

TO THOSE WHO CARRY ON...

— 9/11 FDNY Memorial unveiled at the quarters of Ten House —

Just feet from the site where the Twin Towers once stood, the FDNY's 9/11 memorial was unveiled outside Engine 10/Ladder 10 in lower Manhattan.

The bronze bas-relief sculpture was dedicated in a private ceremony on Greenwich Street on June 10.

"We know their courage and extraordinary actions were not unique to that one day," said Commissioner Scoppetta. "May the memory of those lost on 9/11 be eternal."

The memorial was commissioned as a "Silent Roll Call," honoring the 343 members of the Department who gave their lives in the line of duty at the World Trade Center tragedy.

The unveiling ceremony included remarks by former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, US Representative Jerrold Nadler, Congressman Peter King, Brian Starer, Chair of the Holland & Knight 9/11 Memorial Committee that paid for the memorial, and Michael Burke, brother of FDNY Captain William Burke, Jr. who died on September 11.

President George W. Bush, Governor George Pataki and Mayor Michael Bloomberg also sent video messages to the large crowd.

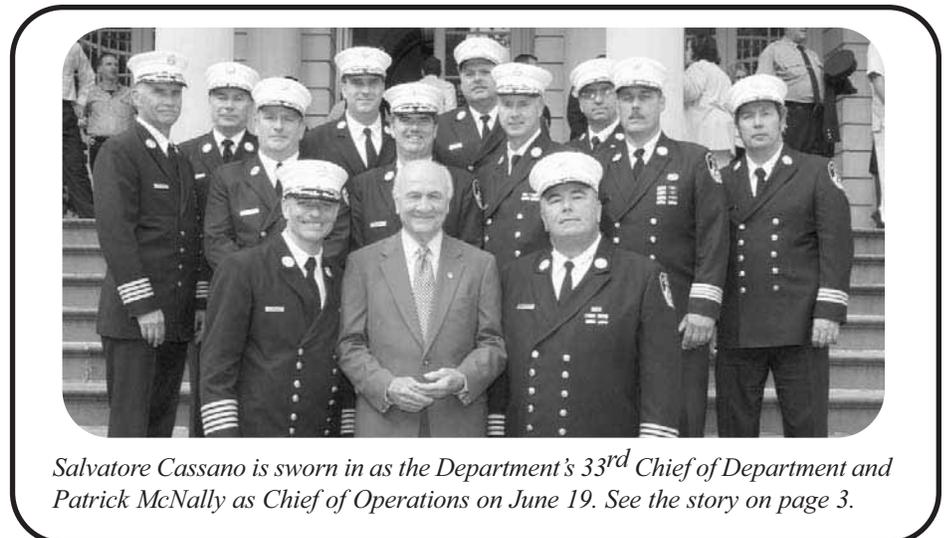


(L to R) Former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, Chief of Operations Salvatore Cassano and Chief of Department Peter Hayden join FDNY Chaplain John Delendick as he blesses the memorial wall.

"The 343 members of the Fire Department gave us even more than their own lives ... they renewed our belief in each other and in our city and the nation," Mayor Bloomberg said.

Chief of Department Peter Hayden also paid tribute to his fallen comrades with an emotional speech about his response on September 11, 2001.

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Salvatore Cassano is sworn in as the Department's 33rd Chief of Department and Patrick McNally as Chief of Operations on June 19. See the story on page 3.



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Movement of Top Uniformed Personnel

Nearly five years after the Department suffered the greatest loss in its history, we have successfully rebuilt our ranks, strengthened the roles of management and paved the way for the future by appointing several new, well-respected leaders this summer.

It is the most significant shift among uniformed personnel since 2002 when I increased the number of staff chiefs from 10 to 18 in order to better manage operations and recuperate from the giant void in experience and knowledge left after the September 11, 2001 attacks. With these new but familiar faces at 9 Metrotech, I am confident the Department is ready to handle any emergency, large or small, and is prepared for a possible terrorist attack - the threat of which lingers in the minds of us all.

Among the senior staff members to retire this year was Chief of Department Peter Hayden, who departed in June after spending nearly 40 years serving the citizens of New York City. Pete earned great respect and loyalty from his colleagues, and his vast expertise surely will be missed. We all wish him luck in his future endeavors.

Taking his place is Salvatore Cassano, who became the 33rd Chief of Department after dedicating 36 years of service to the FDNY. Shortly after 9/11, Sal was promoted to Chief of Operations and has helped me reinvigorate the ranks with increased training, technology and support. A proven leader with nearly 30 years on the job, Patrick McNally has been promoted to Chief of Operations where his strong commitment to safety will better protect New Yorkers and all of our members.

With these two men having served in each of the five boroughs and gaining the admiration of all who served with them, they will assist me in moving the Department forward to make this great city safer than ever.

As we prepare to recognize the fifth anniversary of 9/11 and honor the sacrifices made that day, it is important to recognize that this Department, steeped in tradition and built upon the bravery of our predecessors, must strive to embrace the modern technology that has already transformed our personal and professional lives. It will spur the FDNY to achieve goals we never thought possible.

With advanced training and new tools, this Department must continue to set the standard in rescue operations. To prepare for large-scale disasters, whether at home or across the nation, we have enhanced the training for our senior

staff managers and increased the number of drills, strengthening our expanded management structure for a potential crisis.

Those working to help shape the Department's future include Assistant Chief Howard Hill who replaced Pat McNally as the head of the Bureau of Fire Prevention after serving two years in the second-in-command post. A former chief officer in Manhattan, Deputy Assistant Chief Thomas Jensen is now acting as the Assistant Chief of the bureau. Assistant Chief Robert Sweeney is now working under Chief McNally in Operations after excelling as the Queens Borough Commander over the past four years.

Deputy Assistant Chief John Coloe has been given the important responsibility of holding a newly created position, the Chief of Communications, which oversees fire and EMS dispatch operations. The Assistant Chief of Operations and Administration is Joseph Ramos and Deputy Assistant Chief Ronald Spadafora will head up Logistics.

The Borough Commanders are as follows: Manhattan -- Assistant Chief Michael Weinlein; Queens - Deputy Assistant Chief John Acerno; Staten Island - Assistant Chief Thomas Haring; Brooklyn - Assistant Chief Edward Kilduff; and the Bronx - Assistant Chief James Esposito.

All of these men are experienced firefighters whose judgment and extensive knowledge have propelled them to high-ranking positions where they have led younger firefighters on the fire ground. They know the dangers and they know what's at stake. Their immense loyalty to the Department and passion for the job make them a tremendous asset to all of us.

I am proud to work with each one of them and look forward to ensuring that the greatest fire department in the world becomes even greater.



