

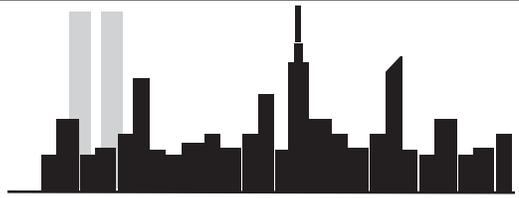
JUNE 2008

VIEW
FROM
P O I N T



metro Tech

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT



MEDAL DAY 2008



Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano join the 2008 FDNY Medal Day winners on the steps of City Hall.

It was hero appreciation day on June 4 as the FDNY celebrated Medal Day, awarding 44 medals to FDNY members who have gone above and beyond the call of duty, saving lives under

extreme conditions.

And this year's event was the first combined fire and EMS ceremony in the Department's history.

"Time after time the men and women of the FDNY put themselves in nightmarish danger for one reason - to save the life of another," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

As the sun peaked through the clouds, 15 fire officers, one EMS officer, one fire marshal, 21 firefighters, five paramedics, five emergency medical technicians (EMTs), one EMS fellow and two fire companies received medals during the annual ceremony on the steps of City Hall.

"Every medal represents a heroic act," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scop-

petta to the crowd of thousands. "To New Yorkers, these are stories of uncommon valor, but to our [members], this is simply what they do day after day."

Fire Lt. James Congema (Battalion 19, detailed to Ladder 41) was awarded this year's James Gordon Bennett Medal and NYS Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal for rescuing five residents - ranging in age from 11 to 50 - from a fire in the Bronx on March 23, 2007.

"I was part of a great team that day," he said.

With a grin, he added, "For the spotlight to be on me is a little uncomfortable, but I'm just going to enjoy today because I'll be back at work tomorrow."

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New State-of-the-Art Pumper Designed by FDNY Members to be Distributed Soon

In the coming months, the FDNY will roll out new, state-of-the-art pumpers by Seagrave Fire Apparatus, which were designed specifically for the Department. These new rigs include features that will improve drivability, safety and field operations.

They were designed by a committee of approximately 25 officers and firefighters from the field, Research and Development, Training, Safety, Operations, UFOA and UFA, as well as representatives from the Bureau of Fleet and Technical Services, providing a cross-representation of personnel from the job. The group worked to make these pumpers the safest and most efficient the Department has ever seen.

They are being outfitted with a larger six-cylinder, Cummins diesel engine, which will provide smoother acceleration and better performance while responding to assignments, and will help operate the new 2,000 G.P.M. water pump. A new, electronic Pro-Governor and Gates were added for water pressure control.

Newly designed brackets for flex-hose storage were added to the side panel, for easier loading and removal. New emergency lighting, as well high mounted brake and turn signal lights, have been added to increase apparatus visibility. And the entire cab is fabricated of stainless steel to prevent corrosion over time.

The crew cab also was redesigned to increase firefighter comfort and safety.

The engine compartment has been moved to the front of the rig and the cab roof was raised eight inches to provide a walk-through in the rear, allowing firefighters more room for gear and tools.

Steps and additional grab rails were added, as were storage compartments for tools, creating a safer environment for firefighters. Each seat position was made wider, so there would be room for the PSS. Power windows were added and an additional MDT display terminal was placed in the rear cab.

These new pumpers were created with the FDNY firefighter in mind, emphasizing both form and function. Seventy 2,000 G.P.M. rigs and one 2,000 G.P.M. high-pressure pumper (for Engine 8), were commissioned for firehouses throughout the five boroughs. The new design currently is in production at the factory, with Seagrave anticipating 30 to be delivered by the end of 2008.



Commissioner's
Message



New Chief Appointed to Head BFI

Robert Byrnes Sworn in as Chief Fire Marshal

Assistant Chief Fire Marshal Robert Byrnes was sworn in as chief fire marshal on June 3, replacing the retiring chief, Louis Garcia.

“Chief Byrnes is an invaluable asset to this Department and a key figure in the Bureau of Fire Investigations,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta during the ceremony at FDNY Headquarters.

Chief Byrnes is a 26-year veteran of the FDNY. He served for eight years as a Firefighter in Brooklyn and Staten Island, and was promoted to fire marshal in 1989.

In 1997, he was awarded the Deputy Commissioner Christine R. Godek Medal for his investigative work on the Firefighter Louis Valentino fatality.

He was promoted to supervisor in 1999 and has worked in every command within the Bureau of Fire Investigation, including the Special Investigations Unit where he was responsible for many high-profile investigations.

In 2001, he was designated as the Commanding Officer of the BFI Special Operations Command, which oversees all of the Bureau of Fire Investigation’s specialized units. There he spearheaded several initiatives that enhanced the day-to-day investigations and streamlined filing of complaint reports.

After the terrorist attacks of September



Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta swears in Chief Robert Byrnes as the FDNY's new chief fire marshal. Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano and Chief Byrnes' wife, Maria, took part in the ceremony.

11, 2001, Chief Byrnes tracked all lost or stolen Department property and forwarded this information to the Joint Terrorist Task Force. At that time he also served on the Metropolitan Committee for Counter Terrorism.

Chief Byrnes is a graduate of the FBI National Academy. In the fall of 2004, he

was selected to attend the FDNY/USMA Combating Terrorism Leadership Program.

“I want to say thank you to the Fire Commissioner and Chief of Department for having confidence in me,” Chief Byrnes said.



