said she was thrilled to be moving up in the ranks and grateful to be surrounded by so many supportive people.

“This is such a great day,” said Schermerhorn-Collins. “I’ve been so lucky, I’ve had so much support from so many people, my family, my friends, firefighters at my house. So many people have encouraged me.”

In addition, Firefighter Paul Mastronardi of Rescue 4 was promoted to lieutenant. Firefighter Mastronardi was the recipient of the Hugh Bonner Medal at FDNY Medal Day last June.

Enthusiastic cheers echoed in the auditorium as friends, family and fellow firefighters held up banners and flags in support of the promoted members.

And before he sent the new lieutenants and captains off to their new assignments



*Firefighter Gregg Magi of Squad 18, currently serving with the Air National Guard, was promoted to lieutenant via telephone from An Nasiriyah, Iraq on August 17.*

throughout the City, Commissioner Scoppetta reminded the crowd that, “The one thing that remains constant through your rise in this Department is that approach to the job, the desire to be the best – the best unit, the best house, the best battalion, or the best division. You’ve all got firefighters working for you who will want the exact same thing.”

## Here Come the Marines

*FDNY and USMC hold joint training exercise*

More than 200 firefighters, EMS personnel and marines rushed to the Red Hook Container Terminal on September 23.

Radiation meters chirped and decontamination tents were assembled as the group responded to a radiation leak, fire and confined space rescue aboard a docked ship.

Luckily, the incident was just a drill, but it served to prepare members of the FDNY and the United States Marine Corps Chemical Biological Incident Response Force (USMC C-BIRF) with vital skills they will need in case of a real disaster.

“You’ve got to do this on a regular basis, so that when you have an actual event, you know exactly what to do,” Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta said.

The simulation capped off a weeklong training session at the Fire Academy, where both the FDNY and USMC C-BIRF team trained together in various tactical rescue situations, including search and rescue, extrication, high-angle rescue and col-

lapse/confined space rescue.

The exercise in Red Hook drew together all the skills they learned throughout the week.

“We use this to assess our own response technique,” Commissioner Scoppetta said. “It’s a full scale exercise that enables us to evaluate our operations.”

Colonel Michael Campbell, head of the USMC C-BIRF team, said that the simulation proved that the two groups continue to work well together.

“We found that the marines and firefighters from New York City could use the same language, communications and the same equipment seamlessly,” he said.

The USMC C-BIRF team has been training with members of the FDNY since 1996, when Chief Ray Downey helped organize the collaboration. This year’s exercise was the fourth such training ses-



*On September 23, members of the FDNY and the United States Marine Corps Chemical Biological Incident Response Force work together in a simulated confined space rescue on a ship.*

sion held since the program’s inception, with the most recent occurring in 2003.

The USMC C-BIRF team is based in Washington DC and has participated in numerous large-scale operations, such as the anthrax attack in 2001.

## In His Footsteps

### *Probationary Firefighter Christopher Ganci follows his father into the FDNY*

On August 31, 241 eager probies officially launched their careers with the FDNY.

Hundreds of family members and friends gathered to applaud the new firefighters at an emotional Proby Graduation at Brooklyn College.

"The Department took your hair, taught you the trade, and when this week is done, we'll turn you loose," Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta told the class. "In the eyes of the world... you are one of the brave few who head in when everyone else is rushing out."

As each graduate came to the stage to accept his or her new position, Mayor Michael Bloomberg offered some guidance to the new firefighters.

"Unlike many jobs in life, firefighting is an ongoing learning experience," he said. "There's always room to get better and better. So remember, while today's graduation is an incredible accomplishment and a big step in all of your careers, don't let it mark the end of your education."

The Valedictorian of the class was Probationary Firefighter Christopher Ganci, whose father, Chief of Department Peter Ganci, was killed on September 11, 2001. As Probationary Firefighter Ganci walked across the stage, he received a standing ovation.

"We did indeed hit the lottery," he told his colleagues.