Commissioner's
— Message

Nicholas Scoppetta

Hail to the Chiefs

Salvatore Cassano sworn in as Chief of Department; Patrick McNally as Chief of Operations

It was a day filled with pride as Salvatore Cassano was sworn in as the FDNY's 33rd Chief of Department and Patrick McNally as Chief of Operations on June 19.

"It's a great day for the City of New York," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said. "These men prove that the FDNY continues to attract the best and the brightest."

Staff chiefs, family members and friends joined the men as they took the Oath of Office in City Hall's Blue Room.

"I have worked closely with both of them and I am sure they will excel in their new roles," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "The depth of their experience and their unmatched knowledge of the Department will ensure that our firefighters, EMTs and paramedics have the resources and training necessary to perform their jobs to the highest levels."

In his new role, Chief Cassano will manage the Department's three major uniformed bureaus: Operations, Training and Fire Prevention.

He spent the last five years working as Chief of Operations, overseeing everything from the Staten Island Ferry crash in 2003 to the 10-alarm fire in Greenpoint this spring.

Commissioner Scoppetta also noted that the 36-year veteran of the FDNY was integral in helping rebuild the Department following the tragedies of September 11, 2001.

Chief Cassano said he was humbled by the appointment and shrugged off any acclaim. Instead, he praised the FDNY staff, officers, firefighters and EMS personnel for all the hard work they do each day.

"Our goal as a Department is to serve the public," Chief Cassano said. "I applaud all that you have done to make me look good."

His successor, Chief McNally, will now manage the FDNY's daily fire and EMS operations as Chief of Operations.

He has been a member of the Department for 28 years, serving the last two



years as Chief of Fire Prevention, overseeing civilian and uniformed staff responsible for the enforcement of the city's fire code.

In this position, he also served as the principal FDNY official involved in the creation of the Emergency Action Plan for building evacuations in non-fire emergencies, as well as the Building and Fire Code Revision project.

Of his appointment, Chief McNally said, "I will do my best to reward your confidence in me."

The avid Yankee fan borrowed a line from his idol, Lou Gehrig, saying, "I consider myself the luckiest man in the New York City Fire Department."

Quoting another baseball great, manager Sparky Anderson, Commissioner Scoppetta described how he will oversee the newly appointed Chiefs:



(Top) Salvatore Cassano is sworn in as Chief of Department by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, as his sons Joseph (left) and Salvatore hold the Bible.

(Bottom) Patrick McNally is joined by his wife, Elizabeth, as he is sworn in as Chief of Operations by Mayor Bloomberg.

"[Anderson] always used to say, 'My idea of managing is giving the ball to Tom Seaver and sitting down and watching him work.' That's how I feel about these two men. They know better than anyone and they can get it done."

The Bravest of the Bravest

Fire Department Medal Day celebrates firefighters' heroism

A sea of blue uniforms poured into the Pace University gymnasium on June 7, marking the Fire Department's 137th annual Medal Day celebration.

Forty-two medals were presented to firefighters, fire officers, fire marshals and fire companies who have gone above and beyond the call of duty, displaying courage under the most extreme conditions.

Some of the incredible stories recounted during the ceremony included a firefighter who plucked a victim from the icy waters off Staten Island, another who crawled through a room filled with fire to pull a 200-pound man to safety and a fire marshal who unraveled a gruesome arson/murder case.

And as they bowed their heads to receive the medals, each recipient received thunderous applause – and some blasts from bullhorns – from fellow firefighters, family and friends.

"Whether from an engine or a truck company, squad, rescue or the marine division, every medal presented today represents at least one life saved," Commissioner Scoppetta said.

The recipient of this year's James Gordon Bennett Medal was Captain Christopher J. Joyce of Engine 318.

He was cited for his heroic actions at a basement fire in Brooklyn, when he crawled past intense fire and heat to rescue an unconscious elderly man in Febru-



Captain Christopher Joyce of Engine 318 (center) receives the 2006 James Gordon Bennett Medal from (L to R) David Gold from the NYS Honorary Fire Chiefs Association, Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Chief of Department Peter Hayden.

ary 2005.

"I can only remember thinking, 'I really hope we can get him out,'" Captain Joyce said.

Friends gathered to congratulate the 16-year veteran as he held his daughter, Gillian, on his lap, while his wife, Kim, and son, Christopher, looked on proudly.

"Getting recognized for doing your job is something you never expect," he added.

This year, the Department also awarded the Dr. Harry M. Archer Medal to Firefighter James F. Mills of Ladder 176. The medal is presented once every three years to one of the past three James Gordon Bennett Medal winners.

At a Brooklyn fire in March 2003, Firefighter Mills located a fellow firefighter who had issued a Mayday. The member was face down in a pool of water, and even though Firefighter Mills's SCBA air had run out, he continued to pull his comrade to safety and removed him from the building just moments before a collapse would have buried them.

"I was operating on pure instinct," Firefighter Mills said. "There was no way I was leaving that basement without him."

The New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation/Father Julian F. Deeken Memorial Medal is presented every three years to a company who has won the Lieutenant James Curran/New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal. This year, it went to the members of Engine 298.

Coordination and teamwork earned them the award when they operated alone to save three civilians trapped in an attic during a Queens house fire in 2004.

"Flip through this year's Medal Day book and you will read dozens of incredible stories of courage and perseverance," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said. "They involve the full breadth of our Fire Department – from young firefighters to the most experienced officers – rescue companies, engine companies and ladder companies in all five boroughs."

(Continued on page 15)



The medal winners celebrate as the 2006 Medal Day ceremony comes to a close.

'Scan for the Tan'

EMS begins distributing new protective personal ensembles to all members

It is a summer of safety for EMS as its more than 2,800 members are issued state-of-the-art Protective Personal Ensembles (PPE) starting July 10.

"These suits will allow us to provide quick and appropriate care to patients, while keeping our members safe," said Chief of EMS John Peruggia.

Each ensemble consists of a tan jacket and pants made out of Kevlar and PBO, an extremely lightweight and breathable material that is waterproof and resists rips and tears. It also includes gloves that are punc-



EMT Charles McCarren dons the new EMS Protective Personal Ensemble, which was specially designed for the FDNY EMS Command.

ture resistant and boots that resist heat.

"From now on when people are looking for EMS personnel at an emergency site, they can scan for the tan," Chief Peruggia said.

The new gear compliments the helmets and air purifying respirators (APR) already used by EMS personnel, giving them even more protection in HazMat situations. These suits also provide limited protection against blood-borne pathogens, in addition to limited protection from flashover from fire, chemical splashes and hazardous environmental conditions.

The PPEs have been customized specifically for the FDNY's EMS Command to fit their needs.

"I am really excited about the progression from the old nylon safety coat for adverse weather conditions to the new protective garment that provides superior protection to our EMS members," said EMS Division Chief Charles Wells.