Truth from the Ashes:

Eleven fire marshals graduated from the Bureau of Fire Investigation (BFI) Academy on May 30, during a ceremony at FDNY Headquarters. The graduates will now enter a distance learning program in the field, where they work closely with a seasoned fire marshal.

21st Century Fire Safety

First new fire code in 100 years passed by City Council

Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta joined City Council Speaker Christine Quinn on May 28 to announce the City Council has approved a new Fire Code for New York City.

It will replace the existing code, which is more than 100 years old.

“This was a complete overhaul of the fire code, four years in the making” said Speaker Quinn during a press conference at City Hall.

The Code is based on the International Fire Code with amendments to address the New York’s urban needs. The new code is more modern, comprehensive and accessible.

Among the many changes is the new requirement that the code be reviewed every three years, to ensure amendments will be made when necessary.

Commissioner Scoppetta said this “consistent review will ensure that it will keep current.”

“These changes are going to make

New York safer,” he said. “It was redrafted from top to bottom to meet the needs of this great city.”

Other changes include requirements for fire apparatus and rooftop access in buildings as well as labeling and color-coding rooftop installations.

The revision project was headed by FDNY Counsel Julian Bazel and Director of Code Revision James Hansen as well as Chief of Fire Prevention Thomas Jensen, representatives from the City Council and Department of Buildings, FDNY fire chiefs, inspectors, engineers and legal staff.

A draft of the Fire Code was publicly unveiled in December 2007 and New Yorkers were invited to submit comments



Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta announces that the City Council has approved a new Fire Code for New York City. He was joined by (L to R) Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano, Councilmember David Weprin, Councilmember Miguel Martinez and Council Speaker Christine Quinn.

in writing and in a public forum, which more than 200 people attended.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg is expected to sign the Fire Code on June 3, 2008, and it will take effect on July 1, 2008.

Fire Danger and NYC Children

Child Fatality Report released focusing on child deaths from fires

The second annual Child Fatality Report, which reviews preventable fatalities among children ages one to 12 years, was released on May 29. This year’s document found that fires are the second leading cause of child deaths from injuries in New York City.

“When a child dies, a piece of New York’s future dies as well,” said Mayor Michael Bloomberg during a press conference at the Bedford-Stuyvesant YMCA.

The report analyzed six years of data (from 2001 to 2006), including 43 residential fires involving child deaths. The research indicated that 85 percent of those fires were set accidentally.

It indicated many were caused by adult behavior – such as leaving candles unat-



Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta discusses the Child Fatality Report with Mayor Michael Bloomberg, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

tended or overloaded outlets – or children playing with matches or lighters.

“The best way to fight a fire is to prevent it – this report emphasizes that,” said

Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta.

Nine out of every 10 child fatalities from fire were started in the home, when an adult was present. And working smoke alarms were present in only one quarter of the homes where fire resulted in death.

“Any loss of a child’s life is unacceptable,” said City Council Speaker Christine Quinn. “But you can take concrete steps to prevent these deaths from happening.”

The first cause of preventable fatalities was automobile accidents, according to the report.

You can read the full Child Fatality Report at www.nyc.gov.

Remembering Heroes

Plaque honoring EMD members unveiled

A somber ceremony marked the dedication of a plaque honoring seven active emergency medical dispatch (EMD) members who have died in recent years.

Dozens of family members and friends gathered at Fire Headquarters on May 9 to remember Lt. Brian Ellicott and EMTs Patricia Johnson, Peter Zaborowski, Robert Cunningham III, Paul Langa, Lawrence Marx and Pamela Walsh.

"We'll never forget your loved ones and we'll never forget you," Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano told the families. "We're here to remember them and how important their work was to us."

The members were remembered as being mentors and the ultimate professionals.

"It's important that you continue to realize that your loved ones were our loved ones," said Chief of EMS John Peruggia. "We recognize everything your



Family members of the seven active members of EMD who have died in recent years gathered at FDNY Headquarters to honor their loved ones during a plaque unveiling ceremony

family members have done for us and they will not be forgotten."

The plaque, bearing the name and date

of death of each member, will hang at the EMD office in Brooklyn.

Going the Distance

Civilian members honored for years of dedicated service to city

Civilian members with a long history of service to the City were honored by the FDNY's Quality of Work Life Committee during an Employee Recognition Awards ceremony on May 16 at Headquarters.

"I don't think many people realize that behind the FDNY's firefighters and EMS members there is a dedicated group of civilian professionals that make it possible for them to do their job each day," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta.

During the ceremony, Supervising Dispatcher Robert Carolan was honored for 60 years of service to the FDNY.

"It's the only job I ever had," said Mr. Carolan, who joined the Department in 1947 and retired in late 2007.

Also honored were four members who have served 40 years, eight with 35 years, 19 with 30 years, 69 with 25 years (including Jorge Esquilin in memoriam) and 262 with 20 years. Two members also



Retired Supervising Dispatcher Robert Carolan receives a plaque honoring his 60 years of dedicated service to the FDNY. Also honored during the ceremony were Department members who have served 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years.

received education awards.

"It takes every one of you to make sure this department runs as well as it does," said Chief of Department Salvatore Cas-

sano. "We are the greatest fire department in the world because of each of you sitting here today."

10 Years Later – Remembering Two FDNY Heroes

FDNY Remembers Atlantic Avenue Fire

A decade after the tragic Atlantic Avenue fire, which took the lives of Capt. Scott LaPiedra of Ladder 176 and Lt. James Blackmore of Engine 332, more than a hundred FDNY members gathered at the site of the blaze on June 5 to remember the tragic day.