Ganci noted that he was proud of all that his father had accomplished as a member of the Department, and that he decided to become a firefighter himself because his father "was the only adult I knew who loved going to work."

Probationary Firefighter Ganci then closed his remarks with a line his father always used in the graduation speeches he gave: "By taking this job, you will never be rich, but you will always be happy."

Also graduating was Probationary Firefighter Christopher Howard, whose father was Port Authority Police Officer George Howard, also killed on September 11. President Bush was given the Offi-



*On August 31, 241 probationary firefighters graduated from the FDNY Training Academy in a ceremony at Brooklyn College.*

cer's badge on his visit to New York after the attacks, and the President continues to carry the badge with him today.

"This Department has a tremendous history and legacy," Chief of Department Peter Hayden said. "People ask me why firefighters love their job so much. It's simple. This job provides firefighters with many rewards, not the kind you get at Chase Bank, but the ones you put in your memory bank."

This class was applauded for their competitive nature and hard work throughout their 12 weeks of training at the Rock, as well as for their generosity. Prior to graduation, this class raised \$1,100 to purchase international phone cards for FDNY members currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Many of the graduates themselves served in the armed forces, including Christopher Vogt (USMC), Darren Bould (USMC), Matthew Seeman (Army), Vincent Inglese (USMC), Michael Hengerle (USMC), Anthony Marchese (USAF), Hutch Ryder (USMC), William Garcia (Navy) and Joseph Conforti (Navy).

The class Salutatorian was Probationary Firefighter Edward Poli and the Physical Fitness Award was given to Probationary Firefighter Peter Zaccariello, who also won the Annual Five-Mile Police/Fire Run in Central Park this year.

The ceremony also marked the retirement of Bronx Borough Commander Assistant Chief Joseph Callan. With laughter and great emotion, he addressed the crowd on his last tour of duty, after serving more than 40 years with the Department.

*(See page 9 for story on the retirement of Assistant Chief Callan.)*

#### **DO YOU HAVE A GREAT STORY TO SHARE?**

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## Going Home, One Step at a Time

*Firefighter Eugene Stolowski overcomes debilitating injuries to make miraculous recovery*

**W**ith courage, strength and sheer determination, Firefighter Eugene Stolowski, who was critically injured in January's fatal Bronx fire, was able to slowly walk unassisted out of Kessler Rehabilitation Institute on September 14.

"This is a wonderful day," said Firefighter Stolowski. "I did what I said I would do when I came in here. I walked out."

Dozens of firefighters from the FDNY, including his own Ladder 27 and members of Rescue 3, as well as the Florida (New York – where Firefighter Stolowski lives) and West Orange Fire Departments cheered loudly as the smiling firefighter expressed his gratitude for everyone who helped him recover.

Firefighter Stolowski suffered broken legs, ribs and pelvis, and his skull detached from his vertebrae when he was forced to jump from a fourth story apartment building window in the Bronx on January 23, 2005. He spent nearly seven months in physical therapy at the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation in West Orange, New Jersey; and doctors at the facility said they were astounded by his progress.

"What is rehabilitation? Eugene Stolowski," said Dr. Steven Kirshblum, Associate Medical Director at Kessler. "He is reaching his goals and he has made a remarkable recovery."

Although Firefighter Stolowski mentioned he was looking forward to having steak and a gyro when he left the rehabilitation center, he said that he was just happy to be going home and spending more time with his wife, Brigid, and three daughters, Briana, 3, and twins Kaetlin and Kaeli, 5 months.

He also noted, "chasing Briana all over the place, she'll now be my therapy."

Firefighter Stolowski choked back tears as he thanked his wife for her continued support and credited her for his recovery.

"He just keeps pushing himself every day," she said. "I'm very proud of him."

Firefighter Stolowski also thanked the

members of his firehouse, saying, "I couldn't imagine a better company to belong to."

Every day he said he thinks about Lieutenants Curtis Meyran and John Bellew. "They are deep in my heart and always will be," he said.

Dr. Kirshblum said that Firefighter Stolowski could look forward to "going home and relaxing – but that rest will last a short period of time."