The first 300 suits were distributed in early July and an additional 300 will be dis-

tributed each week until every member receives the gear.

Each PPE costs about \$1,300, and was purchased through a \$3.2 million grant from the US Department of Homeland Security.

The gear is certified by the National Fire Protective Association (NFPA). It passed two mandatory standards – the NFPA 1951 standard for protective ensemble for urban search and rescue operations, and the NFPA 1999 standard on protective clothing for emergency medical operations.

It also passed an optional performance standard, the NFPA 1992, for liquid splash-protective ensembles and clothing for HazMat emergencies.

"We have spent a long time developing and testing this gear, and all of us are excited to finally see our members wearing it," Chief Peruggia said.

He added that all EMS personnel also will begin additional HazMat operations training, which started in July and should continue through next year.



New Repeater Communications System: Chief Salvatore Cassano demonstrates the use of a new repeater communications system installed by the Durst Organization at 4 Times Square. The building is the first of nine Durst buildings to be equipped with this new technology, which enables on-scene commanders to speak directly to fire personnel in every corner of the building. It works through a key-initiated system in the lobby that goes straight to emergency responders' handie talkies. The system was completely funded by the Durst Organization.

A Nod to Tradition

Fire department legacies, military veterans graduate from the Rock

There were countless reasons to celebrate on July 6 as 184 firefighters joined the ranks at Proby Graduation.

“Thank you all for choosing courage over complacency,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. “Every day you go to work, you will make this city a better place to live.”

A packed crowd of family and friends cheered wildly as the firefighters walked across the stage to accept their new ranks.

“The job has changed over the years, but one thing that has not changed are the firefighters,” said Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano. “We have all chosen a job defined by honor and courage – a job that requires someone different than the average citizen. And the Department esprit de corps will stay with you throughout your career.”

He noted that 23 members of the class have family members on the job.

Among them was Probationary Firefighter Woody Joseph, whose brother, Probationary Firefighter Karl Joseph of Engine 207, died in the line of duty on September 11, 2001.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg congratulated Probationary Firefighter Joseph for continuing in his brother’s footsteps.



The new class of probationary firefighters graduates from the Fire Academy during a ceremony at Brooklyn College on July 6.

“I think it speaks volumes for the type of man you are and what the FDNY means to you and your family,” he said.

The new firefighters also received a standing ovation for having 21 members who served in the military, including eight combat veterans.

Aside from their bravery, the class also was praised for their generosity. They raised \$1,000 to help with the rehabilitation of Firefighter Matthew Long, who was critically injured in December when he was struck by a bus while riding his

bike to the Fire Academy.

They also donated \$700 to defer funeral costs for a Fire Academy instructor who experienced the death of a close family member.

Class Valedictorian Probationary Firefighter Christopher Emmel praised his classmates for their hard work and dedication and noted that they all share the same drive to help those in need.

“We have a will to help others and a pride in ourselves and what we will become,” he said.

He was joined on stage by the class Salutatorian, Probationary Firefighter Andrew F. Getka and Probationary Firefighter Robert Landon, who received the Physical Fitness Award.

Before the probies were sent to their new assignments throughout the city, Chief Cassano reminded them that although they are graduating from the Academy, they should never stop learning.

“You must learn to adapt and stay current in a changing world,” he said. “In our profession, knowledge is power.”



Intrepid Family

Day: *A future firefighter rushes to put on bunker pants during the Turnout Gear Try On contest at the annual FDNY Family Weekend at the Intrepid on July 15 and 16. On both days visitors were treated to everything from HazMat simulations to fire-boat water displays.*

A Family Affair

Two pairs of brothers are among lieutenants promoted

Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta presided over a promotion ceremony on July 13 when 60 firefighters rose in rank to lieutenant.

"We're counting on you to keep firefighters hungry to learn, to teach them, to lead them," the Commissioner said.

Family and friends gathered at LaGuardia Community College in Queens to cheer the promotees, who are the first group to be promoted off the newly established lieutenants list.

"You are our future leaders," said Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano. "Congratulations, stay safe and keep your members safe and I look forward to seeing you in the field."

Brothers, Fire Marshal Andrew F. DiFusco and Firefighter Brian C. DiFusco of Ladder 156, were jointly promoted in the ceremony.

Fire Marshal DiFusco was recently

praised for helping apprehend a woman who was setting fires as a distraction so she could shoplift at a store in Harlem.

Also promoted were another set of brothers – Firefighters Sean M. Murphy of Engine 245 and Kevin Murphy of Ladder 6.

"I am very, very excited to be promoted with him," said Firefighter Sean Murphy of his brother, who was unable to attend the ceremony. "We studied together and worked



Brothers, Fire Marshal Andrew Difusco (left) and Firefighter Brian DiFusco, celebrate their promotion during a ceremony at LaGuardia Community College in Queens on July 13.

hard to make this dream a reality for both of us."

Ready to Go

72 EMTs graduate from EMS Academy

It was a rowdy ceremony filled with EMTs who are prepared for anything.

The first class to receive the new Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Hazmat training at the EMS Academy graduated on July 17.

Seventy-two new EMTs joined the ranks after an energetic ceremony on Randall's Island that numerous family and friends attended.

"You are at the forefront of the Department's innovations," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "Your safety is paramount."

The FDNY received federal funding to provide 16 hours of specialized training for the EMS members and additional money for weather-resistant, bunker-style coats, pants, boots and gloves (*see the story about the new gear on page 5*).

"The profession you have chosen is not an easy one," Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano said. "But we have every confidence in your abilities and we know you will do us proud."

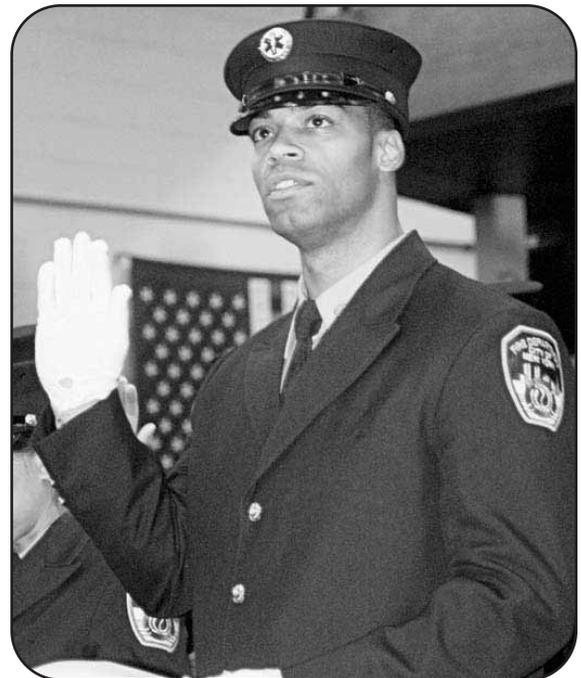
Deputy Assistant Chief of EMS John McFarland advised the graduates to already start considering advancing in their new careers and the path they want to take.