“Ten years ago this was an ugly place,” said Monsignor John Delendick, who gave the evening mass at 2530 Atlantic Avenue. “But now it is beautiful, it is sacred, because it holds the souls of Scott LaPiedra and James Blackmore.”

Four wood-frame homes on Atlantic Avenue were destroyed by the fire on June 5, 1998. Today, the lot remains empty, with a small monument created in honor of the two brave men that was unveiled during the ceremony.

Among those attending the ceremony were the LaPiedra and Blackmore families, as well as Lt. Brian Baiker and retired Firefighter Terrence Quinn, both of whom were seriously injured in the fire. Also attending was the family of Capt. Timothy Stackpole, a firefighter who also was critically injured in the fire, but who lost his life on September 11, 2001.

Atlantic Avenue Fire

At 8:22 p.m. on June 5, 1998, firefighters responded to a reported mattress fire at in a three-story home at 2530 Atlantic Avenue in East New York.

A second alarm was called 10 minutes

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A new memorial stands at 2530 Atlantic Avenue, honoring the firefighters who lost their lives in the tragic fire on June 5, 1998.

after first units arrived, but the fire quickly engulfed four neighboring wood-frame buildings. Within an hour, the fire had escalated to a fifth alarm and more than 225 firefighters and 52 units were on the scene.

A woman on the street told firefighters her elderly mother was inside the home, so firefighters, led by Capt. Scott LaPiedra of Ladder 176, ran into the building to do a search.

When they reached the second floor, a ball of flames burst from the ground floor and the second floor collapsed, throwing them into the fire and covering them in burning debris. (It was later learned that the elderly woman had already evacuated the building when the firefighters entered.)

Lt. James Blackmore of Engine 332 was killed in the collapse.

Capt. Scott LaPiedra was suffered third and fourth degree burns over 70 percent of his body and had been uncon-

scious in a hyperbolic chamber at Jacobi Medical Center following the blaze. He later died on July 4, 1998.

Three other firefighters were seriously injured in the fire. Lt. Timothy Stackpole of Ladder 103 and Probationary Firefighter Brian Baiker of Engine 332 suffered second and third degree burns over approximately 30 percent of their bodies. Firefighter Terrence Quinn of Engine 332 also was badly burned in the fire. All three were treated at New York Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Medical Center Burn Unit and released.

Firefighter Baiker was promoted to lieutenant in February 2008. He now works out of Engine 79 in the Bronx.

Firefighter Quinn retired in 1993, with more than 16 years on the job.

After a miraculous recovery, Lt. Stackpole was promoted to the rank of captain on September 9, 2001 – yet tragically, he was killed just two days later at the World Trade Center.

Hero's Corner

Intersection in the Bronx named to honor Lt. Carpluk

The corner of Monroe Avenue and 175th Street in the Bronx will forever be known as Lt. Howard J. Carpluk Place.

Dozens of firefighters and members of Lt. Carpluk's family gathered at Engine 42 for the official street renaming ceremony on May 2.

"Today is a day that we remind the Carpluk family that they are part of our family and we will be there for you in good times and in bad," said Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano.

Lt. Carpluk and Probationary Firefighter Michael Reilly of Engine 75 were tragically killed on August 28, 2007, while battling a three-alarm fire at 1575 Walton Avenue, a one-story 99-cent store near the Grand Concourse.

FDNY units entered the building in a search for fire and victims when a collapse occurred, fatally injuring the firefighters.

"We should take this as a gift from New York and the Bronx," said Lt. Stephen Wall of Engine 42. "It's now our duty to inform new firefighters of who Howie was ... a man who always reported for duty with a big smile on his face."

Among those attending the ceremony were Lt. Carpluk's wife, Debra, his daughter, Paige, and his son, Bradley.

"[Lt. Carpluk] made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our way of life," said Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion.

Sherman Brown Community Liaison for Councilmember Maria Baez presented a duplicate street sign to the Carpluk family, adding, "thank you for loaning Howie to us - keep your head up high because your husband and father was a great American hero."

Debra Carpluk, the wife of fallen Fire Lt. Howard Carpluk, and their children, Bradley and Paige, unveil a new street sign honoring her husband on the corner of Monroe Avenue and 175th Street in the Bronx.



EMS Members Save Life of Correction Officer in Cardiac Arrest

Paramedics Favian Salazar and Michael King saved the life of a correction officer at Riker's Island on May 12.

They were called to Riker's at around noon for a man experiencing chest pains.

The team said the patient was with a doctor at the clinic and was hooked up to

an electrocardiogram (EKG) machine that indicated his heart was stressed.

"We knew right away that he was not in good shape," said Paramedic Salazar.

They transported him to the ambulance and while on route to Elmhurst Hospital Center, the officer went in to cardiac arrest.

The paramedics began doing CPR on

the victim and shocked him once to restore his heartbeat. After arriving at the hospital, he was rushed to the catheterization lab and is currently in stable condition.

"They did everything by the numbers. They couldn't have done anything better," said Deputy Chief Howard Sickles. "This was the true essence of a save."

FDNY EMS Saves Cardiac Arrest Patient in Brooklyn

FDNY paramedics and EMTs saved the life of a 50-year-old man who went into cardiac arrest in Brooklyn on May 13.

At around 9:15 a.m. EMTs Nelson Rivera and Franklin Rodriguez arrived on the scene at around 9:15 a.m. and found a traffic agent doing mouth-to-mouth rescue breathing on a man on the street.

