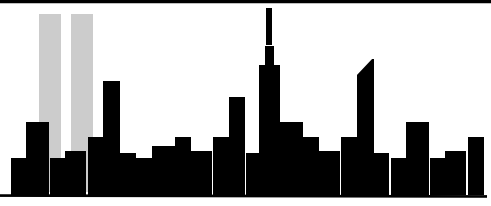


MARCH 2005

**VIEW**  
P O I N T

FROM **9 Metro Tech**  
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT



# THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

**Firefighters Jeff Cool, Eugene Stolowski, and Joe DiBernardo are released from the hospital**

The Fire Department celebrated two miracles in February and one in March when Firefighters Jeff Cool and Joe DiBernardo of Rescue Company 3 and Eugene Stolowski of Ladder Company 27 were released from the hospital.

All three men suffered critical, life-threatening injuries on January 23 when they and three other members were forced to jump from a fourth-floor apartment in the Bronx after being trapped above the fire. Lieutenants Curtis Meyran and John Bellew were killed, while Firefighters Cool, Stolowski, DiBernardo and Brendan Cawley were all hospitalized in critical condition.

Firefighter Cool, who was released on February 18, will continue his recovery at the Helen Hays Hospital in upstate Haverstraw. Firefighter Stolowski, who was released on February 22, will continue his recovery at the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation in West Orange, New Jersey. Firefighter DiBernardo, who was released on March 9, will continue his rehabilitation at St. Johnland Nursing Center in Kings Park, Long Island.

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A sea of smiling faces and a light dusting of snow greeted Firefighter Jeff Cool as he was released from St. Barnabas Hospital nearly one month after being critically injured. Flanked by family members and fellow firefighters from

Rescue 3, Cool left the hospital amidst thunderous cheers from dozens of well-wishers.

"I just want to thank everybody for giving me my husband back, EMS, Paramedics, the emergency room doctors and nurses," said Jill Cool, Firefighter Cool's wife. "The Fire Department is exceptional. It's a great day. I can't put it into words."

Upon his arrival at Helen Hays Hospital in Haverstraw, Firefighter Cool was greeted by friends and cheered on by neighboring volunteer fire companies and local police officers. Cool is expected to face months of difficult rehabilitation at the facility. Jeff, however, is not daunted, said Jill Cool.

"He's a fighter," she said. "He'll prove that."

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On February 22, it was a similar story for Firefighter Eugene Stolowski who was greeted with loud cheers after being released from New York - Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell after suffering critical injuries in the same blaze.

More than 100 people came to support Firefighter Stolowski's wife, Brigid, as she addressed well-wishers and members of the media.

"Thanks to the doctors and the firemen who brought Gene here so quickly," said Brigid Stolowski. "I have my husband back."

Members of Ladder Company 27, including Firefighter Brendan Cawley, and Jeanette Meyran, the widow of Lt. Curtis Meyran, were among those who



(Top Photo) Firefighter Jeff Cool of Rescue 3 is released from the hospital amid cheers and with wife, Jill, by his side.

(Bottom Photo) Firefighter Eugene Stolowski's wife, Brigid, addresses the media after his release from New York Presbyterian Hospital.



photo by Mike Albans, Daily News

came to show their support to the Stolowski Family.

"Gene is an inspiration," said Cawley, who was released from the hospital at the end of January. "He's what real heroes are made of."

Firefighter Stolowski was transported to the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation in West Orange, New Jersey. Like Firefighter Cool, he faces many months of

(Continued on page 8)



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**I**n recent weeks, Chief of Department Pete Hayden, Chief of Operations Sal Cassano and I have visited several of our nine divisions. We soon will have visited them all – spending an evening with the deputy and battalion chiefs assigned to each. The purpose of these visits is to have an open and frank discussion on a wide-range of topics of concern for chiefs in the field, and the members (fire officers and firefighters) they supervise and work with.

Opening these lines of communication is very important, especially since it seems that the old adage in the FDNY – that rumors run rampant – continues to be a problem. We are making a more concerted effort to communicate more effectively with the field, and to get accurate and timely information to all our members. This will continue in the weeks and months ahead. In the meantime, here is a question-and-answer segment that seeks to hit upon some of the current themes coming up in these sessions.