"Plan early and do the best you can," he said. "Your education doesn't end here."

Before taking the Oath of Geneva, the graduating class presented their instructors with a plaque in gratitude for their training.

"Our instructors went far beyond the textbook," said Class Speaker EMT Amaziah Tucker. "You set us up for success and for that, we will always be grateful."

And EMT James Ingram, who received the Academic Achiever Award, added, "This is a great profession. How many people get to help others for a living?"



EMT Razgiem Graves takes the Oath of Geneva during EMS graduation ceremony at the Rock on July 17.

TO THOSE WHO

— 9/11 FDNY Memorial unveiled



(Continued from page 1)

He described all FDNY members as “calm and professional” that morning and praised them for “putting themselves in harm’s way so that others might live. We call ourselves a family, but it was never more true than on that day.”

The memorial was completely funded by the lawyers and staff of the law firm Holland & Knight in honor of a partner at their firm, Glenn J. Winuk. He was a 20-year volunteer firefighter and EMT in

Jericho, Long Island, who was killed when he left his office to assist in the rescue efforts at the Trade Center on September 11.

Brian Starer, Chair of the Holland & Knight 9/11 Memorial Committee, said the firm wanted to create a memorial that told the story of what happened that day, and “something that would explain what heroism is all about.”

And many of the friends and family members attending the ceremony stated

that the memorial was a fitting tribute to their lost loved ones.

Extending 56-feet long, standing six-feet tall and weighing 7,000 pounds, the memorial recounts firefighters and EMS personnel responding to the World Trade Center just as the second plane hit the South Tower.

Everything – from the apparatus to the uniforms – depicted on the sculpture is accurate, yet creators said they left off any references to name, rank or company num-



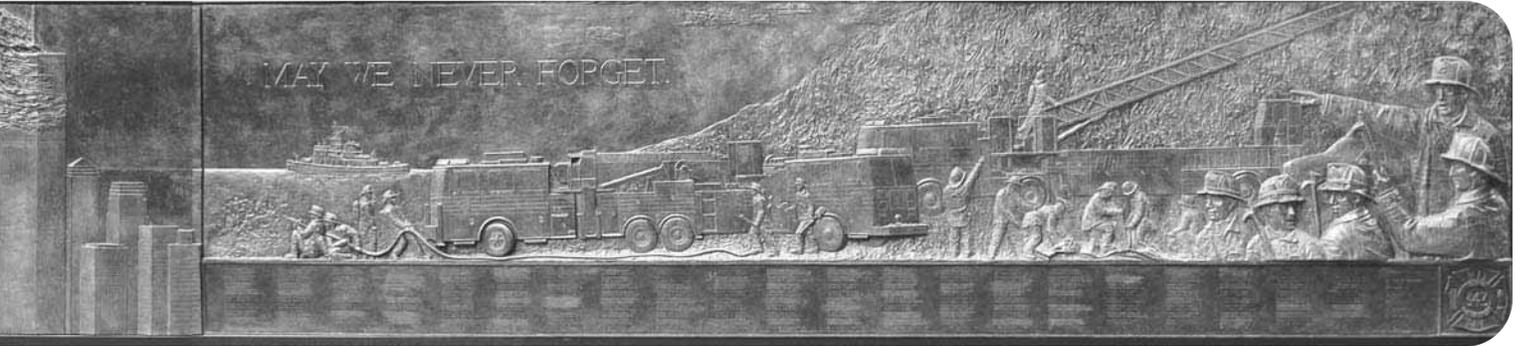
Aric Tegtmeier makes a rubbing of the name of his father, Firefighter Paul Tegtmeier of Engine 4, from the list of firefighters on the FDNY's 9/11 memorial at Engine 10/Ladder 10.



Members of the Emerald Society Pipes and Drums Band pay tribute to the 343 FDNY members lost on 9/11 before the new memorial was unveiled.

TO CARRY ON...

at the quarters of Ten House —



ber to honor all FDNY members.

Across the top of the memorial, it reads: "Dedicated to those who fell and those who carry on. May we never forget." And at the bottom, the names of each of the 343 lost members are listed alphabetically, along with a timeline of the day's events.

Nine lights are also placed above the memorial for viewing at night.

"This marks a place in time and allows us to remember those lost," said

President George Bush. "Here, their bravery will always be honored."

Many FDNY members were leaders in coordinating the project, including Technology and Support Deputy Commissioner Milton Fischberger and his staff, as well as Manhattan Borough Commander, Assistant Chief Harold Meyers.

"We will never forget that day or those we lost," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg. "And this memorial will be an inspiration

to the members of the FDNY, and all New Yorkers, forever."

After the ceremony, family members were seen quietly reflecting at the memorial and making charcoal rubbings of their family members names.

"It is unbelievable, a really nice tribute," said Marge Arce, mother of Firefighter David Arce of Engine 33, who died in the tragedy. "It will be a wonderful place for us to come and reflect."



Chief of Department Peter Hayden gives an emotional speech recalling his experiences in the lobby of the North Tower on September 11, 2001.



A firefighter reflects on the wall after making a rubbing of the name of Firefighter Jeffrey J. Olsen from Engine 10, who was killed on September 11.

In the Eye of the Storm

FDNY IMTs participate in interagency drill simulating Category 3 Hurricane

A Category 3 Hurricane named Noreen made landfall in the Rockaways on May 25.

Rescuers were immediately faced with unstable structures, extensive flooding, blocked roadways and reckless drivers.

Nothing about the scenario was good - except that it was just a drill.

Weather forecasters have announced that there is an elevated risk that a hurricane could hit the New York area this summer. So at the start of hurricane season, the FDNY's IMTs, along with representatives from the United States Coast Guard and Forest Service, decided to practice their emergency response plan and prove they are ready for the most devastating natural disaster.

"With this sort of exercise, you see how small little details can have a huge impact," said Deputy Chief Robert Maynes, who worked as the incident commander for the drill. "And this sort of practice enables us to be prepared should a disaster strike."

Members from each agency were assigned specific duties and responsibilities throughout the drill at the Fire Academy, including logistics, finance and

operations. Each group worked together to address a chain of disaster management challenges, from responding to emergency vehicle accidents to fielding press inquiries.

The teams covered the walls of their command post with maps, charts and lists, ensuring that nothing was overlooked and everything was handled quickly.

"This is all about inter-agency transparency," said Wildland Fire Training Officer John Grosman. "This is a team environment and everyone has to communicate well."

Hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30. The National Hurricane Center has warned there is a 30 percent chance a hurricane could hit New York City or Long Island this year.



