

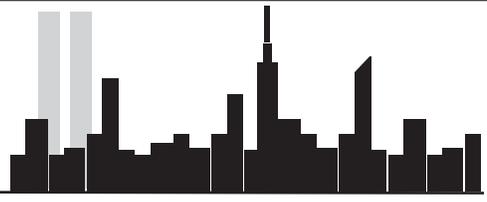
JUNE 2007

VIEW FROM
P O I N T



metro Tech

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT



Hero Remembered

Thousands turn out to honor the life of Firefighter Daniel Pujdak

The streets of Greenpoint, Brooklyn turned into rivers of blue on June 27 as thousands turned out in the blazing heat to pay their final respects to Firefighter Daniel F. Pujdak, 23, of Ladder 146.

Firefighter Pujdak made the Supreme Sacrifice while operating at an all-hands fire in East Williamsburg, Brooklyn on June 21.

His funeral at St. Cecilia's Roman Catholic Parish paid tribute to a young man with an eager mind, a quick smile and who loved being a firefighter.

"Many people spend their lives dreaming of a better job," Captain Jerry Horton, Jr. of Ladder 146 said. "For the last two years, Daniel lived his dreams."

Captain Horton remembered him as the perfect blend of enthusiasm and restraint. He said the young firefighter would always arrive to work early.

He added that the young firefighter would only lose his smile if he learned he had missed a big job. Then he would fol-



Thousands attended Firefighter Daniel Pujdak's funeral at St. Cecilia's RC Parish in Brooklyn.

low around company members "like a puppy until he got the full story. No detail was too small for him."

Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta commented on how he was living his dream.

"He was right where he wanted to be," said Commissioner Scoppetta. "He was a rising star and he did us all proud."

Family members recalled his competitive spirit, his love of Yankees baseball and his newfound passion for cooking.

They also recalled his kindness, saying that he often spent his days off volunteering at the St. John's Bread and Life soup kitchen in Brooklyn.

"He didn't want to be a hero, he just wanted to be who he was," said Firefighter Pujdak's father, Leo. "He was such a great man, such a great firefighter. We

were blessed to know him."

Firefighter Pujdak is survived by his parents, Leo and Christina, and his brothers, Matthew and David. Matthew is expected to join an upcoming proby class.

His girlfriend, Vanessa Pschirrer, who many described as "the love of his life," thanked FDNY members for all their support and recalled Firefighter Pujdak's passion for life.

"Danny wasn't in it for the glory, but rather because he really wanted to help people," she said. "He never took life for granted. He loved life more than anything and wanted to make everybody happy. And he did."

The Tragic Fire

Firefighters received a call for a fire just before 5 p.m. at 83 Meserole St. in Brooklyn on June 21.

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New Fire Marshal Base, Additional Ambulance Tours in Coming Fiscal Year



Commissioner's
— Message

With millions in additional funding, the FDNY will improve training for probies, investigate more fires and dedicate more EMS personnel for life threatening emergencies in the 2007/2008 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

We received funding to make possible largest increase in fire-fighter training in the history of the Department, which includes an additional 10 weeks of advanced curriculum at the Academy.

This increase to 23 weeks of training will help make our probies better prepared for the fire ground and help us build a solid foundation for the future of this Department. It will give instructors more time to teach building construction, subway extraction and the Personal Safety System, among other topics.

This fall, a new Citywide North Fire Marshal Command will open at Fort Totten in Queens - from where our fire marshals will cover Queens, the Bronx and northern Manhattan and supplement the existing Citywide Command in Brooklyn, which will now be known as the Citywide South Command.

With the \$2 million increase in funding for the Bureau of Fire Investigation, the number of supervising fire marshals and fire marshals will increase by 32 lines, as 27 new fire marshals and five supervising fire marshals will be promoted to staff the base.

The location of this base also will dramatically reduce travel time to the northern parts of the City, significantly cutting driving time. Less travel time means more time for critical investigations.

And this increased manpower and additional base will lead to more fire investigations and an increase in arrests.