In the next year he will be working on regaining the ability to do small tasks like climbing stairs and moving around a little faster. But his wife noted that he is determined to continue improving, with one of



*Firefighter Eugene Stolowski, who was critically injured in January's fatal Bronx fire, miraculously walked out of the Kessler Rehabilitation Institute on September 14, after months of treatment at the facility.*



*Firefighters Jeff Cool (far left) and Brendan Cawley (second from the left) cheered as Firefighter Eugene Stolowski walked out of Kessler. All three firefighters were injured when they were forced to jump out a fourth story apartment window in January's fatal Bronx fire.*

his requests being that they not take a wheelchair home.

And when Firefighter Stolowski turned to thank Firefighters Jeff Cool and Brendan Cawley, men who also survived the jump and came to wish their friend well;

he smiled and said, "We've seen each other under bad circumstances, but also good circumstances and today is another wonderful day to be together. Someday we'll all walk together again... maybe in next year's St. Patrick's Day Parade."

## Going Around Twice

**After 40 years, Bronx Boro Commander Joseph Callan bids farewell to the FDNY**

Retirement sendoffs don't get much bigger than this.

On August 31, Bronx Borough Commander Assistant Chief Joseph Callan retired after 40 years with the FDNY. And on his last tour, he got to tell a packed crowd at Proby Graduation about his long and happy career as a firefighter.

"It was 40 years of looking forward to going to work. It doesn't get any better than that," said Chief Callan. "There's no one who could have been luckier than I have."

Joined by his sons, Captain Joseph M. Callan, Lieutenant Michael Callan and Firefighter Christopher Callan, and his wife, Paula, the self-proclaimed "opinionated" chief began by telling the graduates that, "all I remember about Proby School was that there was a lot of yelling and they made a big deal about being late."

He said that throughout his career, he learned the most from watching intelligent and quick-thinking firefighters and officers, and working as a team with the veteran members of his company.

As a proby in 1965, Assistant Chief Callan was assigned to Bronx Engine 48, where he said, "I learned to be a firefighter."

Yet, he added that it was not until he became Chief of Training that he discovered the "real" secret to success: "What you do is get some very good people to come and work for you, and then they make you look good."

Another enormous influence on his career, Assistant Chief Callan said, was his mentor, retired Deputy Chief Dudley Glasse, from whom he learned "not only about firefighting, but about people, and how to treat them with respect."

Full of emotion, Chief Callan also told the graduates about his experiences on September 11, 2001, reminding them that they are carrying on the legacy of firefighters who have passed before them.

He also sternly told the new firefighters to always stay safe, wear all of their protective gear and be prepared for anything.

"Every tour you're going to give 100 percent. Your goal is to do your best and go home," he said.

Yet as he left the stage, he said he was



*Chief of Department Peter Hayden congratulates Bronx Borough Commander Assistant Chief Joseph Callan on his last tour of duty, after 40 years with the Department. Chief Callan spent part of his final tour addressing the crowd at Proby Graduation.*

just thrilled to have had the rare opportunity to speak on his final tour.

"I didn't expect 1,000 people showing up for my last day," Chief Callan joked. Then as he looked over his shoulder, he smiled and added, "I even got the Mayor here."



*On August 17, Fire Commissioner Scoppetta and Curtis Silwa, Founder of the Guardian Angels, joined the FDNY stickball team in front of FDNY Headquarters. This year, Commissioner Scoppetta again outscored Police Commissioner Ray Kelly in the tournament. Firefighter Jeff Ray also defended his title as the Fire Department's MVP, driving the ball more than 300 feet.*

# Lending A Hand:

**FDNY and New York City provide aid to those devastated by Katrina**

**T**hey traveled to the Gulf Coast to fight fires, perform search and rescue missions, support their fellow firefighters and most of all, return a favor.

Throughout the month of September, more than 660 members of the Department journeyed to Louisiana and Mississippi to help with the relief effort in the areas ravaged by Hurricane Katrina.