IMTs practice their response to a Category 3 hurricane during a simulation at the Rock.

A Category 3 Hurricane could raise ocean levels 25 to 30 feet in some parts of the city, even if it does not directly hit the area.

Forecasters say that New York residents are especially at risk because a hurricane would make landfall within 36 hours of being identified in the Atlantic - as opposed to several days in many southern states. This means that hundreds of thousands of people would need to be evacuated within a few hours.

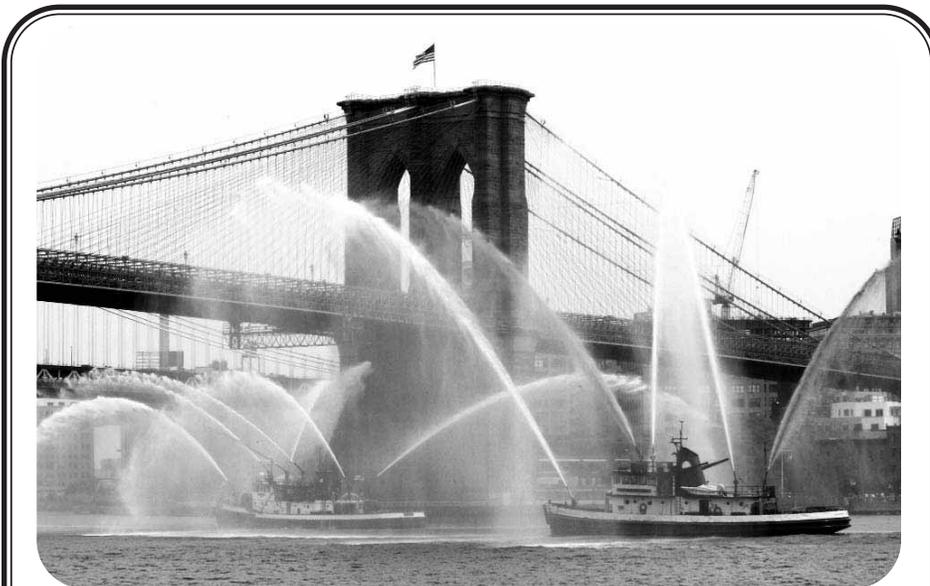
But the IMTs who participated in the drill said the experience enabled them to feel more prepared for such a crisis.

"These exercises are good teambuilding experiences," said participant EMS Division Chief Mark Stone, who also worked as an IMT in Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. "It enables us to continue to see how our role as IMTs is not for short-term emergencies but rather long-term disasters."

Evacuation Plans

Would you and your family be evacuated if a hurricane hit New York? Check out OEM's 2006 hurricane brochure to find out.

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/>



Blessing of the Fleet: The FDNY's Marine Fleet makes a patriotic water show along the East River on Flag Day, June 14, following the annual Blessing of the Fleet ceremony off the South Street Seaport.

Training and a Tribute

New Ropes Training apparatus makes special stop at Engine 23

“Let no man’s ghost return to say my training let me down.”

The adage has echoed through the halls of the Training Academy for generations. Now, one of the FDNY’s newest training vehicles brings it to life.

For several months, the Ropes Training Unit has been driving a new ropes training apparatus to firehouses throughout New York City, helping firefighters retain their skills and practice using the new personal safety system.

On May 25, it made a special stop at Engine 23 in midtown Manhattan.

The refurbished vehicle was once used as the primary apparatus for the members of the engine company and was last driven by the firefighters when they responded to the World Trade Center attacks in 2001.

“It’s a real honor to see our old rig used for training and educating all members of the FDNY,” said Captain David Morkal of Engine 23.

Members of the Ropes Unit also mounted a plaque on the side of the apparatus, honoring Lieutenant Charles Garbarini and Firefighters Robert McPadden, James Pappageorge, Hector Tirado, Jr., and Mark Whitford – the five members from Engine 23 who made the Supreme Sacrifice on September 11, 2001.

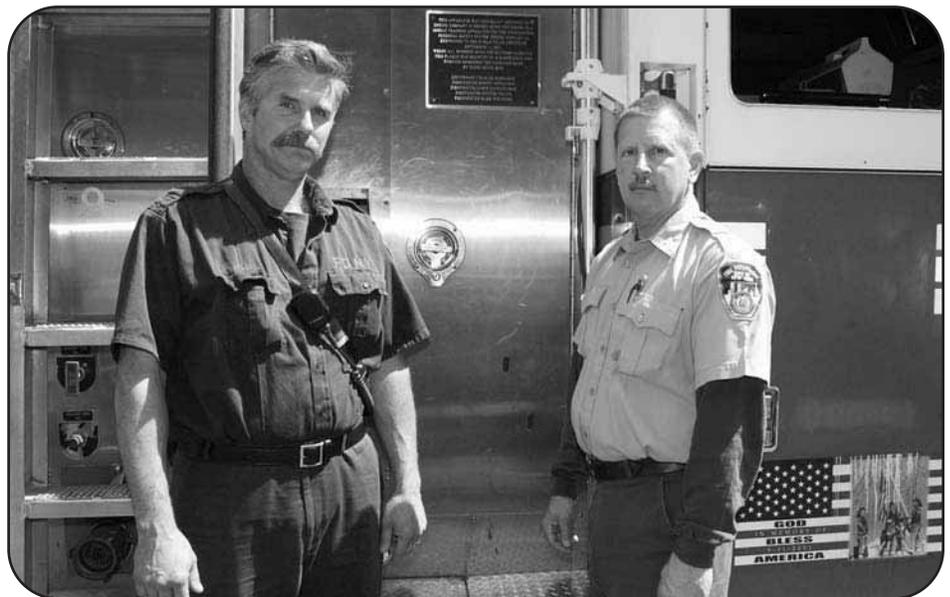
Captain Richard Kirschner of the Ropes Unit noted that the plaque was placed on the right side of the vehicle, “so that when members are waiting to train, they will be able to read those names. And when the apparatus is parked, it will be visible to anyone passing by.”

The ropes training apparatus has a platform built in the hose bed and has a hinged wall that lifts 10 feet high, simulating a window.

Firefighters can practice using their new Personal Safety System by hooking onto the windowsill and repelling down the wall.

The rig travels to roughly three firehouses per day, six days a week, acting as a means for firefighters to reinforce the skills they learned in ropes training.

“We’re grateful to have that rig as part of our unit now,” said Captain Kirschner. “And it will help keep firefighters safe for years to come.”



(Top) A firefighter practices using his Personal Safety System off the back of the Ropes Training Unit’s new training apparatus.

