



# **FDNY 2014 ADMINISTRATIVE MEDALS & AWARDS**



**Thursday, November 13, 2014  
FDNY Headquarters  
9 MetroTech Center, Brooklyn**



# **FDNY 2014 ADMINISTRATIVE MEDALS & AWARDS**

## **P R O G R A M**

<b>Welcome:</b>	<b>Captain Mark Guerra</b> <i>Master of Ceremonies</i>
<b>Star-Spangled Banner:</b>	<b>Paramedic Robert Berrios</b>
<b>Invocation:</b>	<b>Reverend V. Simpson Turner, Jr.</b>
<b>Remarks:</b>	<b>Daniel A. Nigro</b> <i>Fire Commissioner</i>  <b>James E. Leonard</b> <i>Chief of Department</i>
<b>Presentation of Medals &amp; Awards:</b>	<b>Commissioner Nigro</b> <b>Chief Leonard</b>
<b>Benediction:</b>	<b>Reverend V. Simpson Turner, Jr.</b>

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# FDNY



## **ADMINISTRATIVE MEDALS & AWARDS COMMITTEE 2014**

EDWARD S. KILDUFF  
*Chief of Department (retired)*

JERRY Z. GOMBO  
*Assistant Chief, EMS Operations*

EMS CAPTAIN ELIZABETH CASCIO  
*Executive Officer to the Fire Commissioner*

JOHN A. BENANTI  
*Deputy Commissioner*

DOUGLAS H. WHITE  
*Deputy Commissioner*

DONAY J. QUEENAN  
*Assistant Commissioner*

STEPHEN G. RUSH  
*Assistant Commissioner*

SUZANNE SEBERT  
*Assistant Commissioner*

ROBERT WALLACE  
*Assistant Commissioner*

**Administrative Medals & Awards 2014**



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10007

**Bill de Blasio**

I am honored to welcome everyone to the FDNY's Administrative Medals and Awards Ceremony.

The great tradition of New York City's Fire Department is upheld each day by the courageous men and women who serve and protect the people of our City. Everyday life in New York is made so much better because of this Department. The hard work of uniformed Firefighters and EMS crews would not be possible without the teams of researchers, analysts, inspectors, investigators and others working behind the scenes. These individuals make vital contributions to the safety of our communities, ably facilitating the FDNY's crucial operations and ensuring its personnel is well-prepared to respond to incidents across the five boroughs. Today is a wonderful opportunity to recognize all of the FDNY's outstanding civilian and administrative employees for their excellence and support and I applaud their commitment and important mission to protect their fellow New Yorkers.

On behalf of the City of New York, congratulations to this year's honorees. Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful ceremony and continued success.

*Bill de Blasio*

**Administrative Medals & Awards 2014**



**Daniel A. Nigro**  
**Commissioner**

The work of every FDNY member--uniformed and civilian--is critical to our success. Our mission is to save lives in New York City every single day. When our field units respond to dangerous situations to accomplish that goal, they do so knowing they have the unwavering support of every FDNY administrative employee.

Today, we honor many of our civilians and uniformed members and celebrate the great work they do that contributes to our mission. The civilian and uniformed members working in administrative capacities form the strong foundation that gives our front-line personnel the tools, equipment and apparatus they need to fight fires, effect rescues and provide superior pre-hospital care.

As you read these pages and learn about the outstanding individuals formally being recognized today, you'll be impressed with the breadth and depth of commitment they demonstrate in so many different areas. Just a few examples follow:

- Several members from the Bureau of EMS Operations developed the training curriculum that facilitated FDNY's transition to a mobile solution of providing an electronic health record for patients.
- David C. Ogula, HR Executive Program Specialist/Executive Assistant to the Assistant Commissioner for Human Resources, developed supervisory training programs and lunchtime seminars to promote professional and personal growth within the Department.
- Numerous employees from the Bureau of Uniformed Pensions and Bureau of Technology and Development Systems developed and implemented FDNY's first electronic uniformed pension system, protecting the future for our members.
- Firefighter Kenneth J. DiTata worked on numerous projects that enhance fireground safety, an endeavor paramount to our success.
- Carlos Ramos, Deputy Director of Revenue Management, and Jeremy B. Brooks, Special Projects Coordinator for the Bureau of Facilities, worked extraordinary hours to ensure that FDNY received proper reimbursement for damaged facilities, apparatus and other assets post-Hurricane Sandy, helping the FDNY recover quickly from an unprecedented storm.
- Members from the Fire and EMS Bureaus of Training designed and developed program materials to train FDNY first responders in the use of Intranasal Naloxone, a lifesaving medication.

Heartiest congratulations to all of our members receiving medals and awards today. The entire Department is deeply appreciative of their efforts and dedication.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel A. Nigro". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

**Administrative Medals & Awards 2014**

# ADMINISTRATION MEDAL



## **EMS ELECTRONIC PATIENT CARE REPORT (ePCR) PROJECT**

*Bureau of EMS Operations*

**EMS Lieutenant Kathleen E. Knuth, EMS Lieutenant Evan S. Suchecki,  
Paramedic Brendan F. Ryan, Paramedic Anthony M. Wilkey,  
EMT Nancy C. Castro and EMT Rafael A. Muniz**

*Developed the training curriculum and sought innovative ways to present the ePCR materials in a consistent and systematic manner, providing an electronic health record for patients*

In 2009, Congress signed The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Public Health Service Act was amended to include Health Information Technology and Quality, requiring medical records to be in electronic format by January 1, 2014. FDNY's transition to a mobile solution satisfies the requirement of providing a qualified electronic health record for patients.

Electronic health records improve the quality of health-care provided to patients by promoting the coordination of health care and improving the continuity of care between FDNY EMS and the hospital providers. Additionally, electronic medical records reduce medical errors, duplication of services, improve accuracy and efficiency in billing and assist in maintaining compliance/accountability with HIPAA.

Since the inception of the mobile solution concept, the Operations Mobile Electronic Patient Care Report (ePCR) Team of EMTs Nancy Castro and Rafael Muniz, Paramedics Brendan Ryan and Anthony Wilkey and EMS Lieutenants Kathleen Knuth and Evan Suchecki--all EMS Operations--worked tirelessly in the development of training curriculum, evaluating and refining of teaching modality and sought innovative ways to present the materials in a consistent and systematic manner. EMS Division Chief Sophia Kwok, EMS Operations, served as Project Manager. The team's dedication to providing an effective, polished product has

been vital to end-users' successful operation of the mobile device and software.

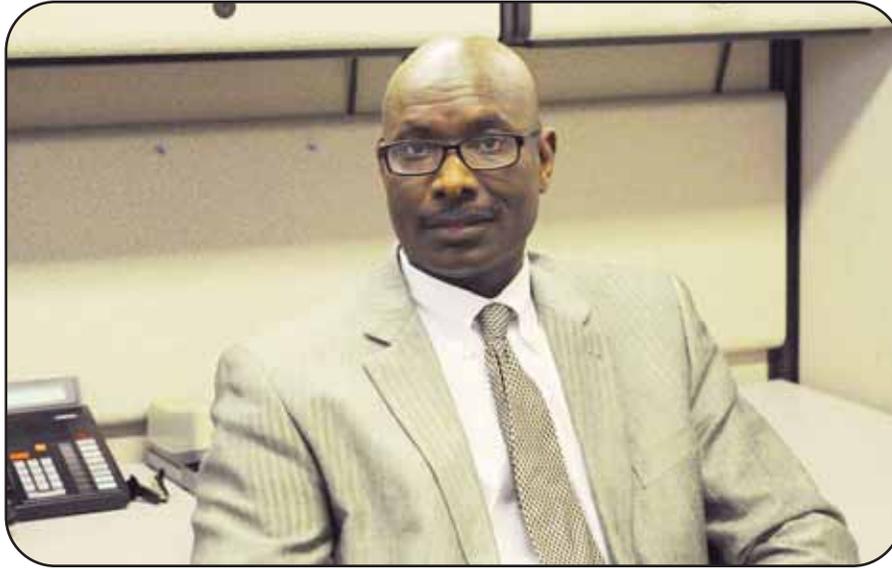
Although the team members are well-informed and experienced, they continue to strive for excellence. They are diligent in their tasks, teachable, demonstrate the ability to learn, remain passionate for resolution and are eager to help.