Fire marshals are an integral part of this Department and play

a critical role in protecting the security of this great City - from arresting serial arsonists who can plague local neighborhoods to investigating the cause of serious fires. We are pleased that we have this opportunity to help

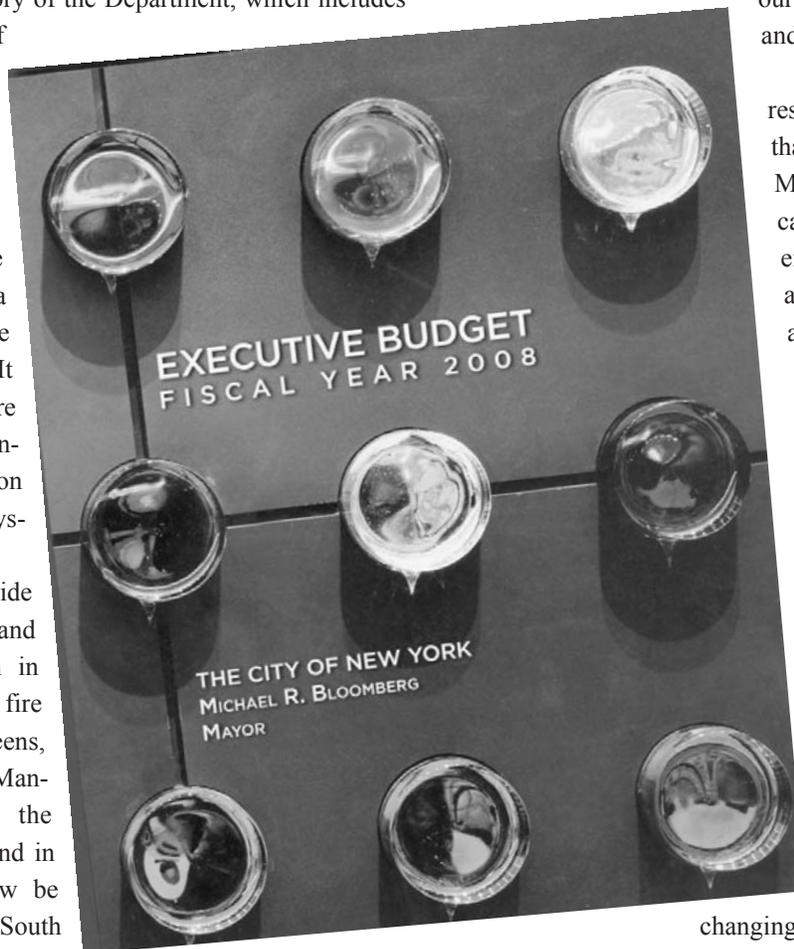
our marshals to do their job better and more efficiently.

With the EMS Command responding to more emergencies than ever before in its history, the Mayor's Executive Budget also calls for an increase of on-site emergency medical care and ambulance transport services across the five boroughs.

Eight ambulance tours will be added because of an increased number of emergency calls in Queens. Additionally, 22 paramedics and emergency medical technicians will be hired to replace the six voluntary tours discontinued by Kingsbrook Jewish and Wyckoff Heights Medical Centers. These additions come at a cost of approximately \$2.8 million a year.

The needs of this City and its residents are ever-changing, and the Department must regularly

evaluate its resources to meet that challenging demand. Our top priority is to protect the millions of New Yorkers who live, work and visit this great City and our dedicated members who serve them. These new resources will give us more tools to accomplish that honorable mission.



Richard Briffa

FDNY Medal Day 2007

Fire Department heroes honored in 138th annual ceremony



2007 Fire Medal Day winners are congratulated by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano on the steps of City Hall. Among the winners was Firefighter Walter Powers from Ladder 58, who is currently serving with the Marines in Iraq. His wife, Julianne (front, center), accepted the award on his behalf.

Forty-one acts of extraordinary heroism were lauded on June 6 as the Department celebrated FDNY Medal Day.

This year's medals were awarded to fire officers, fire marshals, firefighters and units that went above and beyond the call of duty, putting their lives on the line to save another.

