

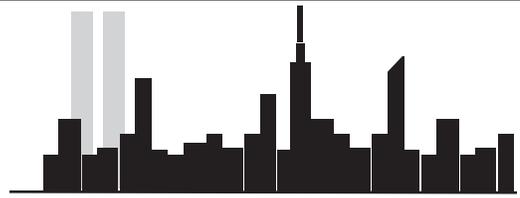
DECEMBER 2008

VIEW
P O I N T



metro Tech

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT



FDNY Mourns the Loss of Two Bravest in Two Weeks

FDNY members gather to say goodbye to Lt. Robert J. Ryan Jr.

Thousands of firefighters and officers from across the city lined the streets of Staten Island's Castleton Avenue Nov. 26 to pay their respects to Lt. Robert J. Ryan, Jr. of Engine 155.

"Nobody could step into his shoes," said Lt. Robert Natalicchio of Ladder 78, where Ryan was assigned. "We can only hope to grow into them."

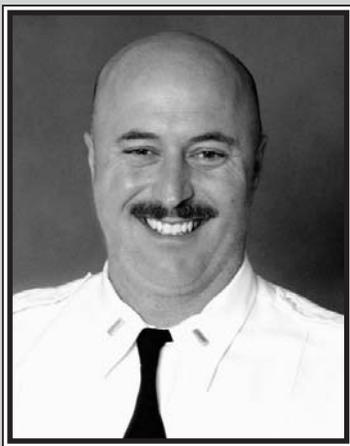
Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta recalled a devoted member who could easily have retired in 2006, after an on-the-job injury kept him off the job for about a year.

"He worked hard to get back to the job that he loved," Commissioner Scoppetta said in his eulogy at Sacred Heart Church. "That's why after he came back, he devoted his prodigious energies and talents to raise funds for the Staten Island Hospital Burn Unit that had treated him, and that's why he was a leader in the firehouse. He did the right thing, always."

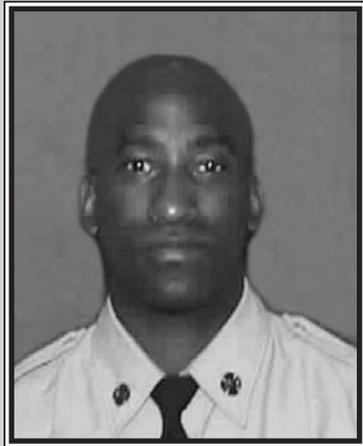
He added: "One phrase that's come up a lot in the last few days in describing Lt. Ryan has been 'he's a fireman's fireman.' I can't think of a higher compliment."

Lt. Ryan, 46, died early on Nov. 23 while operating at a second-alarm fire at 39 Van Buren St., in the New Brighton

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Lt. Robert J. Ryan, Jr.



**Probationary Firefighter
Jamel M. Sears**

neighborhood of Staten Island. Knocked unconscious in the attic of the burning house, he was rushed to Richmond University Medical Center of Staten Island, where he died.

"What's particularly poignant about today is not today but tomorrow ... tomorrow is a day of thanks, Thanksgiving," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said. "But it is, especially this year, a little bit difficult to count your blessings when you've lost somebody that made so much of a difference in this city. There is something to give thanks for and that is we were lucky enough to have Lt. Ryan on this earth protecting our City, even if the time that he had here was much too short."

Lt. Ryan joined the Department on April 14, 1991, and was promoted to lieutenant in March 2001. He previously served with Engines 228, 280 and 282 in Brooklyn; Engine 6 in Manhattan; Battalion 4 in Manhattan; and Battalion 22 on Staten Island. He was assigned to Engine

155 for more than two years.

Firefighter Kevin Connolly of Ladder 78 recalled meeting Ryan's son, Chris, for the first time at the hospital early on Nov. 23.

"He hugged me and said, 'Be strong,'" Firefighter Connolly recalled. "Here's a young man, a senior in high school, telling me to be strong. That showed me, Chris, what a great job your dad did raising you."

Lt. Ryan is survived by his wife, Kathleen; a son, Chris, 17; a daughter, Kayla, 12; a stepson, Alex, 10; and a stepdaughter, Emma, 8.

"Kayla and Chris, you were his pride, his love and his joy. His strength, his spirit will live on in both of you always," his wife, Kathleen told them during the funeral service. "Alex and Emma, he loved you too, unconditionally, as only he could."

Lt. Ryan is the 1,140th member of the FDNY to make the Supreme Sacrifice in the Department's 144-year history.

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Financial Crisis Leads to Cutbacks at All City Agencies



Commissioner's
— Message

The recent financial crisis is straining families across the nation and here in New York. The state of the markets has caused enormous deficits in city revenue, and these problems seem only to be growing worse. The devastating losses over the past few years have required the Mayor to make the difficult decision to press for a series of budget cuts across all city agencies, including the FDNY.

Earlier this year, the Department was asked to cut about \$7 million from its budget and we eliminated 125 civilian jobs, which is roughly 22 percent of the administrative workforce. These cuts affected all major FDNY bureaus including buildings, fleet, payroll, health services and pensions.

This November, we were required to eliminate an additional \$62 million from our budget to help make up for the \$1.3 billion deficit that is forecasted for the 2010 fiscal year. We reached this target mostly through proposed new taxes and new sources of revenue.

We're asking the State Legislature to increase fire insurance premiums for insurers located outside the city from 2 percent to 4 percent – which would bring in \$21 to \$22 million each year. Legislation also was submitted to the City Council to re-evaluate the fire inspection fee exemption for all non-profit and charitable organizations.

Additionally, we found ways to increase revenue enhancements by reassessing ambulance billing rates and finding additional non-Medicare EMS revenue collections.

We also reduced funding for the Drug Testing Unit, made reductions in Quartermaster expenditures through purchasing improvements and cut OTPS (other than personnel services) funding for select bureaus – which includes expenditures such as vehicles and supplies.

After all these reductions and enhancements, we still came up short. Thus we were forced to consider operational cuts, including a decrease in training time at the Fire Academy from 23 weeks to 18 (which is still a five week increase from years past), a reduction in nighttime operational hours at four engine companies in firehouses where ladder companies will remain fully staffed, and the closure of the fire unit on Governor's Island. These cuts were difficult, troubling, and truly brought to light the bleak economic forecast.

