

# Firefighter Makes Supreme Sacrifice in Iraq

*Called to Active Duty, Firefighter Engeldrum Answered the Call  
Eulogized As 'The Ultimate Patriot'*

To anyone who ever knew him, he was the “go-to” guy with the “can-do” attitude.

Firefighter Christian P. Engeldrum, known to his friends simply as “Drum,” was killed November 29 when the humvee he was riding in was bombed outside Baghdad, Iraq. Engeldrum, a sergeant in the Army National Guard and a 5 ½ year veteran of the Department, was sent to Iraq in early November after being called to active duty. He was 39-years-old.

“He possessed a sharp sense of what was right, what was wrong, and what was worth fighting for,” said Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg at the December 9 funeral mass for Firefighter Engeldrum.

Nearly 10,000 people, including Governor Pataki, Senator Hillary Clinton, Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Fire Commissioner Scoppetta and Chief of Department Peter Hayden gathered to pay final tribute to Engeldrum. He is survived by his wife Sharon and their two sons.

“He fought in two wars, took part in the rescue and recovery after the largest terrorist attack in United States history, raised two fine young men, was a loving husband, and a son that made his parents proud,” said Commissioner Scoppetta. “In his 39 years of life, he did more than most men do with nearly twice the time.”

Firefighter Engeldrum began his career with the City as a Police Officer assigned to the 47<sup>th</sup> Precinct in the Bronx. After successfully completing the Fire Academy in 1999, he was assigned to Engine Company 89 in the Bronx. Firefighter Engeldrum also served in Engine Company 58



in Manhattan and was most recently assigned to Ladder Company 61 in the Bronx. In July 2000, he was awarded a unit citation for heroic actions in helping rescue two victims while he was assigned to Engine Company 58 in Manhattan.

“He fought crime on our streets. He battled smoke and fire in our houses and high-  
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## FDNY: Exceptional People, Exceptional Accomplishments

As the year 2004 came to an end, we found further proof of the Department's unparalleled service to the city. Fire fatalities in New York City have reached an 85-year low. Not since 1919 have fewer civilians died - and during the last three years the city has experienced the fewest deaths due to fire than in any other three-year period since we began keeping statistics in 1916.

This decline is no doubt due to the dedication of our firefighters and fire officers who go into harm's way for others; our EMT's and paramedics who tend to the injured; our fire safety educators and civilian inspectors who teach and make sure our laws are obeyed; our fire marshals who investigate and determine causation that greatly aids our public education efforts; our fire alarm dispatchers who turn out and communicate vital information to the companies; and our civilians who provide support in so many ways. I thank each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication. This is truly an historic and extraordinary accomplishment.

\* \* \* \* \*

I was recently invited to appear on New York 1's "Inside City Hall" program. I accepted because I felt it was necessary to put some perspective on the media's yearlong focus on the behavior of a handful of our firefighters.

I emphasized - as I have repeatedly in the past - that the actions of a few should not tarnish the extraordinary work of so many. We have 11,600 firefighters and fire officers, and virtually every one of them makes an extraordinary contribution to our city through their selfless dedication and commitment to save lives and protect property. I told the interviewer that few, if any, organizations could compare to the men and women of this Department, where more than 99.9% of our people do their jobs effectively and without complaint. I emphasized that this is the real story in the FDNY - not the less than one-tenth of one percent involved in negative stories that the media has focused on. I also stated that I did not feel that turning our disagreements with the unions into media events was productive or positive for the Department. I am closing this chapter on 2004.

\* \* \* \* \*

As the New Year began, our first challenge surfaced immediately (in fact, on Jan. 1). This time it was about manning issues being played out as some kind of major battle between management and

the UFA. This is simply not the case. I know that we want the manning back. I know that the UFA does as well.