"These are stories of courage and duty, and they involve the full breadth of our Fire Department - from the most battle-hardened officers right on down to the greenest firefighters," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Hundreds of firefighters raised dozens of colorful banners around the steps of City Hall, cheering boisterously as their comrades received medals for nearly every kind of rescue.

"All of our medal winners are here today because they were in situations where action was required and, despite great danger to

themselves, they did not stand back. They acted," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "Today the city you serve gets a closer look at your dedication, your commitment and the sacrifices you are called upon to make the work you do each day."

Firefighter James Byrne from Ladder 121 received the Department's top honor, the James Gordon Bennett Medal, for saving a fellow firefighter from a Queens fire in January 2006. As he accepted the award, with his four young sons in tow, he said he was humbled by the attention.

"It's an incredible feeling that you can't explain in words," said Firefighter Byrne, who announced he would donate his \$2,600 cash award to the Fire Families Transport Association. "Other than my kids being born, this is the next best thing."

Receiving this year's Commissioner Edward Thompson Medal was Firefighter Walter Powers from Ladder 58, who was

honored for rescuing a man from a Bronx fire in August 2006. Firefighter Powers was unable to attend the ceremony, however, because he was in Fallujah, Iraq serving as a lieutenant colonel with the U.S. Marine Corps.

Accepting the award on his behalf was his wife, Julianne, and their sons, Nicholas and Sam. As the family walked to the stage to accept the medal, the crowd erupted into roaring applause and gave them a standing ovation.

After the ceremony, Ms. Powers said she and her sons were overwhelmed by the attention and kindness they were receiving from all FDNY members.

"I just keep picturing Wally overseas, and how happy he would be to see everyone coming out to support him like this," she said.

Their son, Nicholas, added: "This is very

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On the Waterfront

FDNY Marine Unit honored during Blessing of the Fleet

The FDNY celebrated the Sixth Annual Blessing of the Marine Fleet, in conjunction with Flag Day, at the South Street Seaport on June 14.

“This harbor that we overlook today has been a major factor in New York’s, and subsequently America’s, rise as an economic power,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. “So it is fitting that this year we celebrate the fireboats that have protected this harbor for hundreds of years on the day that we celebrate the American flag.”

The Fire Fighter (Marine 9) led the procession, consisting of the John D. McKean (Marine 1), Alfred E. Smith (Reserve, Marine 5), Kevin C. Kane (Marine 6), Marine Company 1-Alpha, and three smaller rescue boats from Marine Companies 3, 4 and 8.

A ninth fireboat, the Smoke II (Reserve), received a special prayer because it is being decommissioned in the coming months after nearly 50 years of service. Plans call for the boat to be scuttled off the coast of New Jersey to create an artificial reef.

Aboard the Smoke II for its final blessing ceremony was retired Firefighter George Rathjen, who converted the Smoke II into a fireboat when he worked for the Marine Division’s repair shops. He had served the Department for more than 37 years when he retired in 1992.

“We know our firefighters have a dangerous job and we are blessing them today,” said Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano.

Commissioner Scoppetta noted that fireboats have been instrumental in some of the most newsworthy events in New York history, including the General Slocum disaster and the World Trade Center attacks.

“No matter what country you might be from, no matter what flag your ship sails under, the fireboats of the FDNY will



(Top) Fireboats put on a water display following the Blessing of the Fleet. The Smoke II (foreground) received special recognition during the ceremony, because it is being decommissioned after nearly 50 years of service.

(Bottom) Members aboard the Fire Fighter salute as their vessel is blessed.

come to your aid,” he said.

Following the ceremony, onlookers were treated to a water display, during which the boats pumped red, white and blue water to show the FDNY’s patriotic

spirit. A band, including Supervising Fire Marshal Ralph Bernard and Fire Marshal Henry Raven, played rock-and-roll oldies for dancing schoolchildren, tourists and New Yorkers.

Front of the Class

EMS officers, paramedics and EMTs celebrate in joint graduation/promotion ceremony

The combined EMS graduation and promotion ceremony on June 1 was a boisterous celebration of heroes.