They found the man to have no pulse, so they began doing CPR until Paramedics Ray Nirrengarten and Howard Auerbach arrived on the scene.

The FDNY EMS members inserted a tube to help the victim breathe, shocked his chest to restart his heart, hooked up a cardiac monitor and administered drugs.

They then transported him to Wycoff Hospital in stable condition.

Yet when asked how it felt to save a life, the EMS members remained humble. "It's just part of our job," said Paramedic Nirrengarten.

EMT Rodriguez agreed: "It was good, but it's what we do every day."

EMS Week 2008:

New Yorkers saw why the 3,000 members of the EMS Command are considered the City's best and brightest as the Department celebrated EMS Week in May.

The annual weeklong series of events celebrate the life-saving work the city's paramedics and EMTs do each day.

"Each year during EMS Week, the FDNY gets the opportunity to celebrate the outstanding work our paramedics, EMTs and EMS officers," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "Whether they are resuscitating a victim of cardiac arrest or delivering a newborn baby, these men and women truly are New York City heroes."

Each day EMS personnel respond to more than 3,000 calls – that's more than 1.2 million runs each year.

"This job requires quick thinking and extraordinary skill," said Chief of the EMS Command John Peruggia. "It's challenging, stressful and demanding ... but it's also extremely rewarding."

EMS Week celebrations kicked off on May 17, as EMS members peddled their bikes from Station 20 at Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx to Roanoke, Va., as part of the Annual National EMS Memorial Weekend. This year's ride was in memory of Lt. Brian Ellicott, EMD.

The week continued with events throughout the five boroughs.

14th Annual Second Chance Brunch

Nine victims of cardiac arrest – ranging in age from 1- to 87-years-old – had the chance to thank the FDNY members who saved their lives at the 14th Annual Second Chance Brunch on May 19.

"Today's celebration of lives saved helps us look beyond the statistics and gives us a chance to meet the real people who have been touched by the work our members do each day," Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta said during the ceremony at the Fire Academy on Randalls Island.

Tears of joy and embraces marked the ceremony, which included the emotional reunion of the paramedics, EMTs and fire-



EMS Lt. Kim Weaver of Station 32 meets Shamia Jones and her mom, Lora, at the Second Chance Brunch. Lt. Weaver resuscitated Shamia when she choked on a candy and went into cardiac arrest when she was just a year old.

fighters with the victims they saved.

"Thank you to our members for the work you do in the field every day," said Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano.

Chief of EMS John Peruggia added: "I can't think of a better way to kick off EMS Week 2008 than by honoring our own."

Among the survivors was Shamia Jones, who was just a year old when she was resuscitated by EMS Lt. Kim Weaver of Station 32 on October 14, 2006.

The family was driving home when Shamia began choking on a piece of candy. They flagged down Lt. Weaver, who had just started her shift and was driving behind them. She did the Heimlich maneuver on the girl, then performed three rounds of back blows and chest thrusts until the candy was dislodged.

"She just jumped out of her car, kicked into action and saved my baby's life," said Lora Jones, Shamia's mother. "We never forgot her and I always looked forward to seeing her again."

During the event, Ms. Jones also read a poem written by her other daughter, Shanaya, about the rescue, "Thank You It Would Be," which included the line: "Thank you for saving her because you saved a part of me."

Yet Lt. Weaver remained humble about the rescue, "It's very poignant. It's extremely gratifying and I'm grateful to the Department for giving me the training that enabled me to step in and help."

Another survivor attending the event was 87-year-old Catherine Manning, who went into cardiac arrest at her home on December 25, 2007.

Her son, Daniel, who is a retired firefighter from Ladder 43, immediately began doing CPR on his mother until firefighters from Engine 308 in Queens arrived. They then attached a breathing mask to the woman and used an external defibrillator (AED) to deliver one shock, successfully restarting her heart.

Ms. Manning said she was thrilled to be able to thank her rescuers, even telling her family in Ireland about the event.

"I told [my rescuers] 'thank you,'" she said.

"And one of them told me, 'Merry Christmas,'" she said with a laugh, referring to the date of her rescue.

"It was a very merry Christmas," said her son, Daniel. "She's living proof that when everybody works together, things work out."

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Believe in Miracles, Believe in Us



The team from Station 8 won the ALS competition and Station 39 took home first place for BLS. (L to R) Chief of EMS John Peruggia, EMT Leon Michael, EMT Lyonel Rosemond, Lt. Steven Dubin, Paramedic Christopher Bilz, Lt. Joseph Hudak, Paramedic Donald Faeth, Division 1 Chief Frances Bascale and FDNY Dr. David Prezant.

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EMS Competition

EMS members responded to a call on May 21 and found a man complaining of a sprained ankle that he suffered while running.

As the team treated him, a woman approached to learn of his condition, but the victim identified her as the individual chasing him. Then she took out a pocket knife and stabbed him in the chest, yelling “this is for my sister.”

An undercover police officer saw the whole scenario, struggled with the perp and shot her.

Then as the EMS members treated the two victims, the police officer experienced a serious asthma attack.

The EMS members had their hands full, and that’s just what everyone from the FDNY’s Office of Medical Affairs wanted.

The scenario was all part of the 8th Annual EMS Competition in Metrotech Commons.

“The EMS Competition is a highlight for us because it gives us the opportunity to

celebrate the work our EMS officers, paramedics and EMTs do each day,” said Chief of EMS John Peruggia.

Six advanced life support (ALS) and seven basic life support (BLS) teams competed in the dramatic competition.