**What is the latest with personal ropes and harnesses?**

I have announced that we will be getting personal harnesses and ropes for every firefighter. That is a commitment I make to each and every member of the Department, as we all hope never again to have a repeat of the terrible tragedy of January 23. Our Research and Development Unit (R&D), working with the Safety Command and with both the UFA and UFOA, is currently testing some 19 rope systems for consideration as new safety equipment. I have already secured approval from the City Comptroller's office for an emergency procurement once a vendor is selected to provide the system we choose. Some 80 firefighters and fire officers are involved in current testing, and we hope to select a particular system within several weeks. We'll then select a vendor, and it will probably take several months to get large shipments (more than 11,000) to us. We plan to bring firefighters and officers in on overtime to get them properly trained with the new equipment. In the interim, the Bureau of Operations has issued a directive reminding members of the importance of the Life-Saving Rope and possible deployment from rooftops to offer added safety to members operating in the fire building. We will keep you informed.

**Why isn't the Department supporting a new contract for its members?**

Surprisingly, some members apparently believe the Department is responsible for negotiating your contract(s). This is not the case. The unions bargain and negotiate directly with the City's Office of Labor Relations. The Department attends negotiations but does not control the process. On several occasions I have stated – and I believe – members are deserving of raises. I hope – as you do – that this is soon resolved.

**What is the latest with the protocol on emergencies (especially relating to police and fire, and who's in charge as the lead agency)?**

The Citywide Incident Management System (CIMS) document is still being drafted, and negotiations continue with the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management (OEM). We have been involved throughout this process, and continue to seek responsibility at all incidents where the Fire Department has the core competency, experience and knowledge to do the best job for the citizens of New York.



Commissioner's  
Message

**Why has the Department recently cracked down on things like company patches and wearing green berets on St. Patrick's Day?**

I strongly believe – and I am in agreement with our senior Chiefs who have suggested many of these changes – that you should wear the uniform with pride and respect. Respect for the uniform, and for the position you hold, is something no one should take for granted. I know that all members are proud to be New York City firefighters, and with that pride comes the utmost regard for the uniform and what it represents. Patches that are bigger in size than the FDNY official patch, nicknames that detract from and do not reflect the core values of this Department, and berets that are not part of the official uniform are not acceptable.

**Why is it that every member arrested for DWI now seems to be a news story? Is the Department putting that information out?**

No, the Department does not publicly release this information. We have been informed that it is the policy of the NYPD to release information about any city employee who is arrested. It should not surprise any of our members that, as a public employee and as a firefighter, what you do – whether off-duty or on-duty – is something that the media views as potentially newsworthy.

**The UFA recently said the Department changed the way it calculates medical leave, thus guaranteeing the loss of manning. Is this true?**

It is absolutely not true. The UFA has its facts wrong, and continues to get it wrong. It was explained to Steve Cassidy that nothing has changed in the way medical leave is calculated. It has been calculated in the same way for more than a decade dating back to the early 1990s, prior to the 1996 roster staffing agreement.

*Richard Scappellato*

## Fire Zone On the Road

*First year success translates into renewal of \$750,000 of grant funding*

**H**ow many people can say they learned about fire safety from an 80-pound fire truck named Freddie?

The FDNY Fire Safety Education Fund hopes that by the end of this year, there will be about 100,000.

The Fund and its pilot program "Fire Zone on the Road" got another big boost this February when the Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness renewed its Assistance to Firefighters Fire Prevention and Safety Program Grant for 2005. This grant, totaling \$750,000, will allow the Fund to purchase everything from fire safety education kits to educational robots (like Freddie the Fire Truck). The funding will also continue to support outreach teams of retired firefighters who deliver fire safety education presentations throughout the City's five boroughs.

"This grant renewal is a big win for the Fire Department's fire safety and fire prevention education efforts," said Assistant Chief Patrick McNally, head of the Department's Fire Prevention Unit. "The more fires we prevent, the more lives we

save. This grant will help us take that message into hard-to-reach communities throughout the city."