In the last month, the financial outlook has deteriorated and the Mayor now is asking for another round of cuts. He is requiring all city agencies to reduce their budgets by another 7 percent – which translates to roughly \$95 million for the FDNY.

We currently are assessing these reductions, which will no doubt be difficult and painful. They will be across the board, from every unit and bureau, and unfortunately may include layoffs and unit closings. These cuts certainly will strain an already stressed workforce, but please know we are reviewing all options carefully and cautiously.

Clearly these are difficult times and will require tough choices. It is especially difficult to face these cuts at this time of year, but I know we will endure because of your dedication and commitment to the job.



Thousands gathered on Staten Island for the funeral of Lt. Robert J. Ryan, Jr.

children, Mahlek, 11, and Jya, 7.

“He will be remembered for his determination, drive and pride,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. “He was the kind of person we want all our firefighters to be. I hope everyone here today will carry on the memory of Jamel.”

Three members of Firefighter Sears’s squad at the Academy – Probationary Firefighters Roy Ciofalo, Phil Rivera and Yves Telemaque – spoke about the passion that pervaded everything he did.

“We nicknamed him [lieutenant] because we looked to him for leadership and guidance,” said Firefighter Ciofalo. “He had an old man’s soul with a young man’s energy.”

He remembered Firefighter Sears telling jokes during Roll Call at the Academy and

the firefighter’s dedication to his new career, which included getting to the Academy at 5 a.m. to exercise and staying late to study.

“His absence will be felt by all who knew him,” said Firefighter Telemaque.

Firefighter Sears spent four years in as a member of the Navy, on board the U.S.S. Alaska. He later worked as a customer service representative for TD Waterhouse, then an operating mechanic for NYOFCO and KeySpan.

He began his training at the Academy on July 1, 2008. He spent a week at Engine 218 for training, and said he wanted to work for that firehouse someday.

“It’s a loss to all the firefighters here today that they didn’t have the chance to work with Jamel,” said Chris Webb, a former co-worker at KeySpan. “He was so dedicated, if you went to a fire, he probably would have said, ‘Sit down, I’ll put it out.’”

Firefighter Sears is the 1,139th member of the New York City Fire Department to make the Supreme Sacrifice in the Department’s 144-year history.

“I could never have imagined having to say goodbye to you,” family member Llegend Carter said. “You were my brother; I love you and will miss you.”

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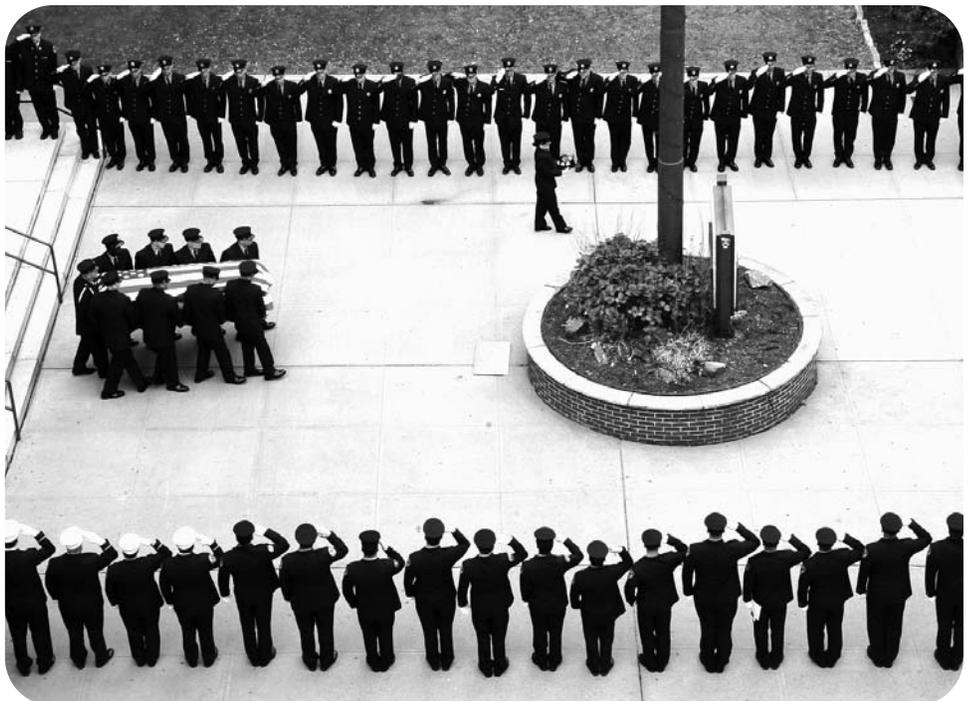
Thousands Mourn the Loss of Probationary Firefighter Jamel M. Sears

Thousands of FDNY members lined the streets of upper Manhattan on Nov. 18 for Probationary Firefighter Jamel M. Sears funeral service at Bethel Gospel Assembly.

“He was headed toward a great career, one he would have wanted,” said Mayor Michael Bloomberg. “He was committed to becoming the best firefighter possible, and he loved the challenge. His drive and enthusiasm made him the perfect proby.”

The 33-year-old firefighter collapsed while at the FDNY Training Academy on Nov. 10. He was transported to Mt. Sinai Hospital, where he died the following evening.

He is survived by his wife, New York City Police Officer Sherita Sears, and two



Probationary Firefighter Jamel M. Sears received a hero’s tribute during his funeral in Manhattan.

Call to Duty

286 Probationary Firefighters Graduate from the Academy



Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano and Chief of Operations Patrick McNally joined the wife of Probationary Firefighter Jamel Sears, Sherita, the 286 probationary firefighters and their families on the flight deck of the U.S.S. Intrepid after the graduation ceremony.

It may have been designed to accommodate 90 aircraft during World War II, but on Dec. 15, the Hangar Deck of the U.S.S. Intrepid held 286 enthusiastic probationary firefighters and their families during their graduation from the Academy.

“The training you received at the Fire Academy is unmet by any other fire Department in the world,” said Mayor Michael Bloomberg. “It has prepared you for a career that will require you to take risks – you will be running into burning buildings when everyone else is running out.”

Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta added: “You are becoming members of a fire department that firefighters from around the world look up to. You are now poised to begin an enormously important chapter in your life.”

During the ceremony a special tribute was held for Probationary Firefighter Jamel M. Sears, who died on Nov. 11 after collapsing at the Fire Academy the day before.

His wife, New York City Police Officer Sherita Sears, and their children, Mahlek, 11, and Jya, 7, received his diploma and an empty chair was saved in his memory.

It also was announced that Probationary

Firefighter Sears posthumously was assigned to Engine 218, the firehouse in which he trained – and grew to love – weeks before his death.

“He was always a firefighter in his heart,” Lt. James Brennan of the Academy said. “We will never forget him or the many contributions he made.”

The class was the most diverse in the Department’s history, with 35 percent minorities.

Four women graduated during the ceremony, including Probationary Firefighter Joy Flores, who served as the first woman squad leader in the Academy’s history.

She also was among the 72 graduates who are veterans of the U.S. military. Sixty of them have served overseas, including 40 who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Three members of the class also are children of fallen firefighters, Probationary Firefighter Andrew Esposito’s father, Lt. Mike Esposito of Squad 1, and Probationary Firefighter Ronnie Gies’ father, Lt. Ronnie Gies of Squad 288, died in the line of duty on Sept. 11, 2001. Probationary Firefighter Carl LaPiedra’s father, Capt. Scott LaPiedra of Ladder 176, died on July 4, 1998, from injuries he sustained while battling a fire on Atlantic

Ave. in Brooklyn.

During their time at the Academy, members of this class helped construct special bikes that wounded war veterans in the Achilles Club used in the New York City Marathon. They also marched in the City’s Veteran’s Day Parade directly behind President George W. Bush.

“Firefighting isn’t in your blood, it’s in your heart,” said Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano. “This job requires a different type of person than the average citizen – we put our lives on the line for someone we’ve never met.”

Probationary Firefighter Anthony Reynolds was the class valedictorian, Probationary Firefighter Jacob Worstell was the salutatorian and the Physical Fitness Award was given to Probationary Firefighter Richard Delgado.

After completing the rigorous 23-week training, the firefighters now will be assigned to units throughout the five boroughs.

“We are joined by a common bond,” said Probationary Firefighter Reynolds. “We worked together and we worked hard. We could have taken an easier path, but we have decided to become New York City firefighters.”

Graduation Day

127 Graduate from the EMS Academy

Bouquets of flowers, colorful banners and tears of joy filled New York Technical College auditorium on Dec. 11 as 47 paramedics and 80 EMTs graduated from the EMS Academy.

"It's a hard job, you know that, but it's also enormously rewarding because you can go home each night knowing you made a difference," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "And the training you have received will get you through any challenge you might face."

The paramedics, who finished training six days prior to the ceremony, already have participated in six pre-hospital saves.

"The profession you have chosen is not an easy one, and it gets more difficult each day," said Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano. "As a Department, we have every confidence in your abilities and we know you will make us proud."

The graduates speak more than a dozen languages, including Bengali, Cantonese, Creole, French, Igbo, Italian, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish and Tagalog.

Chief of EMS John Peruggia said he considers EMTs "the backbone of our



Paramedics and EMTs take the Oath of Geneva at their graduation ceremony.

EMS system," and thinks paramedics' have "training and capabilities that are among the greatest of all medical providers."

He added: "The times ahead are chal-

lenging and somewhat uncertain, but we move forward today armed with a larger, more highly-trained workforce prepared to introduce new therapies and better fulfill our mission."

Thirteen of the graduates have a total of 23 family members currently or previously serving with the FDNY.

Among them was newly-graduating Paramedic Jennifer Hannafey, whose father is EMS Division Chief Robert Hannafey of the Division 3 Command.

Assigned to Station 14, she said she wanted to go to a busy station because, "it gives you more of an opportunity to make a big difference."

Although Chief Hannafey admitted he was apprehensive when his daughter expressed her plans to join the EMS Command, he said, "She's become a success story."

She added that she always knew she would join the Department, "because once you develop a certain sense of humor, you can't go anywhere else."



EMS Promotions: *Thirty-two members of the EMS Command took to the stage at FDNY Headquarters to accept their promotion to lieutenant on Dec. 10. The members hail from every borough and represent more than 525 years of service.*

A Happy, Healthy Membership

World Trade Center Medical Monitoring Site Helping Members on Staten Island

Retirees were singing their praises for the FDNY's expanded World Trade Center Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program on Staten Island on Dec. 10, as Congressman-elect Michael McMahon (D-SI) received a tour of the facility.

The center has recently doubled in size, allowing active and retired members to receive treatment for mental and physical conditions related to their exposure at the World Trade Center. It now eliminates the need for retired members to go to FDNY Headquarters to receive their exams.

"The need for this program is quite clear," said Dr. Kerry Kelly, the FDNY's Chief Medical Officer and Co-Chair of the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program. "I see this as a continued commitment to the care of our members."

She said they monitor more than 3,000 retired members each year with this program (8,000 total), and 735 of these retired members live on Staten Island.

"I think this is a great tribute to Dr. Kelly and her staff," said Congressman-elect McMahon. "To bring this access to the Staten Island community, who will benefit so greatly. It is so important that as a city, and a nation, that we continue to support our heroes."

Members who visit the center complete a physical and mental health form, then receive pulmonary function, heart and blood tests as well as chest x-rays. If

the medical staff notices any problems, they will suggest additional tests and treatments.

"Dr. Kelly and her staff, as well as the Fire Commissioner and Chief of Department, fought for this and all retirees are grateful for it," said retired Firefighter John Sollazzo, who now serves as President of United Retired Firefighters Association and the Staten Island Retired Firefighters Association.

He said previously he used to help organize a bus for retirees to take to FDNY Headquarters for their medical screenings.

"This really makes the retirees feel good," Mr. Sollazzo said.

Retired Lt. Paul Cinquemani, Vice President of the FDNY Retirees Staten Island Division, added, "I've always felt the FDNY was a family and this cements our feeling – that the Department hasn't forgotten us."