The facts are pretty clear. There is a contractual obligation between both parties - the city and the union - with respect to the number of five-firefighter engine companies that we staff at the beginning of each tour. The 1996 Roster Staffing agreement calls for reductions when medical leave exceeds 7.5% on an annualized basis. (The five-year average medical leave rate was 6.675% from 1996-2000.) On December 2, 2004, when in accordance with the contract, we reduced the manning on 49 engine companies, we had more than 15% of our firefighters unavailable to work full-duty. They were either on medical leave or light-duty. That's a significant number and we have a responsibility to manage the Department properly and to honor the good-faith agreements reached between management and labor. I can assure you the Department will. Medical leave has been steadily declining and I am optimistic that, if this trend continues, we will soon return to the C+60 staffing level.

\* \* \* \* \*

We made significant progress on a number of initiatives outlined in the Strategic Plan - all of them designed to better protect New York City against the threats of the 21st century. We remain worldwide leaders in responding to traditional fire and medical emergencies, and we are quickly becoming innovators in the realm of homeland security. We graduated the first two classes of our new Combating Terrorism program offered in conjunction with the US Military Academy at West Point. We continue to upgrade our haz-mat capabilities, and we have clearly demonstrated our ability to adapt to meet the needs of the city we serve.

As the Department continues to evolve to meet the needs of the city, I look forward to working with all of you to meet the challenges of the coming year. Thank you.



Commissioner's  
Message

## Firefighter Engeldrum: American Hero

*(Continued from page 1)*

rises. And, when duty called, he traveled six thousand miles away to fight for our freedoms," said Mayor Bloomberg. "There was no danger Christian was not willing to risk for his fellow New Yorkers and his fellow Americans. He was - as the love of his life, Sharon, has said - the Ultimate Patriot."

As an active member of the United States Army from 1986-1991, Firefighter Engeldrum served in Operation Desert

Storm in 1990. Throughout his military career he received many awards for service to his country including the Southwest Asia Service Medal with Bronze Service, Army Service Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Army Lapel Button, Sharpshooter Badge, Parachutist Badge, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Achievement Medal and the NCO Professional Development Ribbon.

Firefighter Engeldrum was buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia on December 10.

## Fast Fact

*Since September 11, 2001,  
147 members of the  
Department have been called  
to active military service.  
Of the 147 members,  
53 are still currently activated  
and serving our country.*

## Civilian Fire Fatalities Hit 85-Year Low

This year, New York City recorded 82 civilian fire fatalities, an 85-year low for the Department. The last time the City recorded such low numbers of civilian fire fatalities was in 1919 when there were 77, the lowest number of fire fatalities ever recorded. Mayor Bloomberg and Commissioner Scoppetta announced these findings in December at the FDNY's educational center the Fire Zone in Rockefeller Center.

"Bringing down the number of civilian fire deaths to numbers not seen in 85 years is a truly remarkable achievement and illustrates the dedication and commitment of New York's Bravest," said Mayor Bloomberg. "The FDNY is doing better than ever in fighting and preventing fires, and educating New Yorkers who have become more conscious and more responsible about fire hazards in their homes."

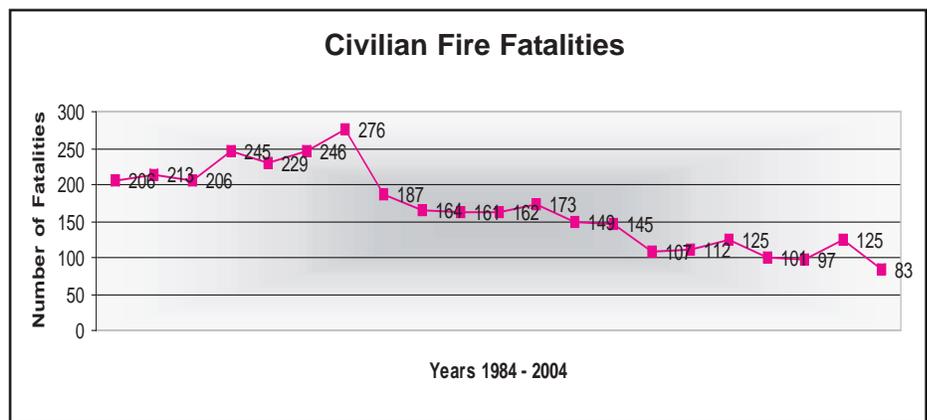
"Our Firefighters do an extraordinary job saving lives and property," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "The best training and equipment coupled with increased efforts to educate the public about fire safety and prevention continues

to make this city safer for all of its citizens and safer for the firefighters who risk their lives to save others."