"In the aftermath of September 11<sup>th</sup>, people from around the country showed tremendous support for this Department. The people of Louisiana were no different. Their outpouring of support and contributions helped the FDNY in its greatest time of need," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "It's now our turn to give back to those who so selflessly gave to us. We will never forget the tragic events of September 11<sup>th</sup>. And, most importantly, we will not forget the kindness and generosity of those who reached out to help."

More than 600 firefighters and fire officers were dispatched, along with the New York City Urban Search and Rescue Team (USAR); the FDNY Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART); the FDNY Incident Management Team (IMT); communications and support personnel; and members of the FDNY Counseling Services Unit.

"We are thankful for the opportunity to repay all the emotional, spiritual and financial support that the people of Louisiana gave us after 9/11," Chief of Department Peter Hayden said.

In addition to manpower, the Department also sent apparatus to the storm ravaged area. Among them was "The Spirit of Louisiana," a fire truck donated by the people of the southern state following the events of September 11, 2001. Additionally, two supply trucks (one of which included a generator), one fuel truck, six battalion vehicles, 125 Handie-Talkie radios and one post radio, as well as various other supplies and tools were sent.

## Urban Search and Rescue Teams

Members of the Office of Emergency Management's USAR Team from New York City (Task Force 1) were activated to Biloxi, Mississippi on August 30 and were among the first recovery workers to reach the devastated area. The team included 14 FDNY members and two FDNY physicians, as well as 12 police officers and



*On September 5, 320 firefighters and fire officers (including one full IMT) flew to New Orleans to help with the hurricane relief effort. Throughout the month of September, more than 660 FDNY members traveled to the Gulf region to help in the recovery effort.*



*On September 7, a convoy of vehicles led by "The Spirit of Louisiana" fire truck (above) headed south to help in the New Orleans relief effort. The people of Louisiana donated the truck to the FDNY following the events of September 11, 2001.*

OEM personnel.

The team spent about a week in the storm-ravaged area. They traveled door to door using rafts, search dogs, saws, thermal imaging equipment, air bags and other rescue tools, making sure the residents, if they were still at home, were safe. In total, they visited more than 1,600 homes in the Mississippi town.

On September 8, the visibly exhausted group returned home. As they pulled into Pier 36 to unload their gear, they all described the devastation as "unbelievable."

FDNY Battalion Chief Joseph Downey, who worked as the Task Force Leader, said that one of his most memorable moments

of the trip occurred in the first house they searched.

The family inside had located a missing relative soon before the USAR team arrived and were continuing to search for their belongings. Chief Downey said the family looked worn, but were overwhelmed when they learned of the rescue workers' hometown.

"They were emotional to see that we were from New York," he said. "They felt a connection with us. They just came down and gave us a big hug. The first thing we encountered was a big hug."

Chief Downey said that his team spent countless hours trekking through rubble,

*(Continued on next page)*

# Hurricane Katrina Relief



*FDNY firefighters respond to a fire with the New Orleans Fire Department in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. FDNY members fought nine major fires in their first full day of service.*



*FDNY Firefighters were engaged in a number of structural fires with the New Orleans Fire Department, as well as firefighters from Illinois and Maryland.*

*(Continued from previous page)*

sand and two-foot deep areas of mud that had washed into the city.

He described entire areas that had been demolished by the 25 to 30 foot storm surges. Many of the homes they encountered only had one or two beams remaining, or merely the foundation, he said.

"It was everything you saw on TV and

worse," said Chief Downey.

## **Incident Management Teams**

Three FDNY chiefs, who are among 100 members of the Department trained to be part of national Incident Management Teams (IMTs), were activated on September 1 and were quickly followed by the activation of a full FDNY IMT days later. Their primary goal: get the New Orleans Fire Department (NOFD) back on its feet. After the arrival of more than 300 addi-

tional members, the IMT set up its "Base Camp" in the Algiers section of New Orleans at Our Lady of the Holy Cross College.

"There were many challenges [in the Gulf states], and we overcame them," Commissioner Scoppetta said. "It's a great story of how far we've come with new approaches. And the IMTs are at the center of that."