The roll-out schedule was aggressive. The team remained flexible, accommodating and enthusiastic in keeping up with the training and on-site support, which required members to adjust their tours accordingly and travel to different stations in all areas of the FDNY EMS system.

Their efforts did not stop at the completion of the roll-out. The team continued with field support for all levels of users, including software evaluation, medical device compatibility testing, real-time support and development of educational material for care providers and Division and Supervisor users.

The Administration Medal, established in 1914, encourages uniformed and civilian members of the Department to study Department problems and develop viable solutions. Based upon the criteria for the Administration Medal, it is abundantly clear that the above-mentioned individuals are worthy recipients. And, how fitting it is to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of this Medal with such deserving individuals.

# THE LEON LOWENSTEIN AWARD



**DAVID C. OGULA**

*HR Executive Program Specialist/Executive Assistant to the Assistant Commissioner for Human Resources  
Human Resources*

## ***Developed supervisory training programs and lunchtime seminars to promote professional and personal growth***

**A**s the Executive Assistant, David Ogula fills the multi-faceted role of representing the Assistant Commissioner as required, analyzing and reviewing classification and salary requests and providing recommendations, preparing correspondence and evaluating and addressing sensitive, personnel-related matters.

Mr. Ogula was approached by his superiors regarding standardized supervisory training of civilian personnel. This discussion expanded to project management training and a host of other topics, including the possibility of afternoon lunchtime seminars. Action-oriented by nature, Mr. Ogula began researching the possibilities for implementation of a training program. Within months, a program was being developed with DCAS to provide managers with supervisory training.

The supervisory program now in place provides participants with the opportunity to expand their range of skills, knowledge and abilities to help them succeed in their role as supervisors. Program objectives enable employees to assume their new roles and responsibilities when transitioning from an individual contributor to a supervisory position, develop narrative to set the tone for their tenure as supervisors, adapt an appropriate leadership style for each team member, identify and overcome communication challenges, prepare for difficult conversations that must take place to ensure agency success and create strategies to provide guidance and support for team members.

Seventeen supervisors have completed the training program to date and 100 supervisors were scheduled to attend the

training course through mid-October.

Additionally, Mr. Ogula teamed with DCAS to provide project management training for 42 FDNY managers. The course assisted project managers in guiding an initiative from inception to successful completion. It highlighted how to present projects in PowerPoint and project plans to engage stakeholders. Course objectives enabled attendees to determine project scope and feasibility; sequence, project and establish realistic milestones; build project plans with contingencies for the unexpected; communicate project-related information accurately and effectively; develop a monitoring and control process for cost and resource allocation; and lead and motivate a project team.

This training proved so successful that many managers are looking for part 2 and other managers look forward to attending part 1. Because of the positive results of these programs, Mr. Ogula recruited other HR staff to assist in the development and implementation of a series of monthly lunchtime seminars to promote professional and personal growth, as well as health. To date, seminars including living well with diabetes, relaxation and meditation, as well as emergency preparedness, among others, have been presented.

Mr. Ogula readily accepts each challenge/project as an opportunity to expand his knowledge and aid in the development of others. His personal mission is to engage all FDNY members to be the best that they can be. For his achievements and exemplary attitude, David Ogula is presented with The Leon Lowenstein Award.