The low number of civilian fire deaths follows a total of 125 in 2003 and 97 in 2002. The average number of annual civilian fire deaths was 164 in the 1990's, 234 in the 1980's, and 278 in the 1970's. The average Fire response time to structural fires was 4 minutes and 21 seconds, in 2004.

Over the last several years, the

Mayor's Office and the Fire Department have aggressively launched public awareness campaigns about the dangers of candles, Christmas trees and careless smoking - with successful results. Changes in local laws, building materials and building codes along with increased awareness, fire safety education and better equipment have all played a major role in the reduction of serious fires, fire fatalities and fire related injuries in New York City.



## How We Track Civilian Fire Fatalities

By Louis Garcia  
Chief Fire Marshal

The Fire Department's Bureau of Fire Investigation (BFI) in conjunction with the City's Medical Examiner's Office works diligently to track all civilian fire fatalities throughout the City's five boroughs. The Fire Department tracks all fire-related deaths regardless of the timeframe. Even if a victim dies several months or years after a fire, the death is still recorded as a fire fatality.

BFI investigates all fires where a 10-45 is transmitted. This includes fires where the 10-45 is cancelled prior to the arrival of the Fire Marshals. A "BFI 10-45 Report" is completed for every 10-45, regardless of the code. The information from this report is then entered into a database similar to the NYFIRS program. The program automatically updates with each entry. The local Battalion Chief is only required to file a fatal Fire Report if the victim dies within 24 hours of the fire.

All fire deaths are counted in the

month and year in which the death occurs, **not** the month or year in which the fire occurred. If a fire takes place in March and the victim dies in June, the death is recorded in June. If a fire takes place in November and the victim dies the following year in January, the death is recorded in January of the new year.

When a fire victim dies, the Medical Examiner's Office requires a Fire Marshal's report in order to determine the manner of death (accidental, suicide, homicide, other). In some cases the Medical Examiner will determine that the victim actually died prior to the fire. In that case the victim will **not** be counted as a fire death. Some examples of this are:

A murder victim is set on fire in an attempt to cover-up the crime—**not a fire death**.

A victim goes into cardiac arrest while cooking food on the stove that causes a fire—**not a fire death**.

A victim of an automobile accident where the car bursts into flames—Med-

ical Examiner determines trauma, **not a fire death**.

There are also many cases in which a fire death is initially deemed a 10-37 and it is only after the Medical Examiner's Office contacts the Fire Department for the BFI report that the victim is determined to be a fire death. This occasionally happens when:

A person suffering from smoke inhalation or burns leaves the fire scene before the arrival of medical/fire personnel and then dies elsewhere—**fire death**.

A person who may live alone and die as a result of a fire confined to him or herself. The victim is found dead sometime later by a friend or relative. The call generates a CFR-D or ambulance response—**fire death**.

In these times of modern medicine, forensic science and advanced technology, we are confident that all fire deaths are being recorded as such and counted accurately.

## The Gift of Life: Firefighters Honored for Bone Marrow Donation

Firefighters, EMTs and Paramedics save lives everyday, but it takes a very special person to save a life by donating a little piece of himself or herself to a complete stranger. On January 5, Firefighters Greg Hansen and Peter McMahon were honored by the New York Blood Center (NYBC) for donating bone marrow to Melanie Harman and Devendar Mata, respectively — both of whom were suffering from adult acute myelogenous leukemia. The NYBC dedicated the “Honor Roll of Life” Plaque to the 64 firefighters who have donated bone marrow since the Fire Department began participating in the bone marrow registry in 1990.