The highly trained team assisted the command staff of the NOFD in planning, operations, logistics, command and safety efforts, as well as coordinating the nourishment and shelter needs of the more than 1,400 rescue workers from across the country who descended upon the area to help with the recovery effort.

The IMT was also responsible for dispatching crews to begin repair on fire and police stations throughout New Orleans that had been seriously damaged by the storm.

"They were amazed by what we could do," Assistant Chief of Operations Michael Weinlein said.

The team faced many challenges as soon as they hit the ground.

Aside from working their first four days of deployment on a total of five hours of sleep, they also had to deal with contaminated water supplies, inadequate communications, days without electricity and cases of suspected arson throughout New Orleans.

They also had to take care of other, more unusual, issues, like helicopters dumping water on personnel and Louisiana's Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) only sending one small Funnel Cake stand to feed the thousands of relief workers at the Base Camp.

They all noted that the group used many creative and resourceful means to sort out the many unique issues they faced.

"This has been a fantastic test for us," said Assistant Chief Weinlein.

Several IMT members added that they were also able to teach the NOFD firefighters some FDNY operational procedures to assist them in future efforts.

IMT members are specially trained by the federal government to manage the logistics of large-scale, long-duration disasters. And although they were required to

*(Continued on page 12)*

# H U R R I C A N E

(Continued from page 11)

manage more personnel in Louisiana than they were ever trained to handle, the FDNY IMT was praised by the federal government as “running the most successful operation in the Gulf Coast region.”

## Firefighters and other FDNY Personnel

At any given time during the deployment, more than 300 FDNY members were operating in the New Orleans area. In total, more than 600 firefighters and fire officers will have spent time in the region providing disaster assistance relief. Their main function was to offer support to the overburdened members of the NOFD.

“We were there to give them the extra manpower where they need it,” said Captain James Hay of Ladder 163, a trained IMT and the FDNY’s media liaison in Louisiana. He was deployed on September 5 and spent 10 days in the affected area.

He said the FDNY members did just about everything, from augmenting the NOFD in fire suppression and clearing the streets of tree branches and electrical lines, to ordering tents and setting up a laundry facility for their Base Camp at Our Lady of the Holy Cross College. FDNY SOC personnel also assumed some HazMat responsibilities and helped decontaminate fire apparatus and other equipment.

In addition to the humid, 100 degree temperatures, battling fires proved especially difficult for firefighters because less than half of the City’s hydrants were working properly. In several instances firefighters even reported using water from swimming pools to extinguish flames.

Identifying fires also proved to be a challenge, due to extensive flooding and a failing 911 system. Frequently, fires were called in by helicopters or the firefighters simply noticed smoke rising from a distance. Because of this, they often arrived on a job well after it had already engulfed two or three homes.

Firefighter Bobby Fraumeni of Ladder 147 added that a surprise for many New York City firefighters was also responding to runs (or “rolls” as they call them in New Orleans) with a military or law enforcement escort. Although they never experienced any direct safety concerns, it made the danger of the situation more evident, said Fraumeni.

Everyone noted that there was no doubt that the people of New Orleans were grateful for the FDNY’s presence. According to Deputy Chief Robert Maynes, the IMT Coordinator, this was no more true than on their first full day of deployment.

On September 6, fire operations observed five major fires burning at dawn, each consuming multiple buildings, as well as four other small fires in the area, said Chief Maynes.

The city’s firefighters were exhausted and strained, and for days they were working with a skeleton crew. At the time, there were only 50 New Orleans firefighters available for duty – from a Department of 800 – equaling only one member per apparatus.

“New Orleans was in danger of burning to the ground,” said Chief Maynes.

FDNY members, who had descended on the city the day before, immediately filled in the ranks and tackled the nine fires with limited resources, preventing further catastrophe.

As time went on, the men and women of the FDNY were also able to relieve many of the remaining NOFD firefighters from their duties, so they could locate their families and assess the damage of their own homes.