Fire Zone on the Road teaches fire safety tips, common fire hazards, smoke and carbon monoxide detector use and maintenance, family safety inspections and fire evacuation drills. The curriculum targets high-risk groups including children, the elderly and new immigrants who may have never received fire safety education in their home country.

"Homeland Security officials were very pleased with the work we are doing," said Michelle LeMay Santiago, Executive Director of the Fire Safety Education Fund. "This is a program that they wanted to see grow."

LeMay Santiago said the grant, which is a \$74,000 increase from last year, will augment the educational programs instituted in 2004. The foundation plans to expand its resources to reach additional populations while providing a working model that will help every firefighter in the field take part in public education.

One of the Fund's largest initiatives is the purchase and distribution of fire safe-

ty education kits for every firehouse in New York City, enabling firefighters to easily engage their community in simple, effective safety presentations.

"This will allow the community to explore fire safety hands-on," LeMay Santiago said. "It's an interactive type of experience."

Additionally, the foundation will continue to send outreach teams of retired firefighters into communities identified as high-risk, to deliver the fire safety message. They also hope to train community members, creating an "army of volunteers" who will set up an ongoing educational link to vulnerable neighborhoods, she said.

Other plans include updates to the Fund's website, translating fire safety education materials into 10 languages, and including many of their safety materials, in various languages, online.

"In 2004, fatal fires were reduced to levels not seen since before the Depression," said LeMay Santiago. "We'd like to think this program is contributing to that success."

## EMT's Rescue Woman in Long Island City

**A** group of 15 FDNY Paramedics and EMTs posing for an EMS Week public service announcement on February 17 in Long Island City found themselves responding to a real emergency when a woman in hysterics fled past the group in an attempt to harm herself by jumping into the East River. EMTs Peter Glennon and Wendel O'Brien quickly responded by chasing the woman and grabbing her before she made what could have been a fatal leap into the icy river.

"It was surreal," said Glennon. "It almost felt like it was staged, but it was real and we did what we had to do."

Glennon and O'Brien were assisted by a number of EMS personnel who were on scene for a scheduled photo shoot in Gantry Park to promote EMS Week 2005.

O'Brien said a bystander alerted them to the situation. That bystander was Queens Assistant District Attorney Rebecca Kramer, a Long Island City resident. Kramer was leaving home for work when she noticed a woman running towards her. According to Kramer, a man

was chasing the woman shouting, "stop that woman, she is going to kill herself, she is going to jump in the water."

Heeding the warning, Kramer attempted to restrain the woman. The woman continued to run towards the river and it was then that Kramer saw several ambulances parked at the entrance to the piers. Not sure if the uniformed personnel standing nearby were actual FDNY EMTs, she immediately ran over to them, and shouted, "Are you guys real EMTs?"

To which they responded, "yes" and began chasing after the woman for more than 40 yards.

The incident was caught on videotape by the Department's Audio Visual Unit.

The woman, who was not identified, was taken to Elmhurst General Hospital for psychiatric observation.

"We just happened to be at the right place at the right time," Glennon said.



## Special Delivery

### *FDNY sends packages to support U.S. troops serving in the Middle East*

After 9/11, various branches of the United States military showed their support to the Fire Department through a variety of contributions and symbolic gestures. To many in the military, the firefighters, EMTs and Paramedics in the FDNY were just as much on the front lines in the war on terror as they were. In their eyes, we are partners in defending our country.

To reciprocate and show the Department's support, the Office of Public Information (OPI) sent a special care package for 30-year-old Charles Wells. Wells, a Petty Officer in the U.S. Coast Guard, is currently deployed in the Northern Arabian Sea on the Cutter AQUIDNECK. He is the son of EMS Division Chief Charlie Wells, a 27-year veteran of the Department.

"My son is proud to serve our country," said Chief Wells. "He misses his family, but he's grateful for the outpouring of support — especially from the Fire Department."

Petty Officer Wells joined the Coast Guard in 1991 after graduating from Holy Cross High School in Flushing, Queens. He is the father of a six-year-old daughter named Emily.

"He joined the Coast Guard because he loved the water and wanted to do some-



*U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Charles Wells on and off-duty in the Northern Arabian Sea.*

thing positive for his country," said Chief Wells. "He also wanted to stay close to home and this branch of the service allowed him to do that up until now."