The center is funded by grants from New York City and the National Institute



FDNY's Chief Medical Officer and Co-Chair of the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program Dr. Kerry Kelly gives Congressman-elect Michael McMahon (NY-13) a tour of the WTC Medical Monitoring facility on Staten Island.

of Occupational Safety and Health. Other satellite centers offering FDNY members treatment are in Fort Totten, Brentwood on Long Island and Middletown in Orange County.

Retired Captain Bill Ryan said he takes eight daily prescriptions to treat the numerous medical problems he has experienced since his time at the World Trade Center site. He said he regularly visits the center and "I wish more guys would take advantage of this – there's a lot of need out there."



***Holiday Spirit:** Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano joined representatives from City Harvest and the New York Daily News to kick off the 26th annual 'Daily News Readers Care to Feed the Hungry' food drive on Nov. 20 at the quarters of Engine 7/Ladder 1. The drive is the largest in New York City, collecting 385 tons of food in 2007, translating to more than 615,000 meals served.*

BIOPOD 2008

FDNY Holds Annual Drill to Test its Response to a Biological Attack

Members of the FDNY know that preparedness is critical to the work they do each day, which is why the Department held its sixth annual BIOPOD exercise on Nov. 14.

The drill enables members of the Department to test and evaluate their ability to distribute vaccinations or medications in the event of a biological exposure.

"We are testing ways to provide vaccinations and medications to our members so they can continue to respond to incidents and protect the city," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta during a press conference at FDNY Headquarters. "We want to anticipate what would happen in the case of a large-scale incident. This is an enormously successful exercise."

BIOPOD 2008 was organized by the FDNY's Bureau of Health Services and Bureau of Operations. It simulated the release of a biological agent that would be easily transmitted through human contact.

Nine stationary points of distribution (PODs) and three mobile PODs were used in the exercise, where a simulated vaccine (the flu shot) was distributed to all fire-fighters, EMS members and civilian employees working from 8 a.m. to midnight.

This year's drill also included four

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Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta describes BIOPOD 2008 with Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano and the FDNY's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kerry Kelly.

satellite sites so, for the first time, retired and off-duty members could receive a vaccination.

The goal was to immunize as much of the workforce as possible in the shortest time, while still maintaining citywide fire and medical coverage.

"We need to be prepared," said the FDNY's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kerry Kelly. "We draw on the entire Department during BIOPOD to practice our skills and ensure that in the case of a real biological attack, we'll be ready."

She said their goal is to offer the vac-



More than 6,000 uniformed and civilian members were expected to cycle through BIOPOD 2008.

ination to all uniformed and civilian members during the exercise, totaling more than 6,000 people.

100 Years and Counting

Members of Battalion 52 and Engine 274 Celebrate Centennial

December 8, 2008, was deemed Battalion 52 and Engine 274 Day in Queens, as they celebrated 100 years of dedicated service to the community of Flushing.

"This is a place where memory and tradition hold a lot of sway," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta said during the centennial ceremony on the companies' apparatus floor.

A plaque was dedicated during the event, honoring two members who died in the line of duty, Firefighter Bernard Reilly of Engine 274, who died in 1928, and Firefighter Thomas Maher of Battalion 52, who died in 1956.

"You have passed on the rich history of this great house," Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano said to the numerous retired members who attended the ceremony. "Your commitment, bravery and dedication have served the borough and the city in the greatest traditions of the Department."

Among the special guests attending at the ceremony was Mike Cariello, whose great-grandfather, Capt. Joe Hickey, was a member of the firehouse in 1908.

"You just get a feeling about this company the moment you walk through its doors," said Battalion Chief Paul Kozolowski of Battalion 52. "It's in the way they operate at fires and treat people with compassion."

He also recalled the history of the company, which began in 1809, as a volunteer unit. They became a part of the New York City Fire Department in Dec. 8, 1908.

"This is a time to reflect on the passing of years," said Engine 274 Capt. Anthony Catalanotto, who has been instrumental in improving the Department's handie-talkie system. "Our community just continues to flourish."

During the ceremony, Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, Council Member John Liu and State Assembly Member Ellen Young presented proclamations from the Queens Borough President's office and City Council.



Battalion Chief Paul Kozolowski of Battalion 52 addresses the crowd during the centennial celebration for Battalion 52 and Engine 274.

Members of Engine 88/Ladder 38 Celebrate 100 Years

Hundreds of firefighters filled the apparatus floor and lined the stairs of Engine 88 and Ladder 38 as the company celebrated its centennial on Nov. 17.

"The Fire Department is built on two foundations – bravery and devotion to family and tradition," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "In that way, the members of Engine 88 and Ladder 38 are among the best of the best."

Members of the company have won more than 20 medals through the years, and numerous citations for bravery.

"You set a high standard for other companies to meet," said Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano. "Your commitment, honor, bravery, service and dedication have allowed the Department to maintain its

highest traditions."

Among those in attendance were dozens of retired members, including Lt. Joseph Brosi, who served at Engine 88 for 28 of his 32 years with the FDNY.

Firefighter Vincent Albanese was recognized for serving at Ladder 38 for 38 years, as was Firefighter Albert Miskiewicz, who spent his entire 32-year career at Ladder 38.

There were also several fathers and sons recognized for both serving at the fire company, including Firefighters Robert and Matthew Wanner, who both worked out of Engine 88. Firefighter Joseph Spor, Jr., also served at both Engine 88 and Ladder 38 – like his father – before his death at the World Trade Center.

"We have all contributed to the legacy of this great firehouse," Capt. Richard Kirschner of Engine 88 said.

Also recognized in the ceremony was Firefighter Juan Vega, who is currently serving his third tour of duty in Iraq as an Army Sergeant.

An FDNY flag that flew over his base and was signed by his company was presented to Commissioner Scoppetta and Chief Cassano.

"It's not the walls of brick and stone that made this firehouse what it is," said Capt. Michael May of Ladder 38. "It was the members made of steel."



Active and retired firefighters and their families filled the apparatus floor to celebrate Engine 88/Ladder 38's centennial.

Winning Top Prize ... Again

FDNY EMTs Win Nebraska State EMS Competition

They did it again.

EMTs Joe Fortis, Ruben Berrios and Gilbert Ramos from the EMS Academy won first place in the Nebraska State EMS Competition in late November, the sixth state competition the team has won.