Firefighter Fraumeni said that he helped fill-in for one New Orleans firefighter who had been working for seven consecutive days after the hurricane struck.

The New Orleans firefighter’s wife had been carjacked as she was leaving the city, and had to spend five days in the Superdome. The firefighter – like so many others – had been forced to work nonstop, even though he had not been in contact with his family and was unsure of their whereabouts.



*New York City firefighters helped New Orleans firefighters repair the numerous firehouses that were damaged by the high water and strong winds brought on by Hurricane Katrina.*

“They’re going through hell down there now and we’re helping them any way we can,” said Firefighter Fraumeni.

If they were not battling fires, FDNY firefighters also engaged in basic maintenance and repair of the NOFD firehouses that were ravaged by contaminated floodwaters and high winds. When he left the area, Captain Hay said that five of the firehouses were back online. Five others were repaired, but building services (namely running water and electricity) were not yet available.

Eighty percent of New Orleans’ firefighters’ homes were also severely damaged by the hurricane. And although FDNY firefighters were working 16- or 24-hour shifts, many also pitched in to help repair these firefighters’ homes in their time off-duty. When the first team of firefighters dispatched to the area had returned home, they had helped repair the homes of more than 200 New Orleans firefighters.

(Continued on next page)

# RELIEF AID

*(Continued from previous page)*

While the work was tiresome and taxing, the FDNY firefighters who traveled to the area remained focused and driven, said Captain Hay. Chiefs even had to draw names to determine who went home first because nobody volunteered to leave.

"It was quite a scene to see the 297 firefighters hit the ground running," he said. "They were a great bunch. There was nothing that they wouldn't do and I didn't hear any of them complain once."

Yet Lieutenant Robert Jackson of Engine 54 said that FDNY firefighters wished they could have done more. He said they "felt a closeness with their Brothers in New Orleans," especially after they noticed prayer cards from firefighters that died on September 11, 2001 hanging on bulletin boards in many New Orleans firehouses.

"You knew they were there [at the funerals]," he said. "You saw a couple of our brothers getting goose bumps just thinking about what they saw."

All the FDNY members who traveled to the area said that they began receiving thanks from Louisiana and Mississippi residents as soon as they arrived. And many even added that they were being thanked for their efforts before they reached the devastated areas.

"All the way down we had a great reaction from the motorists honking horns



*A number of homes and commercial structures were damaged by fire after Hurricane Katrina swept through New Orleans. FDNY members attempted to protect as much property as possible.*

every place we stopped," Brooklyn Borough Commander, Assistant Chief Edward Kilduff told Metro Networks Radio. "People knew that a lot of relief was headed down to New Orleans, so they were very happy to see not only the Spirit of Louisiana, but the FDNY on our way down."

Then as a second tour of 139 firefighters waited at JFK Airport for their flight south on September 15, Deputy Assistant Chief

Ronald Spadafora said that he and his team were anxious to start helping out the NOFD, saying simply "this is what we do."

And just as an announcement was made over the airport's PA system, "New York City Firefighters will be boarding shortly," he looked around the sea of blue uniform shirts and added, "Our main concern is to relieve the firefighters that are there now. We want to allow for New Orleans to fully recover."



*Firefighters respond to a vehicle fire on the highway in New Orleans.*

## Giving Back – Louisiana's Generosity

In December 2001, the FDNY accepted donation of the "Spirit of Louisiana" – a custom-built fire engine from the State of Louisiana. Through a statewide campaign called "Bucks for Trucks," the people of Louisiana raised nearly \$1 million to purchase the fire engine and seven additional response vehicles. In addition to the "Spirit of Louisiana" fire engine (which went into service for two years at Engine 283 in Brooklyn), Louisiana also contributed a Recuperation and Care Unit (RAC), Decontamination Unit (DECON) and five Ford Crown Victoria Sedans which were dedicated in January 2003.

# All Aboard: FDNY Unveils Subway Simulator

*New training tool will increase FDNY underground preparedness*

This month the City opened its first subway stop on Randall's Island.