OPI staff members each voluntarily contributed money to purchase items that were badly needed such as razors, hand-wipes, deodorant, candies and other non-perishable items such as cereal. However, the staff wanted to give something that would help remind Petty Officer Wells of home.

The FDNY Rugby team donated a team jersey and members of Ladder Company 118 also gave t-shirts. The t-shirts, however, had added meaning. Petty Officer Wells' uncle, Lt. Robert Regan of



Ladder 118, made the Supreme Sacrifice on September 11.

In recent correspondence from Wells, he indicated that the package was well received and the items were being put to good use.

"It couldn't have come at a more perfect time," wrote Wells in an email to his father. "The weather is getting hot. I probably drink a half a case of water a day right now. And, we are going through the baby wipes like crazy."

"Please say thanks to the guys at Metrotech for the package," he said. "I gave the CO [commanding officer] one of the t-shirts and he can't say thanks enough. They put a flash hood in there. The guys were joking that I'm the coolest guy out here with my FDNY [gear]."

Petty Officer Wells is scheduled to return to the United States after a year-long deployment in December.



*In late February, Fire Commissioner Scoppetta presided over a promotional ceremony for 35 members of the Department. The ceremony included the promotion of 10 Battalion Chiefs, 10 Captains and 15 Lieutenants including newly promoted Chief Lenard M. Phelan, the brother of Lt. Kenneth Phelan who died on 9/11.*

### HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR TROOPS

To show your support to our troops serving overseas, visit the U.S. Department of Defense's official website

[www.americasupportsyou.mil](http://www.americasupportsyou.mil). Click on the link "How You Can Help" to find a variety of ways to help including sending care packages to service members.



# Lifesaving CPR: A Bridge to the Community

## *FDNY Creates CPR Training Unit; Results of PHENYCS Study Serve as Impetus for Program*

**M**ore than a decade ago, your chances of surviving a cardiac arrest in New York City were slim. Only 2.2 percent of all cardiac arrest patients survived past 30 days.

However, as a result of the FDNY-EMS merger that has dramatically improved responses times to medical emergencies through the CFR-D program and other measures, cardiac survival rates in New York City have improved dramatically over the past decade.

Today, your chances of survival have increased by nearly 40 percent to 3.1 percent – a sure improvement, but one that must be built upon according to Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta.

“Over the last 10 years we have seen a number of significant changes in the way we provide pre-hospital emergency medical care in New York City,” said Commissioner Scoppetta. “We’ve cut our response times to cardiac emergencies almost in half, created a citywide First Responder/Defibrillator program and nearly doubled the number of a defibrilla-

tor equipped units on the streets. But we still have a tremendous amount of work to accomplish and involving the public is the next step.”

In an effort to increase the cardiac arrest survival rate the Fire Department has created a CPR Training Unit. This new Unit will partner with the American Heart Association (AHA) to implement a mass CPR awareness campaign this April. The campaign will target high-risk neighborhoods with “community blitzes.” These educational programs will be given in conjunction with other Fire Department public safety education events.

The Unit will also team up with the Department of Education to develop a course that can be easily integrated into the current health education curriculum in public schools. This course will include specialized study materials designed by the AHA. The CPR program will also target a variety of after-school programs such as athletic teams and other clubs as well as parent and teacher associations.

The PHENYCS (Pre-Hospital Evalua-

tion of New York Cardiac Survival) Study played a vital role in the creation of the CPR Training Unit. Results from the study indicated that the next step to improving the survival rate was to create public awareness about CPR and provide widespread training to the public.

“Understanding the chain of survival and how to strengthen its links, which includes early access to 9-1-1, early CPR and early defibrillation can only improve survival rates,” said Diane M. Sixsmith, M.D., Chair of the Association’s advisory committee for the PHENYCS Study and Chairman of Emergency Medicine at The New York Hospital & Medical Center of Queens.

“Our data shows that there’s still room for improvement,” said the Academy’s Dr. Sandro Galea, senior investigator on the study and Associate Director of the Academy’s Center for Urban Epidemiologic Studies. “I’m hopeful that in the years to come, even more lives will be saved.”