(Bottom) Firefighters stand beside a plaque that members of the Ropes Training Unit mounted to the side of the new ropes training apparatus honoring the five members of their company who died on 9/11. Before being remade into a training vehicle, the rig was last used by members of Engine 23 while responding to the World Trade Center disaster.

A People Person

New Assistant Commissioner for EEO works hard to increase tolerance

Growing up in a military family and moving to a different state every three years as a child, Lyndelle T. Phillips learned the importance of good people skills early in life.

Now as the new Assistant Commissioner for Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), she said she is relying on those skills to ensure fair workplace practices in accordance with Department policy.

"The FDNY is a diverse and wonderful family," she said. "And at the end of the day when we talk about EEO, we are talking about human beings receiving the respect they deserve on the job."

She took the post in June and as she acclimates herself to her new job, she said she is eager to set goals to ensure compliance with EEO laws and beef up training to guard against discrimination.

"I am really enjoying the challenge," she said.

Assistant Commissioner Phillips is the oldest of four and was born in San Antonio, Texas. She grew up alongside two sisters and an adopted brother from Thailand.

Her father was a Senior Master Sergeant in the Air Force, and as a result, she said her family moved regularly to places as far away as South Carolina and France. She said the moves enabled her to broaden her appreciation of different cultures and mixes of traditions.

Eventually, her family settled in Seattle when she was a teenager. She said, "that's the place where I go home."

She went on to receive a bachelor's degree from the University of Dayton and a master's degree from the University of Cincinnati, both in Ohio.

Before heading to law school, she worked in human resources for Pan American Airlines, which she said she enjoyed because she loved being able to work with a wide range of people.

After receiving her juris doctorate from University of California's Hastings College of Law, the Big Apple beckoned. She moved back east to rejoin the airline industry, landing a job with TransWorld Airlines in New York City.

"For someone starting in the legal pro-

fession, it was a good way to cut your teeth," she said.

Later, she practiced employment law with the New York Stock Exchange.

Then she moved to a similar position at Morgan Stanley, with an office in the South Tower of the World Trade Center.

Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, she said she walked down from the 65th floor.

After relocating with the company twice – once to midtown Manhattan and then Westchester County – she said she decided to leave the corporate world for a job with the Fire Department.

She says she is excited to get started and ensure that all members of the FDNY take EEO seriously.

"If you want the Department to continue its fine reputation indefinitely, there needs to be an understanding and acknowledgment that EEO is part of the culture," she said. "I am going to make sure that happens."

Hard Work and Organization

Lei Tian takes the reins as the new Board of Trustees Director of Pension Fund

The new Board of Trustees Director for the Fire Department Pension Fund hit the ground running.

Since late January, Lei Tian and her staff have processed thousands of disability retirement applications for more than 3,000 Department members who participated in the World Trade Center rescue and recovery operations and expect to process 7,000 more in the coming months.

"There is a lot of work to be done," said Tian. "It's extremely challenging but very rewarding."

She has worked to process applications filed under the World Trade Center presumptive bill, a law that allows firefighters, police officers and other public employees who were involved in the World Trade Center rescue, recovery or cleanup operations to qualify for disability pensions.

She said she and her six staff members have worked hard to process appli-

cations from as far back as 2002. She added that one of her goals is to standardize the internal processes so that they can work more efficiently.

"I really appreciate my staff and what they do," she said. "They are dedicated and hardworking and make my job a lot easier."

Lei Tian was born and raised in Beijing, China. Her parents were both university professors, and she said they always stressed the importance of a good education, even teaching her English at the age of four.

"My life experiences and upbringing have made me who I am today," she said.

She went on to earn three degrees: a Bachelor's of Arts degree in English from Beijing Normal University, a Master's degree in Education in Curriculum Design from the University of Massachusetts and a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University

of Rochester.

Tian then took a job as an Organizational Development Specialist at Hewlett Packard, working on everything from strategic business planning to budgeting. Then she started her own financial consulting firm for a few years before going to work for the New York City Department of Buildings as a key participant in the Building Code revision process.

She chose to take the job at the Fire Department because it took advantage of her background in finance and management, while enabling her to stay challenged with a subject matter that was unfamiliar to her.

Although the work is demanding, she said she is enjoying it.

"I get great support from management and my staff, as well as full cooperation from other units," she said. "My staff is wonderful. Everyone is very helpful. I can't ask for more than that."

Getting a Little Color

Pintchik family donates paint to rejuvenate EMS Station 44

It's not often a victim's family helps revive an EMS station.

But this spring, the family of Jack Pintchik – a man whose life was saved by New York City paramedics more than 24 years ago – donated 70 gallons of paint to help revitalize Station 44 in Brooklyn.

"Members of the station and the Pintchik family have a close, wonderful relationship," said Captain Steven Morelli. "They are always so supportive of us."

He said for months he and other members of the station wanted to give their quarters a facelift but did not have the funds.

So on a whim, Chief of EMS John Peruggia called the Pintchiks, who own the Pintchik Home Improvement Stores chain, for a little help – and they offered him more than he imagined. The family immediately donated enough paint to cover the station – from floor to ceiling.

"It has been a wonderful morale boost," said Captain Morelli. "They were there to help us out in our time of need."

The Pintchiks relationship with EMS began in the early 1980's when Station 44's Paramedics Kenneth Honig and Carl Tramontana resuscitated Jack Pintchik, who had gone into cardiac arrest and was declared dead by a physician on the scene.



EMS officers, paramedics and EMTs gather to thank Matt Pintchik (center) outside EMS Station 44 in Brooklyn. He is the son of Jack Pintchik, whose life was saved by paramedics from Station 44 more than 24 years ago. To show their support of the EMS Command, he and his family donated 70 gallons of paint to refurbish the station.

Even though Pintchik has since passed away, his family continues to have a strong relationship with EMS and the paramedics who saved him.

Nearly 40 EMTs, paramedics, friends and family members came out to help the station paint its walls with colors such as bright green, blue and yellow.

One such volunteer was EMT Brenda Contreras. She was a student at the EMS Academy at the time and has two aunts

who have worked out of Station 44. Chief Peruggia said she demonstrated she had a strong connection to its members so upon graduation, he assigned her to the station.

"They all put forth a tremendous effort and really did an exceptional job," Chief Peruggia said. "It looks incredibly great and will continue to boost the morale of the station's members."

EMS Competition Winners Help Salute Event Sponsors: Members of the ALS and BLS teams that won the 6th Annual FDNY EMS Competition this spring were awarded their trophies on June 29. Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano and Chief of EMS John Peruggia presented the ALS trophy to Paramedics James Fallar, Joseph Hudak, Will Silvestry and Donald Hudson (not pictured). And EMTs Andrew DeSantis, Matthew Giacolone, Christopher Russo and Jonathan Coletti received the BLS award.