“We’re trying to create challenging situ-

ations that they need to think through,” said organizer EMT Chris Swanson from the FDNY’s Office of Medical Affairs. “We’re trying to overwhelm them.”

He noted that they tried to get the teams to use a variety of skills they use each day

(Continued on Page 16)



Six ALS and seven BLS teams competed in the 8th Annual EMS Competition.

Iraq by Way of City Hall

Firefighter Christopher Little meets the Mayor before being deployed

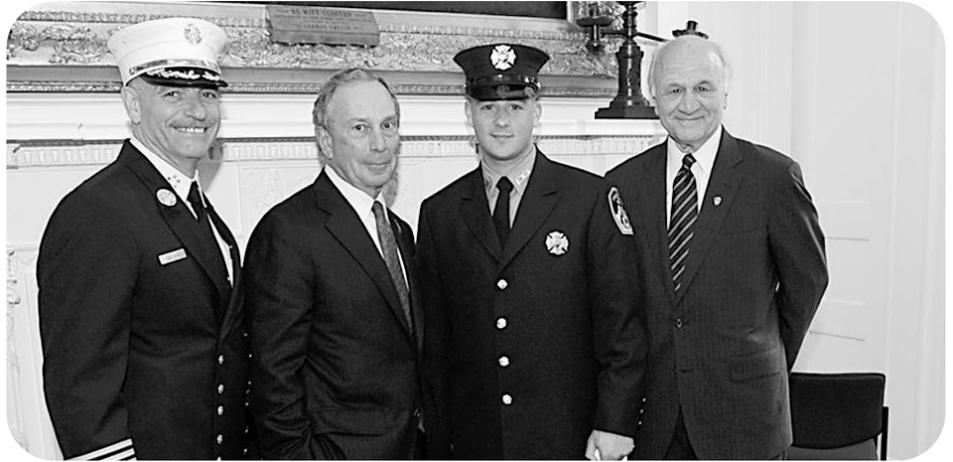
Before Firefighter Christopher Little will be deployed with the U.S. Marine Corps in early June, he and his family met with Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano at City Hall on May 29.

Wearing his new Engine 303 collar brass, Firefighter Little and his parents, Mike and Pat, as well as his girlfriend, Tricia, spent several minutes speaking with the Mayor, Commissioner and Chief before getting a tour of City Hall.

Firefighter Little, 23, will be deployed for approximately 10 months – spending seven or more in Iraq – this will be his second tour of duty.

He mentioned that he always wanted to be a firefighter. Although he will miss his graduation on June 30, his family said they will attend the ceremony in his honor.

“You are serving your city and your



Probationary Firefighter Christopher Little meets Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano just days before he left for Iraq with the Marines.

country,” said Mayor Bloomberg. “I will think of you at Proby Graduation and wish you all the best.”

Commissioner Scoppetta and Chief Cassano uttered similar sentiments.

“We look forward to seeing you back safe,” the Commissioner said.

Read about firefighter Little’s surprise graduation on page 11.



Fireboat Blessing: The FDNY celebrated its Marine Unit on Flag Day, June 14, during the 7th Annual Blessing of the Fleet ceremony at the South Street Seaport. During the ceremony, FDNY Chaplains Monsignor John Delendick and Reverend Stephen Harding blessed seven fireboats (and one Coast Guard vessel). The FDNY’s Marine Division protects New York City’s 560 miles of waterfront. It was formed on May 10, 1875, following the purchase of the Department’s first fireboat, the William F. Havermeyer. And by the end of 2009, the FDNY anticipates the delivery of two new fireboats that will support the ever increasing volume of commuter, recreational and commercial traffic that passes through the local waterways.

Serving all Fronts

Fire/EMS promotions and surprise graduation honor members' service to city, country

It was a day to celebrate the FDNY and its members' dedicated service to the United States.

Twenty-two members of the Fire and EMS Command were promoted during an enthusiastic ceremony at the Fire Academy on May 8. One of the promoted members, Battalion Chief Steven P. Fitzgerald, will be deployed to Iraq with the Army National Guard in June.

Also during the ceremony, Probationary Firefighter Christopher Little received his certificate of completion from the Academy, since he is due to be deployed to Iraq with the U.S. Marine Corps before his graduation ceremony in June.

"Few people understand the beauty of

conquering fear better than the members of this Department," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta.

In all, one member was promoted to EMS division chief, four to fire battalion chief, one to EMS captain, 15 to fire lieutenant and one to provisional marine engineer.

"Your number one mission is to make sure all your members go home safely," said Chief of Department Salvatore Casano. "It's not an easy job, but it can be very gratifying."

Also among the promoted members was Battalion Chief Robert Ginley, whose brother, Lt. John Ginley, was tragically killed on September 11, 2001.



Probationary Firefighter Christopher Little receives a special graduation ceremony during Promotions. He was deployed to Iraq in early June and will miss Proby Graduation.

Becoming Better Leaders

15 graduate from FDNY Officers Management Institute

Fifteen fire and EMS officers graduated from the FDNY Officers Management Institute (FOMI) on May 30 during a ceremony at Headquarters.

Established in 2002, FOMI provides fire and EMS officers with a customized curriculum of leadership and management training, which includes presentations by experts from the corporate community, government and homeland security.

"This program is designed to do exactly what it's doing – enhancing the wealth of information you have received and giving you more tools for the future," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta.

As part of the course, the officers created projects to enhance Department policy and strategy. This year's projects included division based training programs, improved internal communications initiatives, alternative means of transportation for non-priority patients, and improving information and intelligence sharing techniques.