## **City Harvest Says Thank You**

**C**ity Harvest wants to thank the men and women of the FDNY for helping them collect more than 400,000 pounds of non-perishable food this holiday season. According to Susan R. Marks, City Harvest’s Chairman of the Board, the Department’s assistance in the annual Daily News “Readers Care to Feed the Hungry in New York” canned food drive helped the charity feed several hundred thousand individuals this winter. “The continued support of the New York City Fire Department means a great deal to us,” Marks said. “On behalf of everyone at City Harvest and the men, women, and children we help feed, thank you.”



*Forty-two members of the EMS Command take the Oath of Office as new Lieutenants at a March 2 promotion ceremony at the Fire Department Training Academy on Randall’s Island. Twenty-five Paramedics and 17 EMTs were promoted. They will be assigned to various Divisions and throughout the City. The new officers are among the first to be promoted since the last promotional exam was administered in June 2004.*

# In the Borough:

## Spotlight on: Assistant Chief Fire Marshal Richard McCahey

*Staten Islander Helping Make BFI Stronger, Smarter*

**S**taten Island resident Assistant Chief Fire Marshal Rich McCahey has a hard time discussing his career accomplishments. He's too busy talking about the great work his Fire Marshals perform every day.

"The secret is to surround yourself with good people," Chief McCahey, who lives in New Dorp, said. "It makes life easier. I'm so proud of my guys."

He boasts about the 6,000 investigations that took place in 2004, and the 416 arrests that his Fire Marshals made. He notes that the Bureau has decreased in size consistently since 2002 and has had to reconfigure itself from five bases to one, without a drop in the number of investigations needing to be performed each year.

"We're working harder and smarter," he stressed. "And we streamlined out of necessity. If they throw us a curve ball we'll hit it; and if they throw us a knuckleball, we'll hit that too."

Since taking over as Assistant Chief Fire Marshal in 1999, he has helped reorganize the Bureau, established the Fire Marshals' national security clearance and



*Assistant Chief Fire Marshal  
Rich McCahey*

worked to improve internal communication among law enforcement agencies.

Chief McCahey said the Bureau has developed a "healthy working relationship" with various agencies including the FBI and special units of the NYPD since 2001. Fire Marshals are now connected with the Counterterrorism Network, collect intelligence printouts from 20 states and local agencies across the country, have a direct line to the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force, and are in receipt of fire and police department intelligence information.

"The partnerships formed and maintained with outside law enforcement agencies since 9/11 has been tremendous," Chief McCahey added.

In addition, Chief McCahey continues to educate himself and others about how to improve counterterrorism operations, from being an observer for a terrorism exercise in Chicago to being named Co-Chair of the New York City Committee on Counterterrorism. He also continues to attend informational and training sessions whenever possible.

But Chief McCahey says he never planned to become a Fire Marshal, or even

work with the Fire Department.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, and a graduate of St. Francis College, he hoped to grow up to be a Deputy Chief for the NYPD, just like his dad. Since the City's fiscal outlook was bleak when he was starting out, he took both the Fire Department and Police Department's promotional exams at the same time and waited to see who called first.

The Fire Department did. And he was assigned to Engine 283 in 1979.

After about a year with the FDNY, he resigned to look into a career with the NYPD, but "I kept thinking about all the things I liked about 283" and he immediately returned. It was then that someone suggested he look into becoming a Fire Marshal to merge his passion for firefighting with his interest in law enforcement.

"At the time I had thought a Fire Marshal was an inspector," Chief McCahey said, laughing.

In 1983 he transferred to Ladder Company 174. Then in 1986, when he was promoted to fire marshal, Chief McCahey was assigned to the Brooklyn Red Caps Task Force 3. He also spent several years at the Fire Marshal Brooklyn Base, the Brooklyn Base Special Investigations Unit, the Social Club Task Force, the Fire Marshal Manhattan Base, Fireworks Task Force and Citywide Special Investigations Unit before being promoted to Assistant Chief Fire Marshal in March 1999.

"I went everywhere they sent me," he said. "And they sent me everywhere."

Chief McCahey said he learned a lot from the field, and now hopes to continue promoting the Bureau and passing along what he calls "plagiarized" advice that he picked up from each of his former supervisors.