The ceremony was also an opportunity to thank Philip Scott and Jeffrey Beutel from the Whelen Engineering Company for their exclusive sponsorship of the 2006 FDNY EMT-Paramedic Competition. Other EMS Week sponsors included Uniformed EMTs and Paramedics, Local 2507; Uniformed EMS Officers Union, Local 3621; FDNY Foundation; The Pintchik Family; Medtronic Emergency Response Systems; Laerdal Medical Corporation; Deccan International, Prest-O-Sales and Service, Inc.; National Posters; Van Wagner Outdoor Advertising; and CBS Outdoor.



Father's Day Fire Heroes Remembered

Five years later, the firefighters' lives celebrated, new rig dedicated in their memory

It was a day of quiet reflection as firefighters, family and friends gathered on June 17 to remember the three victims of 2001's tragic Father's Day fire.

The day marked the fifth anniversary of the fifth-alarm fire that took the lives of Firefighters Harry Ford and Brian Fahey of Rescue 4 and Lieutenant John Downing of Ladder 168.

Hundreds gathered to pay tribute to the fallen heroes in a memorial mass at St. Sebastian R.C. Church in Woodside, Queens. In a surprise ceremony after the mass, a new collapse unit – Collapse Rescue 4 – was dedicated in their honor.

"We lost three of our best that day," said Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano. "And they will always be remembered as heroes."

The church pews were filled with family, friends and firefighters from throughout New York. The emotional ceremony included homilies by friends who recalled the dynamic personalities of the three men and a musical tribute by Irish tenor



The Ford, Fahey and Downing families gather following the memorial mass that marked the fifth anniversary of the tragic Father's Day fire that took the lives of Lieutenant John Downing, and Firefighters Harry Ford and Brian Fahey. Behind them is Collapse Rescue 4, a new apparatus dedicated in the firefighters' honor.

Ronan Tynan.

Following the service, firefighters stood in formation on Roosevelt Avenue

as family members got their first look at the new apparatus, which will be stationed at Ladder 116 in Queens.

"The tools and equipment on this rig will save many lives for many years to come," said Chief Cassano. "I couldn't think of a more appropriate tribute to these three men."

As the families welled up with emotion, Denise Ford, Firefighter Ford's widow, added, "We are so grateful that out of this sorrow, we were born into a life of friendship and love. Thank you so very much."

The three men responded to the blaze at the Long Island General Supply hardware store on June 17, 2001, when a basement explosion ripped through the two-story brick structure.

Firefighter Ford had been a firefighter for 27 years, and Firefighter Fahey was a 14-year veteran of the Department. Firefighter Downing had 11 years on the job with aspirations to be an officer when he died. *(See the story about his posthumous promotion on left)*

"This was a nice surprise on an emotional day," Firefighter John Gaine of Rescue 4 said of the new rig. "This is a great way to keep Harry, John and Brian's memory alive."

A Special Tribute

Firefighter John Downing symbolically promoted in intimate ceremony

One of Ann Downing's biggest wishes was fulfilled on June 15 – when she received her husband's white lieutenant's hat.

Firefighter John Downing, who was tragically killed in the Father's Day fire of 2001, was symbolically promoted during a ceremony at Fire Headquarters.

"The symbol of a fire officer, from lieutenant to chief, is the white hat," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "It identifies the 'go to' person – and Firefighter John Downing was a 'go to' man in his house, Ladder 163."

Ann Downing and their daughter, Joanne, also received a keepsake wood chest with Ladder 163's company patch, lieutenant bars and helmet front piece.

The firefighter's brother, Firefighter Denis Downing of Ladder 115, was presented with the lieutenant's badge.

"Firefighter Downing was an incredible man who everyone in the firehouse should try to emulate," said then-Chief of Operations Salvatore Cassano.

Among those paying tribute to the firefighter was Edward Boles, a UFOA representative and childhood friend.

Also attending the ceremony was Captain James Brosi, captain of the FDNY Soccer Team, who presented soccer fan Joanne Downing with special gifts, including a poster signed by Mia Hamm and other All-Star soccer players, an FDNY soccer jersey and a ball signed by the FDNY team.

2006 Fire Department Medal Winners

- Dr. Harry M. Archer Medal**
Firefighter James F. Mills,
Ladder Company 176
- James Gordon Bennett Medal/New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal**
Captain Christopher J. Joyce,
Engine Company 318
- Brooklyn Citizens Medal/Firefighter Louis Valentino Award**
Firefighter Robert S. Hourican,
Ladder Company 168
- Hugh Bonner Medal**
Lieutenant Kevin T. Flanagan,
Ladder Company 28
- Emily Trevor/Mary B. Warren Medal**
Firefighter Francis G. Fee, Jr.,
Rescue Company 1
- Thomas E. Crimmins Medal**
Firefighter John C. Genna, Engine Company 298 (assigned), Ladder Company 125 (detailed)
- Thomas A. Kenny Memorial Medal**
Lieutenant Joseph A. Femicola,
Ladder Company 125
- Walter Scott Medal**
Firefighter Joseph M. Pigott,
Ladder Company 78
- John H. Prentice Medal**
Lieutenant John A. Dooley, Battalion 14 (assigned), Ladder Company 44 (detailed)
- Henry D. Brookman Medal**
Lieutenant Kenneth J. Durante,
Ladder Company 58
- M. J. Delehanty Medal**
Firefighter Christopher R. Mandeville,
Rescue Company 1
- William F. Conran Medal**
Captain William J. Walsh,
Squad Company 41
- Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia Medal**
Firefighter John V. Kroczyński,
Ladder Company 169
- Chief John J. McElligott Medal/Fitzpatrick and Frisby Award**
Firefighter Paul J. Nigro, Ladder Company 28
- Thomas F. Dougherty Medal**
Firefighter Joseph W. Honan,
Ladder Company 111
- Albert S. Johnston Medal**
Lieutenant Lawrence E. Tompkins,
Ladder Company 120
- Ner Tamid Society/Franklin Delano Roosevelt Medal**
Firefighter Edward F. Cancro,
Rescue Company 4
- Third Alarm Association Medal**
Firefighter Joseph Wakie,
Ladder Company 132
- Vincent J. Kane Medal**
Lieutenant Gregory J. Prial,
Ladder Company 43
- Brummer Medal**
Lieutenant Matthew J. Komorowski,
Ladder Company 119
- Frank W. Kridel Medal**
Lieutenant George W. Symon, Battalion 37 (assigned), Ladder Company 157 (detailed)
- Emerald Society Medal**
Firefighter Stephen P. Duffy,
Ladder Company 16
- Chief Wesley Williams Medal**
Firefighter Sheldon L. George,
Ladder Company 30
- Holy Name Society (Brooklyn/Queens)**
Lieutenant Kevin A. Griffith,
Ladder Company 106
- Hispanic Society Memorial Medal**
Lieutenant Michael J. Quevedo, Division 3 (assigned, covering),
Engine Company 16 (detailed)
- Captain Denis W. Lane Memorial Medal**
Firefighter Sean G. Cummins,
Rescue Company 1
- Uniformed Fire Officers Association Medal**
Captain John C. Rice, Division 14 (assigned), Ladder Company 163 (detailed)
- Dr. Albert A. Cinelli Medal**
Captain Robert Pav,
Ladder Company 110
- Fire Chiefs Association Memorial Medal**
Firefighter Louis Mancuso,
Ladder Company 44
- Fire Marshal Benevolent Association Medal**
Firefighter Kevin O. King,
Ladder Company 37
- Community Mayors Inc./Lieutenant Robert R. Dolney Medal**
Firefighter Terrence M. Walsh,
Ladder Company 3
- BC Frank T. Tuttlemondo Medal**
Lieutenant Daniel J. Walsh,
Ladder Company 172
- Dr. John F. Connell Medal**
Lieutenant Wayman A. Iriate,
Ladder Company 116
- Fire Bell Club Medal**
Captain Michael J. Burke,
Engine Company 79
- Firefighter David J. DeFranco Medal**
Firefighter Thomas F. Feaser,
Ladder Company 78
- Lieutenant James Curran/NYFF Burn Center Foundation/Father Julian F. Deekan Memorial Medal**
Engine Company 298
- Lieutenant James Curran/New York Firefighter Burn Center Foundation Medal**
Engine Company 283
- Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Medal**
Ladder Company 26
- Deputy Commissioner Christine R. Godek Medal**
Fire Marshal Joseph A. Ricca,
BFI Brooklyn Base
- Firefighter Kevin C. Kane Medal**
Firefighter Terrence F. Brody,
Ladder Company 110
- Probationary Firefighter Thomas Wylie Medal**
Firefighter Darrell S. Dennison,
Ladder Company 119
- Captain John J. Drennan Memorial Medal**
Firefighter Michael Mazziotti,
Ladder Company 101