"We can never thank you enough," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "Thank you for what you do every day, more than one million times each year."

During the ceremony at LaGuardia Community College in Queens, 28 members were elevated to the rank of lieutenant, while 38 members graduated to the rank of paramedic and 72 to the rank of EMT.

Among the graduates was Paramedic Daniel Fitzpatrick, who saved a distraught woman from being struck by an oncoming J train in January; as well as Paramedic Johana Clerge, who saved the life of a stabbing victim.

"The Department is proud of your accomplishments and the hard work it took for you to get here," said Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano. "Our EMS Command is second to none."

Joining the EMS Command was EMT Steven Miller, who was one of 11 of the



EMS members salute during a joint promotion/graduation ceremony on June 1.

promoted members and graduates who have relatives currently serving with the FDNY. His father and mother are EMS

officers and his grandfather, EMS Chief James Scullion helped establish and ensure the success of the first paramedic training program. He is also the namesake for a medal that is presented every year to an outstanding FDNY EMS professional at Medal Day.

"You have all chosen a noble profession," said Chief of EMS John Peruggia. "It is a career with many rewards - and it's a job that's pretty cool as well."

The valedictorian for the Paramedic class, Lieutenant Lillian Bonsignore, received cheers from her daughter, EMT Joanna Bonsignore who works out of Station 14.

"My mother is certainly my hero and my inspiration," she said.

The graduates speak more than 15 different languages, including Russian, Cantonese, Mandarin, Spanish, Italian, Creole, Hebrew, Chinese, French, Greek, Farsi, Uzbek and Tadiik.

Eight of the graduates are military veterans, three of whom served a tour of duty in Iraq.



Rewarding the Best: Paramedic Abraham B. Englard is awarded with the Christopher J. Prescott Medal on June 11 at Headquarters (he was unable to attend EMS Medal Day in May). Paramedic Englard was honored by Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano and Chief of EMS John Peruggia for his efforts on August 27, 2006, when he and his partner, Paramedic Juan Henriquez, tried to save the lives of Lieutenant Howard Carpluk and Firefighter Michael Reilly. The firefighters made the Supreme Sacrifice after being trapped during a third-alarm fire in the Bronx.



Firefighter James Byrne of Ladder 121 receives the James Gordon Bennett and Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medals for saving a fellow firefighter from a fire in Queens on January 26, 2006.

FDNY Medal Day

(Continued from page 3)

overwhelming. I'm so proud of my dad."

Firefighter Powers was one of three of this year's medal winners from Ladder 58. Firefighter Kevin Jensen and Firefighter William Smith III also received honors for saving several trapped occupants during a Bronx fire in May 2006.

Among the other top medal winners was Firefighter Larry Schneckenburger from Ladder 120, who put himself in the middle of a running gun fight to protect a group of children who were caught in the crossfire.

"I didn't think, I just reacted," he said. "Someone could have been killed and I had to do something to prevent that."

Also honored was Fire Marshal Daniel Caruso, who diligently tracked down an arsonist in Brooklyn and brought down a criminal enterprise that included murder, fraud and forgery.

Firefighter Joseph Donatelli of Ladder



Julianne Powers accepts the Commissioner Edward Thompson Medal on behalf of her husband, Firefighter Walter Powers of Ladder 58, who is currently serving with the Marines in Iraq.



Firefighter William Smith III of Ladder 58 receives the Edith B. Goldman Medal for rescuing several victims from a fire in the Bronx on May 21, 2006.

Company 132 received the Brooklyn Citizens Medal/FF Louis Valentino Award for a daring roof rope rescue of a woman on the window ledge of a 25th floor apartment.

And members of Engine 44 were lauded

for putting out a fire that consumed a number of apartments after Yankee's pitcher Cory Lidle's plane crashed into a 40-story apartment building in Manhattan on October 11, 2006.