"I'm proud to say that I work with the Bureau," he said. "That's what makes the job enjoyable – to work with good, competent investigators. That's why I've been around for 26 years."

### Fast Fact

#### Did you know?

##### Staten Island History

On December 31, 1991, Ladder Company 80 was awarded a unit citation for a fire at which they operated. Despite the thick smoke, intense flames and ensuing gasoline explosion, firefighters were able to rescue 10 civilians from the blaze, which began at an auto repair shop on Richmond Terrace. The company received the New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal for the most outstanding unit operation of the year, as well as the Father Julian Deeken Memorial Medal.

# Staten Island

## Looking Back: The Fire Service and Staten Island

Staten Island underwent some big changes in 1905.

New York City took control of ferry service from a railway company, wooden boat makers on the Island's shores began to close shop as demand grew for steel vessels and its firefighters started getting paid.

A century ago, paid firefighting units were organized by the FDNY on Staten Island including 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.

And as these units celebrate their centennial this year, they can look back at the long road it took to get there.

In 1898, the city consolidated into five boroughs and the City's many police and fire departments were merged into one. A single Fire Commissioner took over for the Board of Fire Commissioners, and plans were made to replace all of New York City's volunteer fire units with paid departments.

However, for several years, officials said that they did not have the funds to bring together the buildings, equipment and men necessary to replace the volunteer units on Staten Island. So, until such

departments could be funded, volunteers were given \$1,000 per year for the upkeep of the equipment and horses.

Finally, on September 30, 1905, the Staten Island Advance's headline announced what firefighters had desired for eight years: "NEW ENGINES ARE HERE. Paid Fire Department Will Commence Tomorrow Morning."

On October 1, all but two North Shore Volunteer Fire Companies were closed to make way for a paid department consisting of a Battalion Chief, four Engine Companies and three Hook & Ladder Companies.

The New York City Fire Department also purchased the quarters of many of the volunteer units as permanent firehouses for each new company, including the location of Medora Hook & Ladder 3 on 1189 Castleton Avenue, which was purchased by the Department to house Hook & Ladder Company 104 (redesignated as Ladder 79 in 1913) for \$10,250.

Then on November 1, 1905, the Edgewater and Tottenville Volunteer Fire Departments were disbanded by the FDNY to make way for a Battalion Chief, four Engine Companies, one Hose Company and two Hook & Ladder Companies.

At this time, Engine 204 (later redesignated Engine 154) was sited in the quarters of Niagara Engine 5 in Tompkinsville, and was the only firehouse in the history of the Department to store its two pieces of apparatus on different floors (the engine was housed on the top floor, using the door to St. Paul's Avenue, and the hose wagon was stored downstairs, exiting on Van Duzer Street).

By the end of 1905, 46 of the Island's 59 volunteer fire companies had been retired; and the next few decades brought even more changes to firefighting on Staten Island.

In 1913, Engine 159 was equipped with a Mack Scout combination hose and chemical truck, one of the first pieces of motorized apparatus to be placed into service by the City; the Island received its own fireboat in 1922; and the last volunteer companies to be retired by the FDNY were disbanded on Staten Island in November 1937.

Today, Staten Island is the home of 17 Engine Companies, 12 Ladder Companies and one Rescue Company, protecting its nearly 443,000 residents. In addition, the only two volunteer units still active in the FDNY are located on Staten Island.

## Bump in the Road

### *FDNY works with DOT to address speed bump growth on Staten Island*

*By Assistant Chief Thomas J. Haring,  
Staten Island Borough Commander*

Significant numbers of speed bumps were installed in Staten Island over the last few years, and, in some cases, up to three speed bumps were constructed on one block. The increase in these barriers caused many FDNY personnel and Island residents to worry that there may be considerable increases in response times for ambulances and fire apparatus.

Due to the design and construction, fire and EMS apparatus chauffeurs had to come to nearly a complete stop before negotiating any speed bump or risk injury to onboard personnel or patients.