"They gave us 17 minutes to take care of seven patients and we didn't miss a beat," said EMT Fortis, the team captain. "When the FDNY can be recognized as the top EMS agency in the world, it's incredible. I can't give enough props to our team."

Organizers of the Nebraska State competition – one of whom worked at the top-tier Florida State competition – personally requested the veteran team take part.

"It was very much like the Florida competition, it was very competitive," said EMT Berrios.

In all, 17 teams participated in the Nov. 22 competition, four of which were from out-of-state.

The organizers also asked the FDNY team to be the last BLS team to compete, so that all the other teams and the 500 others in the stands could watch.

"It was nerve wracking, because we can crash and burn too," said EMT Fortis.

The scenario was a tornado and building collapse that included saving the life

of a woman in labor as well as her baby that was born in fetal distress, someone panicking, an asthmatic, a woman with a broken leg and someone with his arm trapped under a steel girder.

The scenario also required the team to be separated, to test their individual skills, their ability to communicate and their ability to concentrate under pressure.

"They couldn't keep up with us," EMT Fortis said. "You know you're good when you have the doctors [who monitor the scenario] stuttering."

They received 186 out of 200 points during the competition, earning them first place. They noted that many of the points lost were for practices the FDNY does not require of their paramedics and EMTs.

"Do you know how hard it is to take a state trophy out of another state?" EMT Fortis asked. "They are not going to just give their trophy away; you have to be perfect to win."

But even though they beat other teams



(L to R) FDNY EMTs Ruben Berrios, Gil Ramos and Joe Fortis of the EMS Academy won first place in the Nebraska State Competition.

by as many as 40 points, EMT Berrios felt a little differently, saying, "I wish we had been faster."

The team, which usually pays their own way to compete, was helped this time by their union. Now they are looking ahead to other competitions in Michigan, Florida, Canada and even the Israel. They said the competitions not only keep their skills sharp, but enable them to become better teachers at the Academy.

DEP Thanks FDNY

FDNY Members Honored by Department of Environmental Protection for Difficult Rescue

Firefighters from Engine 238, Ladder 106, Rescue 2, Rescue 4 and the Rescue Battalion, as well as EMS personnel from EMS Stations 32 and 57 and EMS Division 3, were honored by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on Dec. 4 for a dramatic rescue of a worker in September.

"The members of these units worked carefully, but quickly, in arduous conditions to free this man," said Brooklyn Borough Commander Edward Kilduff during the ceremony at the Newtown Waste Treatment Facility. "They did a phenomenal job."

On Sept. 24, 2008, an employee of Skanska USA Building was cleaning a sludge tank at the Newtown Facility in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, when he became trapped in the 50-foot deep, pressurized



DEP honored FDNY members for the rescue of a DEP worker in Queens on Sept. 24.

tank. He was stuck from the waist down in sludge, but he was conscious.

"This was a substantial decon job," said Deputy Chief Michael Marrone of Division 11, who served as the job's incident

commander.

It took more than three hours to free the man, using a number of rescue methods, including creating a mechanical rescue harness, setting up fans for positive pressure, using water to loosen the sludge, and removing sludge manually and hydraulically.

"We had to try plan A, B, C and D to get him out," said Lt. George Torres of Rescue 4. "We all worked together and everyone did a great job."

All units received a certificate of appreciation. A \$3,000 check also was donated by Skanska to the Firefighter Terry Farrell Scholarship Fund, honoring the firefighter who worked at Rescue 4 when he was killed on Sept. 11, 2001.

High-Profile Visit

Four-Star Air Force General Meets with FDNY Officials about Disaster Preparedness and Homeland Security

General Gene Renuart, head of the U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) and North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) met with Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano and many other FDNY commissioners and chiefs on Nov. 6 to discuss disaster preparedness and homeland security issues at FDNY Headquarters.

The fire commissioner, chief of department and First Deputy Commissioner Frank Cruthers and Chief of Counterterrorism Joseph Pfeifer told the general about the FDNY's preparedness programs and interoperability, and the four-star general discussed his agency's operations and communications. The two groups also spoke about ways to further improve information sharing between the military and the FDNY.

"The fire service is similar to the military," said General Renuart, who is based at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado. "We anticipate the needs states may have and put those supports in place."

USNORTHCOM was developed in the aftermath of Sept. 11, to conduct homeland defense and civil support operations in the continental United States, Alaska, Canada, Mexico and surrounding waters out to approximately 500 nautical miles.

"[One of USNORTHCOM's] main objectives is to build ongoing relation-



(L to R) General Gene Renuart, Chief of Counterterrorism Joseph Pfeifer, Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano and Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta.

ships with government agencies that play a role in homeland security and defense," said Commissioner Scoppetta. "The emergence of your command, General, is a great step forward in ensuring that the limitations we faced before 9/11 never hinder us again."

The commissioner told General Renuart of the Department's participation in 2007's inaugural Fire Service Intelligence Enterprise conference with Homeland Security and many of the country's major

fire departments, where the agencies discussed the fire service's ability to gather, receive and analyze intelligence.

The General's wife, Jill, also met with the Family Assistance Unit during the visit.

General Renuart is a has given 37 years of service to the military and served as Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense prior to his current assignment.



Fire Officers Promos: Hundreds of firefighters and their families gathered at York College on Nov. 5 to celebrate the promotion of 68 fire officers. The crowd cheered as one member was elevated to the rank of assistant chief, 26 to the rank of battalion chief, 26 to the rank of captain and 15 to the rank of lieutenant.

Generosity Abounds

Insurance Giants Join to Support FDNY's Smoke Alarm Initiative

Y.A. Tittle & Associates Insurance Services partnered with Fireman's Fund Insurance Company to award a \$27,500 grant to the FDNY on Nov. 17, to support the Department's Smoke Alarm Initiative.

The project equips all FDNY battalion vehicles with smoke alarms and batteries for firefighters to install in homes they see do not have a working alarm.

"The FDNY and the City of New York appreciate this tremendously," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "This will have a great impact."

The grant will allow the FDNY to purchase 1,500 smoke alarms to distribute to residents citywide as winter begins.

"We will save lives with this program, no doubt about it," said Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano.