2007 FDNY Medal Day Winners

James Gordon Bennett Medal and New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal – Firefighter James T. Byrne, L-121

Brooklyn Citizens Medal / FF Louis Valentino Award – Firefighter Joseph W. Donatelli, L-132

Hugh Bonner Medal – Firefighter Richard G. Schmidt, R-4

Emily Trevor / Mary B. Warren Medal – Firefighter Keith V. Lagan, L-41

Thomas E. Crimmins Medal – Firefighter Glen J. Merkitich, L-120

Thomas A. Kenny Memorial Medal – Lieutenant Brian P. Davan, L-28

Walter Scott Medal – Firefighter George Porter, L-42 (assigned), L-19 (detailed)

John H. Prentice Medal – Firefighter Thomas F. McGlade, L-14

Henry D. Bookman Medal – Lieutenant Daniel J. Crowe, E-72 (assigned), L-58 (detailed)

M. J. Delehanty Medal – Firefighter Scott J. Breslin, L-133

William F. Conran Medal – Firefighter Charles E. Wiemann, R-4

Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia Medal – Firefighter Christopher R. Jensen, L-58

Chief John J. McElligott Medal / FFs Fitzpatrick and Frisby Award – Lieutenant Jeffrey F. Monsen Sr., E-23

Thomas F. Dougherty Medal – Lieutenant George Brennan, E-53

Albert S. Johnston Medal – Firefighter Craig H. McDonald, L-147

Bella Stiefel Medal – Lieutenant David C. Bengyak, L-127 (assigned), E-275 (detailed)

Vincent J. Kane Medal – Firefighter James T. Lunny, L-147

Pulaski Association Medal – Firefighter Larry D. Schneckenburger, L-120

Commissioner Edward Thompson Medal – Firefighter Walter D. Powers, L-58

Colombia Association Medal – Lieutenant Victor Spadaro, B-38 (assigned), L-120 (detailed)

Susan Wagner Medal – Firefighter Terence J. Osborn, L-163

Steuben Association Medal – Firefighter Frederick M. Schwarzrock, L-41

Dr. J. W. Goldenkranz Medal – Firefighter Steven F. Devaney, E-46

Uniformed Fire Officers Association Medal – Captain Peter J. Melly, D-7 (assigned), E-79 (detailed)

Edith B. Goldman Medal – Firefighter William H. Smith III, L-58

American Legion Post 930 / Mark M. Wohfeld Memorial Medal – Lieutenant Stephen E. McNally, L-35

Arthur J. Laufer Memorial Medal – Firefighter Brian E. Pascascio, E-318 (assigned), L-166 (detailed)

Emerald Society Pipes and Drums Medal – Firefighter Brian J. O'Sullivan, L-25

Company Officers Association Medal – Lieutenant Daniel J. Bowman, E-281

Chief Joseph B. Martin Medal – Firefighter John P. Drew, L-120

Honor Legion Medal – Captain James W. Kitson, L-47

Police Honor Legion Medal – Lieutenant Gary A. Jacobson Jr., B-49 (assigned), L-144 (detailed)

Firefighter David J. DeFranco Medal – Firefighter Michael J. Cook, L-6

Lieutenant James E. Zahn / Lieutenant Peter L. Troiano Memorial Medal – Lieutenant Richard M. Galeazzi, E-324

Lieutenant James Curran/New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal – Engine Company 44

Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Medal – Ladder Company 105

Deputy Commissioner Christine R. Godek Medal – Fire Marshal Daniel J. Caruso, BFI - CWSIU

Probationary Firefighter Thomas A. Wylie Medal – Firefighter Ronald E. Deaso Jr., E-79

William Friedberg Medal – Firefighter Kevin S. Gorman, L-22

Shelly Rothman Memorial Medal – Firefighter John J. Maguire, L-172



Members of Engine 44 receive the Lieutenant James Curran/New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal for quickly extinguishing a fire in a Manhattan high-rise following a plane crash.

Proby School Challenge

15 reporters are probies-for-a-day during Media Day at the Fire Academy

They climbed aerial ladders, conducted searches in zero visibility, pushed a hoseline and did push ups when they stepped on the sidewalk.