The mahogany plaque is engraved with the names of all FDNY bone marrow donors and will be mounted in the Bureau of Health Services at Fire Department Headquarters.

“Signing up for the bone marrow registry is simple and just another way our members help save lives,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. “Firefight-

ers Hansen and McMahon stepped up to the challenge and were able to provide a lifeline for two gravely ill individuals. We’re proud of their contribution and proud as a Department to partner with the New York Blood Center for this campaign. We hope that more New Yorkers will join us in choosing to give the gift of life.”

The Fire Department has had a long-standing partnership with the NYBC.

Through community partnership programs, the Fire Department has taken a central role in encouraging the communities it serves to donate blood as well as other blood products such as blood platelets and bone marrow. To date, the FDNY is the single-largest bone marrow registry group with more than 8,000 firefighters registered. In 2004 alone, 10 firefighters made bone marrow donations to patients all across the United States.



(Center) Devendar Mata and Melaine Harman join FDNY Bone Marrow Donors, Commissioner Scoppetta and NYBC representatives.

## Bronx Councilwoman Donates High-Tech Command Vehicle to FDNY State-of-the-Art Mobile Command Center is the second to be donated in 2004

On December 20, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta unveiled a new state-of-the-art Mobile Command Center (MCC) funded by Bronx Councilwoman Madeline T. Provenzano. The \$570,000 Command Center will be deployed throughout the Bronx and will serve as the FDNY’s command post at large-scale, long-duration incidents, acting as a central point of contact for Fire and other City agencies. Councilwoman Provenzano contributed \$400,000 to purchase the vehicle with the FDNY Fire Safety Education fund contributing the remaining amount.

“The Fire Department places a high priority on upgrading our technology and equipment. Providing our members with the most advanced resources will help ensure the safety of our members as well as the public,” said Commissioner Scoppetta. “Through the generosity of Councilwoman Provenzano, we are fortunate to add a state-of-the-art Mobile Command Center to our fleet. This command vehicle will play a central role in coordinating our

operations and managing our resources at any large-scale emergency that occurs in the Bronx or citywide.”

Following recommendations from the McKinsey Study (which provided a comprehensive review of Fire Department operations on 9/11), the MCC is equipped with the latest communications technology available including the JPS ACU-1000 radio system – which allows for interoperability between the Fire Department and the Police Department as well as other various agencies. Communications enhancements also include the ability to access a video link to NYPD helicopters. In addition, the MCC is able to transmit a live video and data feed to the Fire Department Operations Center (FDOC) located at FDNY Headquarters in Downtown Brooklyn.

“This new state-of-the-art Mobile Command Center will be a key part of the Fire Departments operations throughout the Bronx and is an important step in upgrading its technological abilities and equipment,” said Mayor Bloomberg. “Our Administration remains committed

to providing our firefighters with the most modern equipment available in order to keep New Yorkers as safe as possible. I would like to thank Councilwoman Provenzano for her ongoing support of the FDNY.”

“I am pleased to have been able to fund this Mobile Command Unit for the FDNY in light of these troubled times of heightened security and greater potential for emergency situations,” said Councilwoman Provenzano. “This unit will be available at all times to serve our City and more specifically, the people of the Bronx. It’s an invaluable resource and a critical part of helping keep New Yorkers safe.”

The vehicle, which measures 37 ½ feet in length and 8 feet in width, has approximately 300 square feet of space, including workstations for communications personnel and tactical officers. It is equipped with four external surveillance cameras and a 42-foot pneumatic mast with camera. The MCC is powered by two 12,000-watt generators and includes a 6,000-watt pneumatic light tower.

## Second Class Graduates from FDNY-West Point Counterterrorism Course

On December 15 at a ceremony at City Hall, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Colonel Russ Howard of the United States Military Academy (USMA) presided over the graduation ceremony for the West Point-inspired Combating Terrorism Course administered at the Fire Department. Twenty-nine Fire and EMS officers, including the first female student, graduated after participating in the 14-week, graduate level course on Terrorism and Counterterrorism. This was the second class to graduate from the program in 2004. The course was adapted for the FDNY from curriculum currently administered at West Point through its Combatting Terrorism Center.