Former New York Giants quarterback Y.A. Tittle said he has always admired firefighters for their bravery and wanted



Y.A. Tittle & Associates Insurance Services partnered with Fireman's Fund Insurance Company present a check for the FDNY's Smoke Alarm Initiative. (L to R) Former New York Giants Quarterback and Hall of Famer Y.A. Tittle, Chief of Operations Patrick McNally, Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano and President & CEO of Fireman's Fund Mike LaRocco.

to support the FDNY because, "New York has been so special to me, I felt I needed to give back to the city in a very tangible way."

Since December 2006, Fireman's Fund has donated more than \$300,000 to the FDNY.

Generous Donation

Boomer Esiason Joins Bank of America Representatives to Present Donation to FDNY Foundation

The FDNY Foundation graciously accepted a \$40,000 check from Bank of America on Nov. 15 in the West Village of Manhattan.

Former football quarterback Boomer Esiason was on hand to present the check, half of which will support the members of Squad 18 and half of which will be allocated for the FDNY Foundation scholarship program.

"This donation will ensure that our members will continue to have educational and training opportunities," said Assistant Chief James Esposito. "This will help us grow even stronger."

Mr. Esiason, who has played for the



Bank of America Consumer Market Executive Jim Dubois, Bank of America Northeast Region Executive Jeff Barker and NFL analyst Boomer Esiason join Captain Brian Smith and the members of Squad 18 in front of their apparatus.

Jets, Bengals and Cardinals and now serves as a football analyst, said he has numerous friends in the FDNY. He fondly remembered his childhood friend, Lt. Howard Carpluk, who made the Supreme Sacrifice while operating at a Bronx fire

in 2006, as well as many others who died on Sept. 11.

"I will never forget the sacrifice the members of the Fire Department have made for our community," Mr. Esiason said.

The group also recognized Maurizio Crescenzo, chef and owner of Grano restaurant in the West Village. Since the restaurant opened, Mr. Crescenzo has sup-

ported the FDNY and his Squad 18 neighbors.

"His simple acts of kindness helped begin our healing process after Sept. 11," said Capt. Brian Smith of Squad 18. "He is an everyday hero."

Saved from the Silent Killer

Rescue Medics Save 14 from CO Poisoning

Rescue Paramedics Brian Frayne and Zarina Ronay of Station 57 saved the lives of 14 people who were ill from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning in their home on Dec. 8, with the help of their newly issued CO detector tools.

“It was a horrible situation,” said Paramedic Frayne. “But we were able to use our training and our tools to help people when they needed it most.”

At 8:01 a.m. the paramedics were called to 433 Pulaski St. in Brooklyn for an unconscious victim. After walking three steps into the apartment, the paramedics’ new CO detectors sounded the highest possible alarm. They called for backup and work quickly to vent the first floor apartment and get the five adults and 12-year-old girl out.

“Everyone thought they were fine,” said Paramedic Ronay. “We needed to convince them they needed to leave – don’t grab anything, just come.”

Once they evacuated the family, Paramedic Ronay treated them as Paramedic Frayne ran to the second-floor apartment. When he received no answer, he forced entry and was able to pull another family to a second ambulance that arrived.

Five children were among those living in the second-floor apartment, including an infant who was “cherry red” from the CO exposure.

Once outside, the grandmother from



Rescue Paramedics Zarina Ronay (left) and Brian Frayne of Station 57.

the first apartment said her son was still inside. So Paramedic Frayne returned to search the residence.

In a small room under the staircase, Paramedic Frayne found a man sleeping. He tried to wake him, but the man was unconscious from CO, so the paramedic dragged him from the apartment to the street.

Firefighters had arrived at that time and finished the searches. Although they vented the apartment for 10 minutes before fire units arrived, firefighters still were getting CO readings of 500 parts per

million (ppm), a dangerously high level.

Paramedic Frayne and Ronay transported the family of five from the first-floor apartment to Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center in Brooklyn.

After arriving at the hospital they also learned a young boy in the family also had been feeling ill that morning, but went to school. The paramedics sent an ambulance to pick him up and bring him to the hospital for treatment.

“This would have turned out to be a really bad job later on in the day,” said Paramedic Ronay. “I’m just glad it turned out the way we wanted, I hope they’ll all be OK.”

In all, 14 patients were transported to area hospitals. It was determined the high CO levels were caused by a faulty gas burner in the basement.

“The rewards you get on this job are fantastic,” said Paramedic Frayne, who spent 10 years working in retail. “You don’t always get a thank you, but you feel good [after jobs like this one] and it reinsures you that you made the right choice to join EMS. I’ve been with the FDNY for 15 years and I’ve loved every year of it.”

The Department recently received a grant from Homeland Security for the purchase of CO meters for all EMS members.

Special Delivery

FDNY EMS Members Deliver a Baby in a Taxi

It wasn’t a typical baby delivery.

Paramedics Trinh Dinh and Anthony Almojera, and EMTs Sammy Gounden and Adam Ruiz, all from Station 38, were called to aid a woman on Ocean Ave. near Albermarle Rd. on Dec. 8 at 3:45 p.m.

The woman, who was sitting in the back of a taxi, was seconds away from giving birth.

EMTs Gounden and Ruiz monitored her blood pressure and gave her oxygen as Paramedics Dinh and Almojera delivered the baby – doing everything from the delivery to cutting the cord.

“That’s something that doesn’t happen very often,” said EMS Lt. Thoywell Thomas from Station 38. “They did an outstanding job, just outstanding.”

Mother and baby were transported to Kings County Hospital, where they are doing well.

One Man's Lucky Day

EMS Members Save Man at FDNY Headquarters

It was a case of being at the right place at the right time.

Assistant Medical Director Dr. Paul Barbara and Paramedic Shane Brady of Battalion 31 were talking in the hallway on the fourth floor of FDNY Headquarters on Dec. 9 when someone exited a fire prevention training class saying they needed EMS help.

EMT Peter Johnson of Battalion 58 was sitting in a room nearby when he heard the same screams.

They all ran to the classroom to find a man lying on his back, unresponsive and with shallow breathing.

After determining his condition and starting CPR, EMT Johnson located the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) and shocked the patient. They then continued CPR until paramedics arrived.

"Right away he opened his eyes, woke up and was back to his normal self," said Dr. Barbara. "It was so seamless it almost

seemed surreal."

They said he had no memory of the event itself, but appeared to have regained his cognitive ability and showed no signs of distress.