But the only straphangers riding these trains will be mannequins.

On September 1, the Department unveiled a subway simulator at the FDNY Training Academy. It's a training tool that will help firefighters be ready for nearly any type of subway emergency.

"By putting our people through this simulator, and making sure that our members are comfortable operating under these conditions, we guarantee that the FDNY is better prepared to handle emergencies that take place underground," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta.

The simulator includes two full-scale train cars mounted on side-by-side track beds, a subway platform, column structures and a third-rail. It even looks like a real station, with black and red exit signs, and advertisements lining the tiled walls of the platform.

The Commissioner said that all firefighters will be able to use the simulator to advance their knowledge of subway evacuations and rescues, and it will limit the Department's need to train in busy locations such as the Coney Island Railyards and Penn Station.

"Whether you've been on the job 20



*Firefighters demonstrate how the subway simulator can be used by extricating a dummy trapped under train cars.*

days or 20 years, the training never stops in the FDNY," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg. "And this [subway simulator] will provide firefighters with real world experience."

After the announcement and ribbon cutting, several firefighters donned bright green HazMat suits and demonstrated just a few of the many ways they can train using the simulator.

First, several firefighters entered a smoke-filled subway car to rescue an unconscious victim, dragging him out of the train and up the steps of the 'station.'

Firefighters also exhibited how they would extricate an individual who was trapped under a train by lifting the car.

"It is important that our firefighters have the opportunity to train in realistic environments, where they can familiarize themselves with a range of scenarios in a safe and controlled setting," said Commissioner Scoppetta.

The subway cars, tracks and switching signals were surplus materials donated by MTA NYC Transit. The simulator is part of Phase II of the Department's re-development of the Fire Academy and cost about \$8 million to construct, all of which



*Mayor Bloomberg, Commissioner Scoppetta and NYC Transit President Lawrence Reuter cut the ribbon that officially unveiled the subway simulator at the FDNY Training Academy on Randall's Island.*

was funded by the City. The subway simulator now joins a host of other training tools at the Academy including the flashover, trench collapse and driving simulators.

## HIGH TECH "REALITY"

The Fire Academy is currently home to a number of high-tech training tools designed to help prepare FDNY members, from the most senior firefighter to the newest proby, for emergency scenarios around the City. These tools include:

- Subway Simulator
- Driving Simulator
- Trench Collapse Simulator
- Flashover Simulator

A Hi-Rise Simulator is currently under development, awaiting additional funding.

## IN THE BOROUGH : STATEN ISLAND

# Staten Island Companies Celebrate 100 Years of Service

*Seventeen units mark 100-year milestone with parade and fanfare*

On October 1, hundreds of firefighters and their families came out to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 17 fire units on Staten Island. A prayer service at the 9/11 Memorial at Staten Island Yankee Stadium kicked off a full day of festivities, which included a two-mile parade, a formal plaque dedication and family picnic at Snug Harbor.

"This is, without question, the largest gathering in Department history to celebrate 100 years of service," Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta said.

Numerous members of Division 8; Battalions 21 and 22; Engine Companies 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158 and 161; and Ladder Companies 76, 77, 78, 79 and 80 gathered to accept proclamations and plaques commemorating the day.

Many of the dignitaries and senior fire officials who attended the event noted that this milestone could not have been reached without the commitment and enthusiasm of Staten Island's FDNY members.

"It is not the disasters or fires that define us, it is our responders," said Staten Island Borough Commander Assistant Chief Thomas Haring. "The main thing that hasn't changed in the last 100 years is the dedication, pride and esprit-de-corps

**January 1, 1898** – New York City consolidates into five boroughs, merging many of the area's police and fire departments.

**October 1, 1905** – All but two North Shore Volunteer Fire Companies are closed to make way for a paid department, including a Battalion Chief, four Engine Companies and three Hook & Ladder Companies.

**November 1, 1905** – Edgewater and Tottenville Volunteer Departments were disbanded by the FDNY to establish a Battalion Chief, four Engine Companies, one Hose Company and two Hook & Ladder Companies.