After learning of the problem, the Staten

Island Borough Command (SIBC) conducted tests in November and December of 2004 to measure the potential impact on response times. The SIBC utilized an ambulance, engine and tower ladder in the testing process. The research team, led by Deputy Chief James Leonard (Division 8), was comprised of Battalion Chief John Calderone (BAT 22), EMS Lt. Brian Hennessey (BAT 22) and Firefighter John Scot Lyons (Ladder 79).

These apparatus were timed traveling on Arlington Avenue from Richmond Terrace to Arlington Place (.3 mile) where three speed bumps have been placed. Tests were also conducted on adjacent South Avenue for the same distance where no

speed bumps exist. On South Avenue, the ambulance took 27 to 30 seconds to cover this distance while the engine and tower ladder each took 45 seconds. On the streets where speed bumps existed, the ambulance took 45 to 47 seconds (17 to 18 seconds longer), the engine took 68 to 70 seconds (23 to 25 seconds longer), and the tower ladder took 83 to 85 seconds (38 to 40 seconds longer).

As a result of these findings, a joint Department of Transportation and SIBC initiative was launched. The purpose of this initiative is to evaluate areas of concern effecting response routes, to provide for a balance between traffic control and emergency vehicle response.

## THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

(Continued from page 1)

grueling rehabilitation. His wife knows he's up to the task.

"The doctors told him he'll be in two hours of rehab a day and he wants to do three," she said. "I guess that says it all."

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Amid a roar of applause and the hum of bagpipes, Firefighter Joseph DiBernardo, Jr. smiled and hugged the many friends, family and firefighters that celebrated his release from New York-Presbyterian Hospital on March 9.

"I'm feeling a lot better now," said Firefighter DiBernardo, nearly seven weeks after being critically injured in the

Bronx blaze.

He thanked his fellow firefighters at Rescue 3, EMS workers, hospital staff and the volunteer firefighters of the Setauket Fire Department (of which he is a member) for aiding in his recovery. Among the well-wishers were Firefighter Brendan Cawley, Jill Cool, Brigid Stolowski and Jeanette Meyran.

Firefighter DiBernardo said he is "looking forward to rehab" and "getting a breath of fresh air" at St. Johnsland in



Firefighter Joseph DiBernardo of Rescue 3 addresses the media and hugs Firefighter Cool's wife Jill as he is released from New York Presbyterian Hospital.

Kings Park, Long Island, where he was transferred for further therapy.

"God has something chosen for me to do in life," he said. "He gave me a second and a third chance. So, I'm very honored. Hopefully in the next three to four months, we'll figure out what that is."

### A Tribute to Firefighters – From the Meyran Family

It is with deep respect that we take note of the fact that it is quite unnatural to run into a burning building to say the LEAST, not to mention that a RARE BREED do it for a living. In other words—what's wrong with this picture? Everyone is running out and you run in! Not only that, but it's a job that has a protocol. An "inside tradition" to put the fire out from the inside of the very room of its origin! It's hard, dirty work that needs aggressive immediate attention. To be the best at your game, you don't underestimate the possibilities of a bad situation to get worse. It's no job for dummies, or just intellectuals need not apply. You need a fair amount of intelligence, however it's your Heart, Courage and Spirit that prevails over the fire fight. You are Men of Courage, yet big kids too! You're tough when you need to be, yet there is a gentle side that only the inner circle knows. Firefighters at any rank are what they are. The Best at what you do and the Bravest, truly! Curt loved his job and he loved you all! He wouldn't have had it any other way. It's our privilege to know you.

God Bless You All. From the bottom of our broken hearts, we thank you all so much. Let's do him proud! Be Safe.

*The Curt Meyran Family - Jeanette, Dennis, Angela, and Danine*

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH

**Bronx box 33-2326 on February 15, 2005:** Members of Ladder Company 44 operate at a fire in a one story, brick 100x100, row of vacant stores at 852 Westchester Avenue. Ninety minutes into the operation the roof and one of the walls of the building collapsed. The smokey blaze, which quickly escalated to a



3rd alarm and went to an outside operation, forced elevated train service to be halted in the area and took nearly 3 hours to be brought under control. In addition to hand lines, four tower ladders and six multi-versals were in operation at this fire.

Photo by FDNY Photo Unit



**VIEW  
POINT**

MARCH 2005

NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT

**FIRE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF NEW YORK**  
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