"It's great that we were all so close to the patient and we were able to save his life," Paramedic Brady said.

EMT Johnson also was humble about his efforts, noting, "It just felt like a regular day at work."

The victim was transported to Brooklyn Hospital in stable condition.

Ironically, it was the hospital at which Dr. Barbara first met Paramedic Brady when he did his residency there.



(L to R) EMT Peter Johnson, Assistant Medical Director Dr. Paul Barbara and Paramedic Shane Brady saved the life of a man in cardiac arrest at FDNY Headquarters.

"If everyone in the public had access to an AED, there would be more stories like this," Dr. Barbara said.

Baby Boy Not Willing to Wait

Members of Engine 289 Deliver a Baby Boy in Queens

The members of Engine 289 delivered a healthy baby boy in Queens on Dec. 17 ... and it only took seven minutes.

"[The members] did very well, they were very professional and everything worked out," said Capt. James Goelz.

Capt. Goelz and Firefighters Ricardo Remon, Andrew Holzmeier, Francis Ruebenacker, Stephen Poppe and Dennis Siry received a call at 8:57 p.m. for a woman in labor at 34-12 98th St. in Elmhurst.

When they arrived at the basement apartment, they said they found the 21-year-old woman laying on the bed and the baby crowning.

The firefighters secured the area, set up their equipment and gathered clean towels, "so when her next contraction came, we were ready to go," said Firefighter Remon, a registered nurse, former EMT and eight-year veteran of the FDNY.

Firefighter Andrew Holzmaier, who is



The members of Engine 289. (L to R) FF Ryan Wilson, Capt. Jim Goelz, FF Ricardo Remon, FF Wilbur Suarez, FF Randy Supek and FF Dennis Siry (not pictured, FF Andrew Holzmeier, FF Francis Ruebenacker and FF Stephen Poppe).

a trained emergency room nurse, assisted the baby out by the shoulders and created an air pocket for the newborn.

He said he quickly noticed the umbilical cord was wrapped around the baby's neck, so they were able to remove it just before the baby was fully delivered.

They suctioned the baby's nose and mouth, cut the cord and cleaned the baby

before handing him off to the appreciative mother.

They were taken to Elmhurst Hospital Center.

"We had the right crew working and we were on our game," said Firefighter Remon, who spoke to the family in Spanish throughout the delivery.

These firefighters are no strangers to baby deliveries. This is the fourth delivery for Capt. Goelz, who has been with the FDNY for more than 20 years. In addition to Firefighters Holzmeier and Remon, Firefighter Ruebenacker also is a nurse, each of whom has aided in numerous baby deliveries.

"You pretty much just assist the mother in a situation like this," said Firefighter Holzmeier, a three-year veteran of the FDNY. "But it was nice to help and be there for her. And it was great to see the look on her face when the baby came out."

All in a Day's Work

Queens Firefighter Makes Daring Rescue

He may say he was just doing his job, but Firefighter Brian Connelly of Ladder 116 made a daring rescue on Dec. 4, pulling a man from an apartment fire in Queens.

"It was absolutely a team effort," said Firefighter Connelly. "Everyone had a job to do and they did it well. The fact that [the victim] might pull through is just an awesome feeling."

At 10:50 p.m., a call was received for fire and smoke on the second floor of an apartment building on Crescent Street in Astoria. Within four minutes, firefighters from engine and ladder companies arrived on the scene.

Members of Ladder 116 made their way to the fire apartment as the engine company began hooking up the hose line.



The long entry hallway in the fire apartment.

Firefighter Connelly said that he forced the door of the fire apartment and immediately heard the windows burst and a loud bang.

As they made their way down a narrow, 20 foot hallway toward the back of the apartment, they encountered fire pouring out of a room off the hallway and rolling over their heads.

"I knew the hose line was coming so I wasn't concerned [for my safety]," said Firefighter Connelly.

Firefighter Christopher DiMaria of Ladder 116 kept back the fire with a fire extinguisher as Firefighter Connelly dove past the flames into the kitchen in the rear of the apartment, where he found the unconscious victim.

He removed the man from the room, then he and Firefighter DiMaria carried him out the front door.

They were met by members of Engine 262, who began CPR before passing him off to EMTs Pedro Acosta and Dennis Reheberger of Station 49.



Members of Ladder 116, (L to R) FF Mike Schreiber, FF Chris DiMaria, FF Brian Connelly, Lt. Bill Kelly, FF Eric Gehm, FF Terence Drew, FF Ryan Murphy and FF Dan Lawlor.

The EMTs continued CPR and were able to regain the victim's pulse in the ambulance on their way to Mt. Sinai Hospital of Queens. He was later transferred to Weill-Cornell Medical Center where he is listed in critical condition.

The all-hands fire was placed under control at 11:21 p.m.

"Our main concern was to get him out of the hostile environment," Firefighter Connelly said of his first rescue. "When we heard he might pull through we were so happy. That's the whole reason we do what we do, that's what this job is all about."

Frigid Rescue

Firefighters Rescue Woman in Waters off City Island

Firefighters from Ladder 53 rescued a woman who fell into the icy waters off City Island on Dec. 17.

"We did what we were trained to do," said Lt. Chris Kelly of Ladder 53.

At 4:17 a.m., firefighters were called to 515 City Island Ave. for a woman in the water.

When they arrived they heard screams from the dock, so Firefighter Walter Henning forced open the entry gate and then the company made their way 200 yards down the snowy pier. There they found a man frantically trying to keep a woman's head above water.

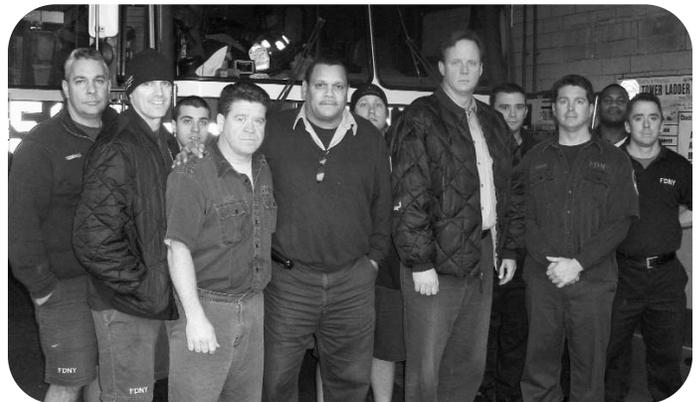
The man was a neighbor, who heard the woman's screams and came to help.