*(Top) Members from 17 Staten Island fire companies celebrated their units' 100th anniversary with a parade from Staten Island Yankee Stadium to the Snug Harbor Cultural Center. (Bottom) Firefighters from Ladder 79 and Battalion 22 accept Proclamations and a plaque commemorating their centennial from Commissioner Scoppetta and Chief Hayden.*

of our firefighters."

Children clad in FDNY t-shirts and numerous other enthusiastic Staten Islanders lined the parade route. Fire Commissioner Scoppetta, Chief of Department Peter Hayden and Staten Island Borough President James Molinaro led the parade, riding in an FDNY 1924 Model T. They were followed by a number of antique fire apparatus, local high school marching bands and firefighters from the 17 companies being honored. Also joining in the march were members of the two remaining volunteer units on Staten Island.

"We are here to thank the firefighters on Staten Island, who are at the forefront of protecting not only Staten Island, but the City of New York," said Chief Hayden.

Many local politicians were also on hand to help thank their local heroes.

"There is an uncommon valor of the men and women in the uniform of the FDNY," said Congressman Vito Fossella (R-NY). "To find the definition of a hero, you don't have to look far."

## DO YOU HAVE A GREAT STORY IDEA?

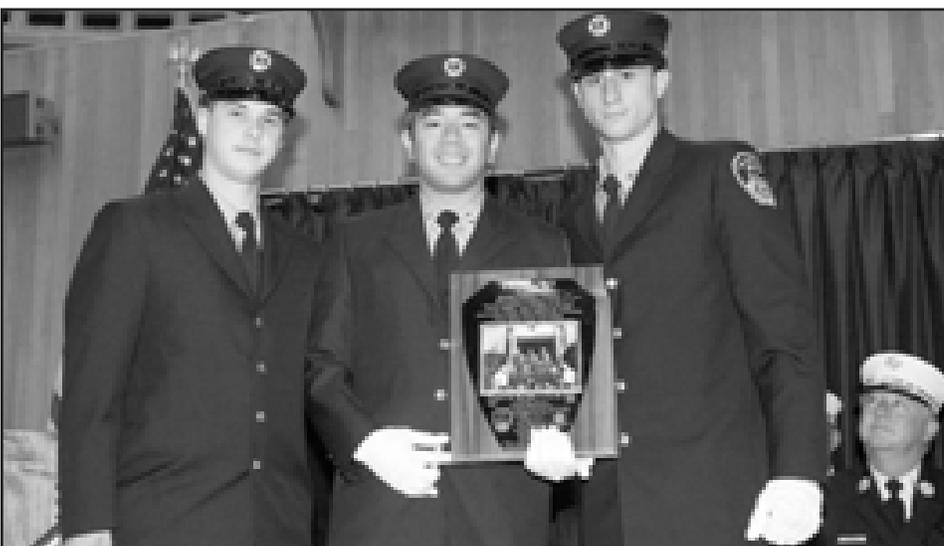
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## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



On September 14, members of Ladder Company 138 were reunited with three sisters whom they rescued from a second-alarm fire in Jackson Heights, Queens on December 15, 2004. Firefighters raised money and purchased gifts for the 7-year-old girl and 3-year-old twins, who lost both parents in the tragic fire. The girls are still being treated at St. Mary's Hospital for Children for severe burns and other injuries. Members of the company rescued 16 civilians from the blaze and won several medals for their bravery during FDNY Medal Day 2005.



At EMS Graduation on September 23, Class Speaker Paramedic Nicholas Barker (left) and Academic Achiever Paramedic Neil Mancuso (right) present Instructor Joseph Esquivias with a customary plaque honoring all EMS Academy instructors. The ceremony included the graduation of 45 EMTs and 10 paramedics as well as the promotion of one EMS captain and one lieutenant.



# VIEW

POINT  
OCTOBER 2005

NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT

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**FDNY**  
1865-2005  
A 140 YEAR HISTORY  
OF COMMITMENT,  
COURAGE & COMPASSION