"This year's projects were spectacular," said Chief of Department Salvatore Casano. "You can see the amount of work that went into them."

FOMI is a six-month program offered through Columbia University's Picker Cen-



Fifteen fire and EMS officers graduated from FOMI on May 30.

ter for Executive Education. It is funded by the FDNY Foundation and is taught at Jack Welch Executive Training Center in Crotonville, NY.

"This program taught me how to view myself in a new way ... increased my perspective of the Department as an organization ... and taught me how the Department fits into the larger context, most notably city government," said Deputy Chief James

Donlevy.

This year's class is the program's sixth and was the most diverse in history, including fire chiefs, EMS chiefs and supervising fire marshals.

"I have tremendous admiration for all of you," said Joann Baney, Faculty Director of FOMI. "You are everything they say you are – brave, genuine, real people."

The Ultimate Survivor

Firefighters and rescue medics meet window washer who survived 47-story fall

Do you believe in miracles? If you have met Alcides Moreno, you absolutely do.

On December 7, 2007, Mr. Moreno was working as a window washer for a building on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, when his 16-foot-wide scaffolding gave way and he plunged 47 stories alongside his brother, Edgar.

Although Edgar Moreno died in the accident, Alcides Moreno inexplicably survived the plunge. And on May 14, he and his wife, Rosario, walked into Engine 39/Ladder 16 to meet the firefighters and rescue paramedics who saved his life.

"Thank you, thank you," Mr. Moreno said as he slowly walked across the apparatus floor to greet the FDNY members.

Firefighters Patrick Connolly and Dale McLoughlin, as well as Rescue Paramedics Jose Cruz and Gary Smiley embraced the survivor.

"This is a great day for us because we get to meet you," said Paramedic Smiley. "To have you stand here today is a great gift for us."

Firefighter McLoughlin added, "You are always going to have a place in our hearts."

The firefighters and rescue paramedics described a harrowing scene when they arrived at the accident last winter.

Onlookers were screaming and pointing to an alleyway behind 265 East 66th Street, in the rear of a neighboring six-story building. They said that they found 10 feet of debris, including metal cables and beams from the scaffold that were tangled in the shape of a V.

"I had a hard time understanding how [the pile] was scaffolding," Firefighter McLoughlin said.

As they started to dig through the debris, they found the two men. They said they knew immediately that they would be unable to save Edgar.

"That haunted me for a long time," said Paramedic Smiley.

They found Alcides Moreno crouched, as if he were sitting in the pile, still clutching the scaffold controls. They said they were shocked when they noticed he was trying to breathe.

Firefighter Connolly said that he locked eyes with Mr. Moreno and told him, "We're going to take care of you."

They said the victim tried to stand, but was unable due to the extent of his injuries, which doctors later discovered included



Alcides Moreno (center), the window washer who survived a 47-story fall, with the FDNY members who rescued him. (L to R) FF Keith Rogozinski, FF Justin McNally, Lt. Mike McGevna, Rescue Paramedic Gary Smiley, FF Patrick Connolly, Rescue Medic Jose Cruz, FDNY Dr. Glen Asaeda and FF Dale McLoughlin.

fractured ribs, broken arm and legs, as well as injuries to his chest, abdomen and brain.

They began to move him in small increments "like a fragile egg," knowing that one wrong move could be deadly. They also were concerned about a retaining wall near the scene that had been damaged by the scaffold as it fell.

"We were fighting for his life," said Paramedic Cruz.

After slowly packaging the patient, they loaded him onto an ambulance that rushed him to New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

He underwent multiple surgeries and received 24 pints of blood and 19 pints of plasma.

The FDNY members said they tried a few times to visit him in the hospital, but the medical staff would not allow it due to the serious nature of his injuries.

"He was off-limits to everyone," said Firefighter Connolly. "I was so bummed that we couldn't see him."

Just six weeks after the accident, Mr. Moreno was released from the hospital and

began his grueling physical therapy. He said his back still hurts, but he is happy to have survived for his family, including three children.

"A higher hand was in control here," FDNY Dr. Glenn Asaeda said. "The survival rate even from a 40 foot [approximately four story] fall is not very good."

When the firefighters and rescue paramedics spoke with Mr. Moreno and his wife, he asked many questions about the accident, which he said he does not remember.

The group recounted finding a bucket of still-steaming water on the roof of the high-rise and the shock they all felt when they realized he had survived the 500 foot fall.

After giving Mr. Moreno fire and EMS t-shirts and an FDNY hat, they all noted that every rescue worker on the scene of the accident – from the FDNY to the NYPD – did an incredible job that day.

"To know that you had a hand in this guy's survival, that's all you need," said Paramedic Cruz with a smile.



Victory!: New York's Bravest bested the Finest in the 36th Annual Fun City Bowl football game on June 1 at the James M. Stuart Stadium at Hofstra University, with a score of 17-15. Proceeds from the Fun City Bowl went to FDNY and NYPD charities. The FDNY football team now will travel to Phoenix for their league's Super Bowl.

Firefighter Aids Injured Police Officer

Firefighter Scarfi helps Nassau cop critically injured in car accident

Firefighter Philip Scarfi of Engine 235 said he always stops to help victims of vehicle accidents, but don't expect him to like being called a hero for doing it.

He pulled a Nassau County police officer from an early morning vehicle accident on the Long Island Expressway on May 18.

"I appreciate all the attention but it's not about me," said Firefighter Scarfi on May 19. "I was just in the right place at the right time."