## **Administrative Medals & Awards 2014**

# GEORGE F. MAND AWARD



**PHARREAUX NELSON**  
*Director of OSHA*  
*Bureau of Facilities Management*

***Instituted a template to prevent and minimize violence in the workplace and enforced Federal OSHA, PESH and local standards in accessibility and acceptable ergonomics in the work environment***

In 2013, Pharreaux Nelson, Director of the FDNY OSHA Unit, established and implemented the Workplace Violence (WPV) program, which has been mandated for all New York City agencies. The implemented policy is designed to prevent and minimize instances of violence in the workplace between Department employees and those people with whom they come in contact during the course of conducting their assigned tasks.

Mr. Nelson was tasked with the responsibility of coordinating the collaborative efforts of FDNY Legal, with the NYC Law Department, NYS Department of Labor (PESH) and all local unions representing FDNY's work force to develop a WPV protocol beneficial to Fire, EMS and civilian members of the Fire Department.

Given the internal and public dynamics of the Fire Department with both civilian and uniformed staffing, the scope of the program had to be very detailed to ensure that it would work for all FDNY members. This necessitated countless field visits and workplace assessments, information-gathering, discussions with Bureau heads and subordinate members regarding workplace violence concerns and historic issues and statistics to successfully capture the problems faced by all members.

The many days of evaluating various workplaces,

determining factors and situations that may place employees at risk, followed by an implemented prevention program, are critical to ensuring that all members of the Department are accounted for and preventive measures are being facilitated. Mr. Nelson's efforts have given FDNY employees a forum so that their voices can be heard in speaking up against workplace violence.

The committee members review all cases submitted anonymously to determine proper action, thereby protecting the employee from potential harm.

Additionally, Mr. Nelson ensures that all FDNY employees are knowledgeable about job hazards and are properly trained and equipped with the correct personal protection equipment. Unit employees review and manage remediation projects dealing with mold, asbestos or any other bacteria/chemicals that may appear in the workplace to ensure that proper cleanup and disposal are conducted.

In sum, Mr. Nelson is charged with enforcing Federal OSHA, PESH and local standards in accessibility, acceptable ergonomics, standards and workplace violence issues. For handling these responsibilities in such an exemplary manner, the FDNY proudly presents the George F. Mand Award to Pharreaux Nelson.

# CHIEF THOMAS P. O'BRIEN AWARD



**GEORGE L. MUNCH**  
*Fire Alarm Dispatcher*  
*Bureau of Communications*

*Demonstrated great professionalism, competence and effectiveness, while also serving as a role model for other fire alarm dispatchers*

Fire Alarm Dispatcher George L. Munch, in his 35th year of service to the FDNY, long has set a remarkable example of professionalism, competence and effectiveness. Mr. Munch consistently has demonstrated a level of knowledge regarding local geography, Fire Department operations and response policies that are second to none. Throughout his career, Mr. Munch remained “on the platform,” working each tour in the Brooklyn Borough Communications Office, his true home.

Across his four-decade career, Mr. Munch has established himself as one of the FDNY “voices.” His calm, collected and decisive approach to his profession has contributed to countless successful outcomes at fires and other emergencies. You would be hard-pressed to find anyone in the FDNY who can surpass Mr. Munch’s intricate knowledge of the streets, alleys, buildings and uniqueness that is Brooklyn.

On the busier days--such as the Blackout of 2003 and numerous 4th of July night tours--Mr. Munch was responsible for directing apparatus during periods of increased activity that might have overwhelmed less experienced dispatch-

ers. His knowledge directly contributed to the success at countless emergencies.

What makes Mr. Munch an even greater asset to the job goes beyond his knowledge or distinctive voice. It is expressed in his efforts to help ensure the successful development of every newly hired fire alarm dispatcher.

Whether by instructing personnel on the history of the Boxes of Brooklyn or explaining why ladder companies should be given information pertinent to serious fires in a timely manner, Mr. Munch takes the time to make sure all of FDNY’s next generation of dispatchers perform in an admirable manner. His methods have stood the test of time as members of FDNY’s most recent dispatcher class, hired this past spring, are just as inspired by Mr. Munch’s presence and helpful guidance as classes of 10 or 20 years ago.