But this wasn't the newest class of probationary firefighters at the Fire Academy – it was a group of 15 eager New York City reporters who spent the day at the Rock, getting a taste for what it is like to be a New York City firefighter.

In the blazing 90 degree heat on June 8, reporters from newspapers (New York Times, New York Daily News, New York Post, Staten Island Advance and New York Sun), radio (WCBS 880 and ABC Radio) and television (CBS, ABC, NY1, Fox and UPN) donned bunker gear and participated in six firefighter training exercises for Media Day 2007.

First, they wore a mask – with the eye shield blackened – to conduct a search in zero visibility. Many forgot to keep their hands on the wall as they swept the rooms in search of simulated fire victims and tried to make a quick exit when a Mayday was called.

“Other than the fact that I’m dead [for taking his hand off the wall during the search], I’m feeling pretty good,” said Fox 5’s Rob Malcolm.

The reporters then had to pair up to operate a hose line and use their knowledge to extinguish a car fire.

Sean Adams from WCBS 880 Radio said, “jogging in Central Park certainly doesn’t prepare you for this.”

Jonathan Lemire from the New York Daily News said he, too, was surprised by the difficulty of the exercise, but joked “I think I’m ready for the test.”

The group climbed an 80-foot aerial ladder to the roof of a building. Then they chose whether they wanted to be lowered by a rope or perform a rope slide down the five stories to the ground.

Afterwards, they put on masks once again to enter the Smokehouse, where they crawled up steps in heavy smoke conditions to experience how the heat from a fire rises to the ceiling and how difficult it is to breathe in those conditions. The scenario also enables firefight-



(Top) Rob Malcom from Fox 5 interviews Instructor Dave Duignan while doing pushups for taking a shortcut across the sidewalk during Media Day at the Rock.

(Bottom) Sean Adams from WCBS Radio 880 climbs the 80 foot aerial ladder followed by Aaron Katersky of ABC Radio.

ers to practice wearing their masks in poor conditions.

“That was the hardest part for me,” said Dave Carlin from Channel 2. “You’re in the heavy smoke, not able to see. I can see how you can really wig out in a situation like that. My hats off, you can’t doubt the bravery of the men and women in the

FDNY.”

Many of the reporters mentioned they had always appreciated the work firefighters do but this experience made them even more admiring of the Bravest.

“Twenty-three weeks of this?,” said Phil Lipoff from Channel 7. “The term ‘hero’ is definitely appropriate.”

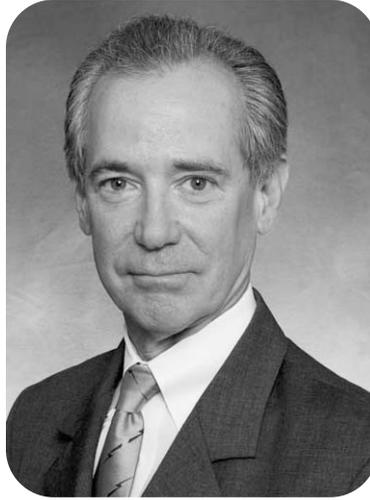
Motivation and Management

Faculty director of FOMI named as new deputy commissioner

William B. Eimicke became one of the newest additions to the Fire Department on June 11, taking on the role of deputy commissioner of strategic planning and policy. He is a familiar face to many FDNY members from his work as faculty director of the Fire Officers Management Institute (FOMI).

"Bill Eimicke has been a friend and supporter of the Department for many years and I am pleased that he will be joining us," said Commissioner Scoppetta. "He is an innovative thinker and an expert in his field, and will be a great addition to our executive staff."

Deputy Commissioner Eimicke will advise Commissioner Scoppetta on the implementation of the Department's strategic plan and performance management system. Deputy Commissioner Eimicke also wants to establish education partnerships with area colleges/universities to foster executive and management skill building in the Department.



Deputy Commissioner William Eimicke

He is taking a one-year public service leave as director of the Picker Center for Executive Education at Columbia University to focus on this new role.

"I couldn't imagine a better place to work," he said. "I love the Fire Department on every level. It's all about saving

lives for a living and you can't get much better than that."