The Bravest of the Bravest

(Continued from page 4)

Another of this year's outstanding medal recipients was Firefighter Sean Cummins of Rescue 1.

He received a medal for a rescue in September 2005 when he saved an elderly woman from a Manhattan apartment fire. On Medal Day, he was serving in Iraq as a Sergeant for the Army Airborne Civil Affairs.

In his absence, his wife, Maureen, accepted the medal along with their son, Sean, and twin daughters, Hanna and Tara.

The day was even more special for 9-year-old Sean as he got to spend the day as an honorary member of the Emerald Society's Pipe and Drums Band, joining them on the bagpipes during the ceremony.

Although Commissioner Scoppetta

wished all the award winners well, he said he had a special affinity for Firefighter Darrell S. Dennison of Ladder 119.

After hearing the Commissioner speak at a minority recruitment drive, Firefighter Dennison's mother, Stasia Dennison, brought home an application for her youngest son.

Eight weeks after he graduated from the Fire Academy, he participated in a rescue of a 7-year-old child in Brooklyn, earning him the Probationary Firefighter Thomas A. Wylie Medal.

Yet all the excitement of the day may have been best summed up by Lieutenant Joseph Femicola of Ladder 125, who received the year's Thomas A. Kenny Memorial Medal, "The day is all just very, very humbling."



Firefighter Darrell S. Dennison is all smiles as he receives the Probationary Firefighter Thomas A. Wylie Medal from Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Chief of Department Peter Hayden.

A Touch of Hope

FDNY Soccer Team members visit injured US soldiers in Germany

Thirty members of the FDNY soccer team traveled to Germany this June for a series of three soccer tournaments that pitted them against teams of European firefighters.

Yet if you ask them to pick the most memorable experience from their eight-day visit, they would not mention their tour of the region or the United States vs. Italy World Cup soccer match they attended.

Instead, they said their favorite part of the trip was meeting injured soldiers at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

"Visiting the patients was definitely the highlight of our trip," said Firefighter Joe Lennon of Ladder 111. "I could tell that the visit touched all the soldiers, and it had just as big of an impact on us firefighters."

The medical center is the largest American hospital outside of the United States, which has treated more than 30,000 sick and wounded patients since the start of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As they visited the hospital patients, the team handed out FDNY t-shirts, pins and patches – and lots of laughs.

Firefighter Lennon added that he felt a strong connection to the people he met.

In 2004, he sustained multiple third-degree burns when flames seared through his bunker gear as he responded to a house fire in Brooklyn. As a result, he spent about a month in the Burn Center at New York Presbyterian Hospital-Weill Cornell Medical Center.

Because of this injury, he said he felt able to provide comfort and optimism to the patients.

"A nurse told me that she has never seen some of the men there as happy as they were that day," said Firefighter Lennon.

Lieutenant Mike Sturgis of Ladder 168 added, "I was pleased that we could give encouragement to the soldiers there. We wanted to let them know that we support them and we are thankful for what they are doing."

Yet that's not the only philanthropic work they did on their trip.

On Father's Day, the team also got the opportunity to set up a soccer clinic at the Baumholder Army Base for nearly 100 children whose fathers were away fighting on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We even set up video satellite so that the children would be able to send video messages to their fathers," Lieutenant Sturgis said. "It was special that we had the opportunity to spend Father's Day with children who were missing their dads."

The team noted that they also enjoyed playing firefighters from the Berlin, Hamburg and Eindhoven (Netherlands) Fire Brigades in the soccer tournaments. They finished with a record of 1-1-1.



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Manhattan Box 0947, July 10, 2006, 34 East 64th Street:

Firefighters battled a six-alarm fire resulting from an explosion in a four-story 25x75 multiple-dwelling brick duplex on the Upper East Side. More than 200 firefighters and EMS personnel responded to the blaze that began at 8:40 a.m. It took firefighters nearly 54 hours to bring it under control. Fifteen people were injured, including 10 firefighters with minor injuries. Fire marshals determined the building's gas line had been tampered with. The investigation is ongoing.



VIEW

POINT

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NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT

**FIRE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF NEW YORK**

9 METROTECH CENTER
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor, City of New York
Nicholas Scoppetta, NYC Fire Commissioner

FRANCIS X. GRIBBON
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

S. PAUL ANTONELLI
PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR

EMILY RAHIMI
EDITOR

ANDREA DELLA MONICA
DESTA WHITE
WRITERS

THOMAS ITTYCHERIA
GRAPHICS / LAYOUT

SFM RALPH BERNARD,
RANDY BARRON, FF BEN COTTEN,
FF CHRIS LANDANO, KRISTIAN PORTELLA, HEATHER SMITH
FDNY PHOTO UNIT

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**A 141 YEAR HISTORY
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