Based on his service to the FDNY, his compassion and dedication for those with whom he works and his exemplary expression of the values of professionalism, dedication and love for the FDNY Fire Alarm Dispatcher, George L. Munch has earned the Chief Thomas P. O’Brien Award, a fine way to cap off an extremely rewarding career.

# THE FIRE COMMISSIONER'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE



**CARLOS RAMOS**

*Deputy Director of Revenue Management, Bureau of Revenue Management*

**JEREMY B. BROOKS**

*Special Projects Coordinator, Bureau of Facilities*

*Assumed numerous additional responsibilities following Hurricane Sandy to ensure proper FDNY reimbursement for damaged facilities, apparatus and other assets*

Typically, Carlos Ramos, Deputy Director, assists the Director in the overall management and supervision of the Bureau of Revenue Management and directly oversees the preparation and submission of various grants-related billing, such as Department of Homeland Security, ARRA and private grants. He serves as the principal liaison to Bureaus and various oversight agencies on grant spending. In a normal day for Jeremy Brooks, Special Projects Coordinator, he acts as the Department liaison with NYC Landmarks, Public Design Commission and the Department of Buildings. Currently, he is overseeing the Fire Department Overhead Door replacements of Landmarked Firehouses, as well as FEMA reimbursement for FDNY facility damages caused by Hurricane Sandy.

However, "typical days" for them ended on Monday, October 29, 2012, when New York City experienced the biggest storm of the century. Hurricane Sandy did not limit its devastation to private homes and businesses, but also impacted the firehouses, EMS stations and support services buildings. The damage was vast and expensive.

The storm impacted 29 FDNY facilities, more than 600 alarm boxes, more than 100 emergency response apparatus and 1000 pieces of equipment. The Fire Department lost assets worth approximately \$200 million. While the clean-up efforts are complete and FDNY restoration projects close to finished, the assessment and reimbursement for the damages sustained

are far from over.

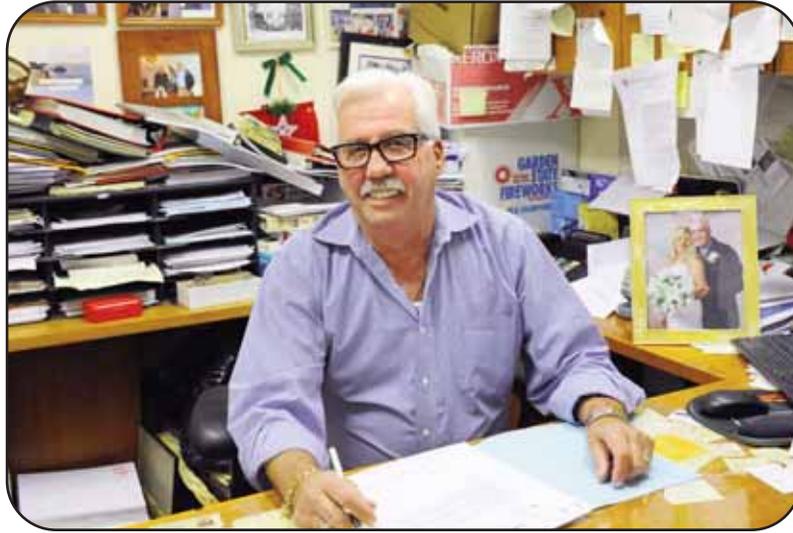
Both Mr. Ramos and Mr. Brooks were tasked with surveying affected sites, tracking invoices from multiple Bureaus--civilian and uniformed--managing contracts for reimbursement, labor hours and calculating reimbursement costs for all pieces of equipment. With countless hours spent with FEMA and other state and federal representatives to compile packages for reimbursement, both assumed a significant increase in daily responsibilities.

In addition to their daily pre-Sandy tasks, the duo tracked all Hurricane Sandy expenditures, documented all purchases and checked timekeeping and payroll records, among other responsibilities. The breadth of the analyses required dictated a significant increase in the workload of Mr. Ramos and Mr. Brooks to accommodate innumerable requests for supporting documentation to validate the claims submitted by FDNY. This exhaustive and ongoing process has been managed successfully thus far, thanks to the collective efforts of these two FDNY employees. The ultimate goal of the very thorough documentation and tracking process is to reimburse the FDNY in excess of \$200 million in losses.