"Our collaboration with West Point has been successful in helping our members think differently and more strategically about terrorism and the changing security environment of New York City," said Fire Commissioner Scoppetta. "The continuation of this course will ensure that our members have the most up-to-date information on terrorism issues and the critical analytical skills to identify and mitigate these threats."

EMS Captain Janice Olszewki, a 17-year veteran of EMS, was the first woman to graduate from the intensive course. The class curriculum included participation in group projects and case studies. The topics covered included a transportation system attack scenario; feasibility of a Helicopter as a regional homeland security resource; radiological attack in a transportation facility; biological incident response plan; and a 9/11 interagency review.

The primary goal of the class was to help students develop a framework to better understand terrorism and its impact on first responders as well as analyze future changes to the City's security environment and the implications it has on the mission of the Fire Department. Participants were selected from a pool of more than 100 applicants from Fire and EMS operations.

The course was team-taught by USMA and Fire Department instructors and addressed four core areas: The New Terrorism; Means and Methods of the New Terrorism; Terrorist Groups of Concern; and Strategies, Policies and Responses. For the first time, classes were administered at the Fire

Department's new Center for Terrorism and Disaster Preparedness located on Fort Totten.



(Top) Graduates of the FDNY - West Point Program  
(Bottom) Fire Commissioner Scoppetta is joined by (L to R) Chief of Department Peter Hayden, Maj. Reid Sawyer, Col. Russ Howard, Chief Joseph Pfeifer and 1st Deputy Fire Commissioner Frank Cruthers to congratulate the graduates.

## FDNY Members Graduate from FEMA Emergency Management Institute

In October 2004, 12 FDNY members completed the Master Exercise Practitioner Program (MEP) conducted by FEMA at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland. This three-week intensive residency program instructs participants to design, prepare, conduct and evaluate all levels and types of emergency response exercises. FDNY graduates now join the ranks of only 200 MEP graduates nationwide. This is the first of three groups from the Department to complete the course.

FDNY graduates will become part of the FDNY Exercise Design Team located at the Department's Center for Terrorism and Disaster Preparedness at Fort Totten. The team is responsible for creating a comprehensive program that will focus on a three-tier exercise design approach cover-

ing firefighting, EMS and terrorism response preparedness. The three types will include tabletop, functional and full-scale exercises. The team is led by a four person core staff and will be supplemented by 40 fully trained Fire and EMS officers.

Some of the most recent exercises completed by the team include a transit safe OEM exercise; mass gross decontamination exercises for the RNC; a Staten Island ferry tabletop; a Brooklyn subway mass casualty evacuation; BIO-POD II and a New Year's Eve tabletop exercise at FDNY Headquarters.

Planned exercises for 2005 include a full-scale 3<sup>rd</sup> Division high-rise exercise; a series of five tabletop exercises for EMS Division Chiefs; a Marine Division tabletop and full scale exercise and a full scale-exercise for the 7<sup>th</sup> Division.

### FDNY GRADUATES OF FEMA'S MEP PROGRAM

EMS DC Abdo Nahmod  
Capt. James Yakimovich  
Capt. Ed Brown  
Capt. Nick Carrado  
EMS Capt. Al Gehres  
EMS Capt. Brian Milzoff  
Lt. John Eccleston  
Lt. Jim Kerley  
Ret. Capt. John Ferry  
EMS Capt. Tom Luby  
Ed Capps

## Spotlight on: Chief of EMS Operations John Peruggia

In August 2004, Deputy Assistant Chief John Peruggia was promoted to EMS Assistant Chief of Operations. Prior to his promotion, Chief Peruggia was assigned to the Bureau of Operations overseeing the activities of the Planning and Strategy Unit. In his new role, Chief Peruggia will be responsible for all EMS Operations.

"It's an honor for me to take on this tremendous leadership role," said Chief Peruggia. "The men and women of the FDNY EMS are dedicated and committed to their life-saving work and I'm proud to be a part of that."