Since 2002, Deputy Commissioner Eimicke has developed and helped teach FOMI, which was established after 9/11 to provide customized leadership and management training to fire and EMS staff chiefs. Nearly 90 FDNY officers have taken the course, including Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano and Chief of Operations Patrick McNally.

"I believe in education. It not only made a difference in my life, but makes a difference in the lives of others," said Deputy Commissioner Eimicke, who was the first in his family to graduate high school and later earned an M.P.A. and Ph.D. from Syracuse University.

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Suffolk County, he said he always wanted to be a firefighter or a police officer, but realized his future and his strengths were in dealing with government issues.

He began his academic career as a professor at Indiana University and has taught at several institutions, including Syracuse University and Baruch College of the City University of New York.

Then he moved on to serve as director of fiscal studies for the New York State Senate. From there, he became assistant budget director for the City of New York and later deputy commissioner for the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development.

He then worked on Mario Cuomo's gubernatorial campaign and served as his deputy secretary for policy and programs, consulting with the governor regarding economic development and sports.

Since 1990 he has been working for Columbia University and has since published several books on management and public administration.

Deputy Commissioner Eimicke continues to teach one course per semester at Columbia while he serves at the FDNY.

"My skills will be upgraded by this experience [at the FDNY] because management is a practice, not a theory," he said.



Honoring Dedicated Service: *The FDNY's Quality of Work Life Committee on May 18 honored civilian members with a long history of service to the City during an Employee Recognition Awards ceremony at Headquarters. Eleven members were honored for serving 35 years, four for serving 30 years, 97 for serving 25 years and 108 for serving 20 years.*

Showing Gratitude

FDNY Foundation nets \$1.4 million at Humanitarian Awards

It was chart-topping success.

The FDNY Foundation honored its biggest supporters on May 15 at the 2007 Fire Commissioner's Humanitarian Awards Dinner. The annual event at the New York Hilton raised more than \$1.4 million for the Foundation.

"Whether it's a fire, medical emergency or terrorist attack, our men and women in uniform answer the call, and we must make sure they have the best tools at their disposal," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "Everyone attending the annual Humanitarian Awards Dinner is supporting this endeavor."

Among the night's top honorees were Arnold Fisher, John Santora, William Brown and the FDNY team that created the Personal Safety System.

Fisher, senior partner at Fisher Brothers real estate, was lauded for his generosity to the families of fallen firefighters and his help in facilitating FDNY Appreciation Weekend at the Intrepid when he served as chairman of the board for the Intrepid Museum Foundation. He also has been a tireless supporter of military veterans and their families.

"To accept a Humanitarian Award for the work to be done for the uniforms of this country, including firefighters and EMS, is overwhelming," he said. "These are the uniforms that keep us safe in all parts of our life. But you can never use the word charity when it comes to our uniformed men and women. This is our duty, not charity."

Brown, the president of United Technologies' Fire and Security unit, accepted his award on behalf of Kidde. In the past few years Kidde has donated more than 200,000 smoke alarms to the FDNY for distribution to residents throughout the five boroughs.

Santora, who serves as chief operating officer of real estate firm Cushman & Wakefield, was thanked for his avid support of the Department. He has strong family ties to the FDNY – his father was a battalion chief, his brother was a captain and his nephew is Lieutenant Richard



Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Chairman of the FDNY Foundation Stephen Ruzzo congratulate this year's Humanitarian Award winners. (L to R) William Brown, president of United Technologies' Fire and Security Unit; John Santora, Chief Operating Officer for Cushman & Wakefield; and Arnold Fisher, Senior Partner at Fisher Brothers.

Buckheit of Engine 249, who was praised in March for rescuing three girls from a fire in Brooklyn.

"These men represent the very best and have been pillars of strength for the FDNY in good times and in bad," said Stephen Ruzow, chairman of the FDNY Foundation.

Commissioner Scoppetta presented this year's FDNY Service Recognition Award to the Personal Safety System workgroup that developed and tested the device that allows firefighters to escape from life-threatening situations.