Firefighter Scarfi, a 20-year veteran of the FDNY, was traveling westbound at 5:30 a.m., on his way to his detail at the Fire Safety Education Unit at FDNY Headquarters, when he witnessed the accident on the shoulder of the eastbound side of the expressway.

Nassau County Police Officer Kenneth Baribault had pulled an SUV to the shoulder and was sitting in his police vehicle when another car slammed into his squad car.

Firefighter Scarfi grabbed his first aid kit and rushed to the officer's aid, running across six lanes of traffic.

He used the police radio in the squad car to call for help, saying "I'm a New York City firefighter reporting an officer down."

This, Lt. John Cullen from Engine 235



Firefighter Philip Scarfi of Engine 235 tells a crowd of reporters about his heroic rescue during a press conference at his firehouse in Brooklyn.

said "was a good move. It saved precious time, probably several minutes."

Firefighter Scarfi and another bystander pulled Officer Baribault from the wreckage by the shoulders, making sure to support his head and neck.

Quickly the firefighter, who is a former paramedic and police officer, assessed that the victim was not breathing, but had a pulse. So he began rescue breathing until medical help arrived.

The officer remains in critical condi-

tion at Nassau University Medical Center.

Firefighter Scarfi said was just "paying it forward" from an accident his family experienced in 2000, when a bystander pulled the victims through the car windows.

"I'm not the hero," he said. "The police officer is the hero for putting himself in harms way. Keep Kenny, his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers."



Getting Heart Healthy: In honor of National Stroke Awareness month, members of the FDNY's EMS Operations sponsored a lunchtime wellness fair on May 15 at Headquarters. EMS members also were on hand to test 125 attendees' blood pressure and discuss good health practices. So Chief McFarland told the lunchtime crowd about stroke prevention, symptom recognition and recovery from the condition. He noted that every minute counts, so call 911 as soon as you start feeling the symptoms or go to a hospital that has a stroke center. This is the first of an ongoing series of health and wellness seminars hosted by EMS Operations.

Medal Day

(Continued from page 1)

The top EMS award, the Christopher J. Prescott Medal, was presented to EMTs Shawn Healy and Daniel Rohde of Station 19, who evacuated an apartment building that was on fire in the Bronx on February 9, 2007.

The Chief John J. McElligott Medal/FFs Fitzpatrick and Frisby Award was given to Fire Capt. James Brosi of Division 6. He was detailed to Engine 80 on April 6, 2007, when he crawled past a large volume of fire in a Manhattan apartment to locate and rescue a woman who was trapped.

After receiving his award, Capt. Brosi smiled and said, "Today was great from start to finish. It's been wonderful for my family and for my company; it has been better than I expected."

Members of Ladder 4 won the Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Medal for their work at the Manhattan steam pipe explosion on July 18, 2007. The firefighters saved multiple people who were trapped and injured by the large cloud of steam and debris.

"This is a great source of pride for our



EMTs Shawn Healy and Daniel Rohde from Station 19 are awarded the Christopher J. Prescott Medal.

company," Lt. Stephen Elliott said as he received well wishes from many of his fellow firefighters. "We just feel lucky to be honored."

This year's Jack Pintchik Medal was awarded to Dr. Lincoln Cox, EMS Fellow; EMS Lieutenant Lloyd Arscott and EMT Andre Gonzalez of Station 20; and Paramedics Miguel Angel Flores and

Thomas Monahan, Sr., of 03 Rescue. On December 27, 2007, they saved a 700-pound man in the Bronx with a diabetic condition, who was unable to move due to his dislocated his hip and broken his ankle.

"This was a real experience, it was very unique," said Lt. Arscott.

Paramedic Flores added: "This was a very complicated job, but it's an honor to be [receiving a medal] for it."

The Emily Trevor/Mary B. Warren Medal was awarded to Firefighter Donal F. Finnegan (Ladder 42, detailed to Ladder 55), who saved two children from the tragic Woodycrest Avenue fire on March 7, 2007, just seconds before the room flashed over.

"Many firefighters have won this before me and many will after," he said. "I'm just happy to be a part of it."

Fire Lt. Vincent McMahon, Jr. (Battalion 17, detailed to Engine 92), won the Vincent J. Kane Medal for passing through heavy fire conditions to locate a fire victim in the Bronx and drag him to safety on January 24, 2007.

But when asked about the rescue, he echoed the sentiment of many of the day's winners when he said, "It could have been any one of us. You know you did some good because you saved a life, but I was just doing my job."



Forty-four medals were awarded to FDNY members who went above and beyond the call of duty.

MEDAL WINNERS INCLUDE:

James Gordon Bennett Medal
NYS Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal
Lt. James F. Congema, B-9, L-41 (det)

Brooklyn Citizens Medal/
FF Louis Valentino Award
FF Frank T. Dileo, L-102

Hugh Bonner Medal
FF Gregory M. Leinz, L-33

Emily Trevor/Mary B. Warren Medal
FF Donal F. Finnegan, L-42, L-55 (det)

Thomas E. Crimmins Medal
FF Darren McVeety, L-55

Thomas A. Kenny Memorial Medal
Lt. Michael J. Laurinatitis, L-154

Walter Scott Medal
FF John E. Keenan, L-38

John H. Prentice Medal
FF Christopher H. Deszcz, L-147

Christopher J. Prescott Medal
EMT Shawn Healy, Station 19

EMT Daniel Rhode, Station 19

Henry D. Brookman Medal
FF David J. Giambalvo, L-31

M.J. Delehanty Medal
Lt. Stephen W. Cristello, L-128

William F. Conran Medal
Lt. Richard P. Buckeit, E-249, E-248 (det)

Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia Medal
FF Michael Pfaff, L-107

Chief John J. McElligott Medal/
FFs Fitzpatrick and Frisby Award
Capt. James Brosi, D-6, E-80 (det)

Thomas F. Dougherty Medal
FF Neil P. Malone, E-239

Albert S. Johnston Medal
FF Brian M. Copper, L-156, Sq-270 (det)

Ner Tamid Society/
Franklin Delano Roosevelt Medal
Capt. Gary E. Stanzoni, E-313

Tracy Allen-Lee Medal
Paramedic Jacob W. Dutton, Station 57
Paramedic Joseph Fraiman, Station 57

Third Alarm Association Medal
Capt. Fred Marsilla, D-13, L-134 (det)

Vincent J. Kane Medal
**Lt. Vincent C. McMahan, Jr.,
B-17, E-92 (det)**

Brummer Medal
FF Frederick J. III, R-1

Frank W. Kridel Medal
FF Michael A. Ferrara, L-47

Emerald Society Medal
Capt. Robert E. Collis, E-304

Chief Wesley Williams Medal
FF Salvatore A. D'Iorio, L-102

Holy Name Society Medal (Brooklyn/Queens)
FF Michael T. Columbia, L-2

Hispanic Society Memorial Medal
FF Vincent A. Tavella, Jr., R-2

Chief James Scullion Medal
EMT Omar Quinones, Station 20

EMT Joseph M. Jimenez, Station 20

Captain Denis W. Lane Memorial Medal
FF Timothy K. Lyons, E-254, L-159 (det)

Uniformed Fire Officers Association Medal
Capt. Robert C. Ginley, E-62, L-32 (det)

Dr. Albert A. Cinelli Medal
Lt. John T. Sullivan, L-108

Fire Chiefs Association Memorial Medal
Lt. Sean A. Genovese, Sq-41

Fire Marshals Benevolent Association Medal
FF Steve E. McAnulty, L-43

Community Mayors, Inc./
Lt. Robert R. Dolney Medal
FF Joseph M. Mayer, L-156

Battalion Chief Frank T. Tuttlemondo Medal
FF Michael P. Rhatigan, Sq-1

Dr. John F. Connell Medal
Lt. Daniel McWilliams, B-37, L-107 (det)

Lieutenant Kirby McElhearn Medal
Paramedic Craig C. Roeder, Station 54

Fire Bell Club Medal
FF Steven M. Gillespie, Sq-41

Firefighter David J. DeFranco Medal
FF John R. Rizzo, Marine 1

Lt. James Curran/New York FFs Burn Center
Foundation Medal
Engine 92

Lt. Christopher Reginella
FF Michael Magerle
FF John Hollingsworth
FF Mark Ward
FF Philip Falsone
FF Mathew Ryan Jr.

FF Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Medal
Ladder 4

Lt. Stephen J. Elliott (D-3)
FF Richard P. Kane
FF Kevin J. Seaman
FF Stephen J. Hughes (E-54)
FF Daniel J. Beyrer
FF Timothy M. Garrett

Deputy Commissioner
Christine R. Godek Medal
FM James F. Mills, BFI

Firefighter Kevin C. Kane Medal
Lt. Robert E. Allen, L-13

Captain John J. Drennan Memorial Medal
Lt. Mark D. Gregory, L-111

Jack Pintchik Medal
Dr. Lincoln Cox, EMS Fellow
Lt. Lloyd C. Arscott, Station 20
EMT Andre P. Gonzalez, Station 20
EMT Arron Maus, Station 20
Paramedic Thomas Monahan, Sr., 03 Rescue
Paramedic Miguel Angel Flores, 03 Rescue

EMS WEEK

(Continued from Page 9)

in the field and test how quickly they think on their feet.

And the participants said it worked.

"It was a very true scenario," said EMS Lt. Andria Wetsell of Station 14 in the Bronx. She and her teammates, Paramedics Daryl Morales, Luis Rodriguez and Alvin Suriel grabbed third place for ALS.

"We were nervous, but it went great," said Paramedic Rodriguez.

Many of the teams noted that one of the most challenging elements to the competition was constantly talking with the judges – to learn of statistics such as the patients' blood pressure and breathing rate, something that they do not have to do in real life – and deal with dozens of spectators and camera crews.

But Paramedic Suriel, Station 14's alternate, said the team did a phenomenal job.

"You guys rock," he yelled. "It took just a minute, but once they got going they



Teams of paramedics and EMTs treated three simulated victims in the Annual EMS Competition in Metrotech Commons.

just took off."

The team from Station 4 in Manhattan, including EMS Captain John Weiland, EMT Alexandar Bobo and EMT Peter Molinelli did not place this year, but they said they loved the experience.

"It was totally different than I expected," Captain Weiland said. "I thought it would be a big MCI [multiple casualty incident] but it was just chaos at normal scene."

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Crane collapse:

A crane collapse was reported on the Upper East Side of Manhattan at 8:06 a.m. on May 30. A portion of the crane, located at 333 East 91 Street, collapsed into the building across the street, 354 East 91 Street. More than 200 fire and EMS personnel responded to the scene. Two construction workers were killed in the collapse, including Donald Leo, the son of retired Fire Lt. Donald Leo. Another was critically injured and taken to New York Presbyterian Hospital. One person received minor injuries and was taken to Metropolitan Hospital.



VIEW

POINT

JUNE 2008

NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT

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