Chief Peruggia joined EMS in 1983 as an EMT. He was promoted to Paramedic in 1985 and has served in a variety of roles as an officer with the FDNY. Most recently he has been involved in the planning and development of incident action plans for special events, major operations

and weapons of mass destruction exercises. Other successful implementations under his leadership include the Fire and EMS Periodical Medical Examination program, the Annual Fire Education Day program, the Event Action Plan for Special and Major events and significant improvements to the EMS dispatch system. In January 2004, Chief Peruggia completed the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer program, a four-year curriculum aimed at developing leaders in the fire service.

"This is a complex and challenging time for EMS," said Chief Peruggia. "We've been charged with a monumental task of not only providing the highest level of pre-hospital care for the people of this City, but to also act as a first line of defense to potential acts of terrorism. It's a tremendous challenge, but one that I feel we can confront successfully."



**John Peruggia**  
Chief of EMS Operations

## NASCAR Champ Challenges FDNY in Friendly Competition

### *NASCAR Sponsor Nextel Donates New Communications Equipment to Family Assistance Unit*

#### **Drivers, start your engines...**

That's what NASCAR Nextel Cup Champion Kurt Busch is used to hearing before he starts a race. However, that wasn't the case on November 30 when he visited the FDNY Fire Academy on Randall's Island to participate in a friendly, but intense competition with New York's Bravest. Busch substituted his pit crew, racing clothes and his Number 97 Sharpie/IRWIN Ford for bunker gear and an audience of new probationary firefighters to test how fast he really is...on FDNY turf.

With the assistance of the FDNY Fitness Unit, Busch and Marty Smith, a reporter from *Nascar.com*, competed against two firefighters from Engine Company 219 / Ladder 105, in four of the eight timed events from the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT). Every probationary firefighter must successfully complete the CPAT before he or she can graduate from the Academy. The competition consisted of a hose stretch, ladder raise, forcible entry simulation, and a dummy drag.

In the end, the firefighters were victorious finishing first and second. A winded Busch, after completing the course just behind Smith, had nothing but praise and admiration for the work that all firefighters do.

"This is very tough on the body. I have a newfound respect for the work you all do," said Busch. "To be able to come out

here and train with you guys is something I will never forget. I'm grateful for the experience."

After everyone caught their breath, Busch, along with representatives from Nextel Communications, presented the FDNY Family Assistance Unit with 10 brand new NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series i736 phones with one-year of service.



*NASCAR Champion Kurt Busch (center front row) takes a breather after running the CPAT test with probationary firefighters from class three of 2004. Busch finished fourth in the competition with the FDNY.*

## Preparing for the Unexpected: BIOPOD II Exercise a Success

In an effort to continually train and prepare for the unexpected, the Fire Department held two drills to test the Department's readiness to respond to a biological incident. The first exercise, BIOPOD II was held on November 11. Ten mobile PODs (point of distribution) were deployed throughout the City's five boroughs administering "prophylactic medication" to all on-duty members (Fire and EMS) working during the 6:00 PM to 9:00 AM tour. More than 2,300 members participated in the exercise and received the "medication."

The mobile Pods were staffed with the following: a Fire Officer assigned to BHS served as the POD leader; a Firefighter served as the vehicle driver and computer guide; a BHS Medical Officer and a nurse or EMT/Paramedic/EMS Officer were assigned for education and medication recommendation. Key FDNY pre-determined locations were chosen and the vehicles were dispatched to five to 10 sites per Division. The Borough Dispatchers directed fire units and ambu-

lances to each of these locations. Chief Dispatcher David Rosensweig and Deputy Assistant Chief of Operations Joseph Pfeifer conducted the overall control and management with the IMT (Incident Management Team), located in the Emergency Notification Center (EOC).