The rope system was developed after a Bronx fire in 2005 when six firefighters were forced to jump from a fifth-floor apartment. Lieutenants Curtis Meyran and John Bellew died as a result of their injuries and four other firefighters sustained critical injuries in the fall.

"This Personal Safety System is one of the most groundbreaking tools to affect fire service and firefighter safety in a very

long time," said Deputy Commissioner of Technology and Support Services Milton Fischberger, who helped develop the system. "No other fire department has such a system and no other department could have undertaken such a complex project."

Special recognition also was given to the members of Ladder 14 and Squad 41 for rescuing 2-year-old twins from a Harlem fire in March.

More than 1,100 guests attended the gala emceed by Bill Ritter of Channel 7 Eyewitness News. The night also included an award presentation to Public School 7, the Louis F. Simeone School in Elmhurst, Queens, for their fire safety education efforts and musical tributes by Irish Tenor Ronan Tynan and the Bill Gulino Orchestra.

Funds raised during the event will go to support equipment, fire safety education programs and training.

Subdued Celebration

136 members promoted during reflective ceremony

A bittersweet promotions ceremony was held on June 22, just one day after the tragic death of Firefighter Daniel Pujdak of Ladder 146.

“We are here today because we want to take every opportunity to extol your virtues, to celebrate how you so selflessly serve and protect the people of this city,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. “Today we are reminded of the dangers of this job and it is our duty to never forget – to carry on in Dan’s memory.”

During the ceremony at St. Francis Preparatory School in Fresh Meadows, Queens, three members were elevated to the rank of deputy chief, 21 to the rank of battalion chief, 50 to the rank of captain and 61 to the rank of lieutenant. Additionally, William Eimicke was sworn in as deputy commissioner of strategic planning and policy (see his story on page 9).

“All of you are taking the next step to making this Department a better place,” said Chief of Department Salvatore Cas-



136 members were promoted in a ceremony at St. Francis Preparatory School on June 22

sano. “It is not easy to get promoted in this job and it is a testament to your resolve.”

Hundreds of firefighters and family members filled the auditorium and spilled into the hallways and onto the street, covering the auditorium with banners congratulating the promoted members.

Among those promoted was Lieutenant Daniel Tarter from Engine 217, who served active military duty in the Middle East.

Also promoted were many who were following in the footsteps of their family members on the job, including Battalion Chief Joseph Callan, Captain Brian Reehil, Captain Robert Morris, Jr. and Captain James Canty.

One member of the Emerald Society Pipes and Drums Band, Captain Liam Flaherty of Rescue 2, could not attend the ceremony because he was in South Carolina taking part in a memorial service for the nine firefighters who made the Supreme Sacrifice on June 18.

“This is a day of gratitude,” said Commissioner Scoppetta. “You are all true heroes.”



Moving forward: *One hundred and six members were promoted to almost every rank in the Department during a promotions ceremony at Queens College on May 11. During the ceremony, one member was promoted to the rank of assistant chief, one to deputy assistant chief, 15 to deputy chief, 20 to battalion chief, seven to captain and 60 to lieutenant. There was also one promotion to the rank of fire marshal and one to marine engineer.*

Hero Remembered

(Continued from page 1)

Upon arrival, a fire was discovered in a fourth-floor apartment and was soon brought under control.

Preliminary reports indicate Firefighter Pujdak was operating on the roof of the four-story building when he fell to the ground and sustained critical injuries.

He was transported to Bellevue Hospital where he later succumbed to his injuries. There were no other reported injuries.

Fire marshals determined the fire was accidental and appears to have been caused by careless smoking. The investigation is continuing.



(Top) Firefighters hang bunting at the quarters of Engine 229/Ladder 146. (Right) FDNY members honor Firefighter Daniel Pujdak at his funeral on June 26. (Bottom) An NYPD helicopter fly over pays tribute to the life of the brave firefighter.



VIEW

POINT

JUNE 2007

NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT

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A 143 YEAR HISTORY

OF COMMITMENT, COURAGE & COMPASSION

FDNYNEWS