"She was close to death," said Firefighter Henning. "She was in really bad

shape."

The firefighters quickly pulled the woman two feet to the pier, wrapped her in blankets and packaged her before handing her off to EMS members. She was transported to Jacobi Medical Center in stable condition.

"[The firefighters] did a really great job," said Lt. Kelly. "The victim was really lucky everything worked out like it did."



Members of Engine 70 and Ladder 53, (L to R) FF Matt Tringali, FF Joseph Florio, FF Charlie Piranio, FF Tim Conroy, Lt. Jose Garcia, FF Mark Babcock, Lt. Chris Kelly, FF Jim Nolan, FF Walter Henning, FF Andy Rondon and FF Billy Sherwin.

Cold Water Rescue

Ladder 15 and Marine 1 Rescue Two in Manhattan

Members of Ladder 15 and Marine 1 rescued two people from the North Cove, at 375 South End Ave., on the Lower West Side of Manhattan on Dec. 16.

A call was received at approximately 12:45 a.m. for a person in the water.

Firefighters from Ladder 15 and Ladder 1 arrived on the scene to find two people clinging to a rope on the sea wall. The woman was unconscious and the man was holding her head above water, as he was being tossed into the wall due to the windy conditions and choppy waters.

Firefighter Norbert Tuma from Ladder 15, donning a scuba suit, jumped into the water and supported the female victim as members of Marine 1 arrived.



Ladder 15 (left) and Marine 1

Tethered to the fireboat, Firefighter John Rizzo then jumped into the frigid waters and supported the victims with Firefighter Tuma as the group was pulled to the boat.

"It was handled very professionally and [Firefighter Tuma] did a great job," said Lt. Patrick Carew of Ladder 15.

The victims, as well as Firefighter

Tuma, were taken to Beekman Downtown Hospital.

"It was a very positive operation that was coordinated well with both companies," Marine 1 Lt. James Zodkovic said. "Nobody got seriously hurt and two people were saved."

Fiery Coverup

Fire Marshals Arrest Alleged Arsonist

An investigation by FDNY fire marshals has led to the Nov. 5 arrest of Michael Trantel, 42, in relation to a fire at a strip mall in Whitestone, Queens.

Fire Marshals Robert McDevitt (Citywide North Command) and Mark Thompson (Special Investigations Unit) conducted the investigation.

The fire on Nov. 2 was reported at 1:10 a.m. It originated in the Lollipops Diner and quickly escalated to a second alarm, gutting the restaurant and damaging four adjacent stores.

Chief Fire Marshal Robert Byrnes said Mr. Trantel stole of approximately \$200 worth of cigarettes from the store, then used a lighter to set fire to combustible materials behind the counter.

"He was using the fire to cover up his tracks," Chief Byrnes said.

Fire marshals used interviews with witnesses and video sur-



Chief Fire Marshal Robert Byrnes announces the arrest of Michael Trantel, who is accused of arson in connection with a fire in Whitestone, Queens.

veillance from nearby stores to apprehend Mr. Trantel.

"They worked quickly and carefully to apprehend this career criminal," said Chief Byrnes. "They did a phenomenal job."

Mr. Trantel, of Whitestone, is currently on parole from a three-year prison sentence stemming from a prior February 2007 arson and burglary in Queens. He had attempted to conceal a burglary of an Ace Hardware store by setting fire to the building.

He again was arrested in May 2007 after he was seen setting fire to the vehicle

parked in Queens. Mr. Trantel was engaged in a dispute with the vehicle owner.

Mr. Trantel's criminal history dates back to 1994. He has a total of eight convictions – including criminal possession of a controlled substance, burglary, arson, larceny, and aggravated harassment.

FDNY Santas on Staten Island

Members Carry on SI Burn Center Toy Drive in Memory of Lt. Ryan

Barbie dolls, blocks, Mr. Potato Head toys, Superman action figures, basketballs and numerous other toys were loaded onto the back of an antique fire truck and delivered by firefighters – and Santa – to the Staten Island Hospital Dr. Jerome L. Finkelstein Burn Center on Dec. 18.

The toys were all donated in memory of Lt. Robert J. Ryan of Engine 155, who died in the line of duty on Nov. 23.

Lt. Ryan organized the first ever toy drive for the medical center in 2006, when he was recovering from severe burns; and he was organizing this year's drive prior to his death.

"This is a good day and a good memory," said Capt. Brian Gorman of Engine 155. "It's all about giving and all about the kids, just like Bobby."

This year, the drive collected more than 700 toys. Retired Firefighter Gregory Farinacci also helped raise \$1,600 for the cause.

"My father always put other people before himself," said Christopher Ryan, Lt. Ryan's son. "It's a great honor to see how many people he has touched."

Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta added: "This is a wonderful way to celebrate the life of Bobby Ryan."

Lt. Ryan received treatments at Staten Island University Hospital Regional Burn Center in 2006, after he received second and third degree burns to his neck while fighting a fire in Brooklyn. Although his burns were severe, and potentially career-ending, he fought back and was able to return to work in 2007.

"We were so impressed by his dedication and hard work, and the pain he endured to become a firefighter again," said Dr. Michael Cooper, Director of the Burn Center.

Lt. Ryan told his family he was moved by the children he saw receiving treatment at the burn center and wanted to



(L to R) Dr. Michael Cooper, Director of the Staten Island University Hospital Dr. Jerome L. Finkelstein Burn Center, Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano.



FDNY members and the Ryan family helped gather more than 700 toys for this year's drive named in honor of Lt. Robert Ryan.

help bring them joy during the holiday season. His fellow firefighters and the Ryan family have vowed to continue the drive in his memory.

"As part of Bobby's legacy, we want to continue this tradition in his name," said Capt. John Graziano of Ladder 78. "We will do the best we can and hope it will make him proud."



VIEW

POINT

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NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT

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CITY OF NEW YORK**

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**A 144 YEAR HISTORY
OF COMMITMENT, COURAGE & COMPASSION**