Each vehicle was equipped with a laptop computer, printer and tethered scanner. The computers had specially designed programs to ensure that each participating member was registered. Once registered, each member was given a group educational briefing. In this briefing, information about biological responses was provided. Specific facts regarding anthrax were highlighted. Each member was asked about individual medication allergies to determine the recommended medication in the event an anthrax exposure occurred. Each member was offered a substitute — candy — in place of medication.

On December 16, a similar exercise was held at Fire Department Headquarters, however, this exercise was confined

to the building at 9 Metrotech Center. The exercise required that all personnel in the building register and participate in the educational briefing, similar to the mobile BIOPOD II exercise.

BIOPOD II was built upon the success of the 2003 stationary exercise on Staten Island. The drills were conducted by the FDNY Bureau of Health Services and FDNY Bureau of Operations in cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security. The exercise is part of the FDNY's continuing initiative in planning its response to CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive) incidents and is also part of the City's overall emergency response plan that combines the efforts of the Fire and Police Department with the Office of Emergency Management, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and other city agencies. The lessons learned from BIOPOD II will be used to help develop a national model for first responders dealing with bioterrorism.

## THIS MONTH IN FDNY HISTORY

### 10-Alarm Fire Destroys the Quarters of Rescue Company 1

Twenty years ago this month, a fire on Manhattan's west side claimed the quarters of Rescue Company 1 in what is now considered to be one of the big fires of the 1980's. On January 23, 1985 a 10-alarm blaze brought 420 firefighters and 70 rigs to an eight-story warehouse on Manhattan's west side. The fire was first detected by members of Rescue 1, whose quarters were adjacent to the building.

"They were sitting in the kitchen when they smelled smoke," Fire Commissioner Joseph E. Spinnato told the *New York Times* after the fire. "They went to investigate and located smoke coming from the basement."

The warehouse's tenants included a piano factory, a furniture company, and a sign-printing company. Soon after the fire, Chief John O'Rourke told newspapers that the fire rapidly spread through the building, feeding on the furniture, and the oils and chemicals used in silk screening.

Within an hour, flames were leaping

from the roof of the building and windows on all eight floors, attracting crowds of residents, theatergoers and guests of the Travel Inn Motor Hotel on 42nd Street. The motel's back adjoined the warehouse and more than 140 of its guests had to be evacuated as a safety precaution.

Portions of the warehouse collapsed as firefighters battled the blaze. The east wall came down in what one onlooker described as "the world's largest domino." The roof of the building collapsed onto the quarters of Rescue 1, destroying everything but the building's façade.

The firehouse, which was one of the oldest in the city, was the first to be completely lost to fire since the city began keeping records in 1865. Firefighters from Rescue

1 returned to the scene in the following days to sift through the rubble in search of personal effects and items of value.

Rescue 1 was temporarily relocated to the quarters of Engine 34 and the firehouse was rebuilt. In the new building, the original façade has been moved to the back, and is now part of the Rescue 1 kitchen.

The warehouse was demolished.



*Rebuilt Quarters of Rescue Co. 1*

# Photo of the Month



On December 20th 2004, Firefighters quickly extinguish a top floor 3rd-alarm blaze at 46 West 14th Street in Manhattan.

## Graduation Day for Probationary Firefighters



**M**ayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta welcomed and congratulated 163 new firefighters at a December 16 graduation ceremony at Brooklyn College. The Probationary Firefighters, or "Probies," graduated after completing the rigorous 12-week training program at the FDNY Training Academy on Randall's Island. Thirty-six members of the graduating class previously served in the military, including 39-year old Probationary Firefighter Darren Carey. Carey recently completed 20 years of service in the United States Marine Corps where he served all over the world and was most recently activated in Operation Iraqi Freedom before entering the fire academy. Probationary Firefighter Darren Brennan earned the honor of class Valedictorian, and Probationary Firefighter Timothy Brunton was the class Salutatorian. The Physical Fitness Award was given to Probationary Firefighter Kieran Frawley.



**VIEW**  
POINT

JANUARY 2005

NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT

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**A 139 YEAR HISTORY**  
**OF COMMITMENT,**  
**COURAGE & COMPASSION**