For assuming and expeditiously handling a monumental workload in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, Carlos Ramos and Jeremy Brooks are recognized with The Fire Commissioner's Award for Outstanding Service.

**Administrative Medals & Awards 2014**

# MOE GINSBERG AWARD



**JAMES P. LAUER**

*Manager, Explosives Unit  
Bureau of Fire Prevention*

*Ensured a stellar public safety record during all blasting activity throughout the City*

James Lauer is the Managing Director of the Bureau of Fire Prevention's Explosives Unit. The unit includes seven field inspectors and two clerical personnel. Mr. Lauer has served with the unit since 1989 and has been the manager since 1997. He is responsible for the permitting and oversight of all blasting activity conducted in the City. Additionally, the Explosives Unit also is responsible for witnessing the testing of all explosives that will be used in the City.

As Manager of the Explosives Unit, he also oversees the approval and use of all pyrotechnical special effects and fireworks used throughout the City in stage shows and various public displays, such as the Macy's fireworks display every Fourth of July.

During his time as Manager of the unit, there have been no incidents at blasting sites, fireworks displays or pyrotechnical events in theaters that resulted in injury to a member of the public.

Under his leadership, the Explosives Unit has overseen increasing the depth of the Kill Van Kull Channel into New York Harbor. This project deepened the channel by more than a foot throughout its length. The project is essential to maintaining New York Harbor as one of the busiest and

most productive harbors in the United States. It was essential that the approach be deepened by blasting into the bedrock of the harbor, facilitating transit of the newest generation of "supertankers." The blasting has been ongoing for the past year. There have been no injuries or disruptions to shipping and the unit has received accolades from the U.S. Coast Guard for the tremendous effort and expertise shown.

The Explosives Unit, under Mr. Lauer's direction, also has played key supporting roles in the completion of the new water tunnel for NYC, the largest underground construction project in the world, as well as being intricately involved in other projects throughout NYC, such as the 2nd Avenue Subway Tunnel, the Number 7 Line Extension, numerous new skyscraper buildings and the Eastside Access Tunnel.

The Explosives Unit plays a key role in the economic development of New York City. For the City to remain competitive in the world, it must continue to grow and improve. With its bedrock base, NYC is reliant on blasting. Mr. Lauer's crowning achievement is that so much blasting occurs safely in NYC under his guidance.

And, that is the primary reason why James Lauer is presented with the Moe Ginsberg Award.

# JAMES J. JOHNSTON MEMORIAL MEDAL



**FIREFIGHTER KENNETH J. DITATA**

*Ladder 111*

*Participated in numerous projects that promote and enhance safety on the fireground*

Throughout his 28-year career with the FDNY, FF Kenneth DiTata consistently has demonstrated a desire to improve firefighting operations and promote safety on the fireground. In 2013, FF DiTata worked with the Special Operations Command to help develop the *Rescue Operations Strategic Plan 2014-2016*. This publication serves as a guide to move this group forward efficiently and effectively through an enhanced strategic adaptability to meet the diverse and evolving technical rescue needs of New York City.

In conjunction with the development of this Plan, FF DiTata analyzed and updated the Rescue Operations Response Matrix to various emergencies throughout the City. Following the analysis, resources were reallocated and streamlined to ensure a more efficient and appropriate response to incidents. Additionally, he helped write specifications for the design of Rescue Operations specialty apparatus.

He again demonstrated his commitment to improving and innovating firefighting operational procedures by participating in the development of the new Department standard operating guide, *Firefighting Procedures, Volume I, Book 10--Ventilation*, published in June 2013. Reviews were undertaken to determine how modern construction methods and content fuel load have impacted operations and increased the need to better manage the risks faced when operating at structural fires.

FF DiTata also was instrumental in the creation of a reference manual documenting FDNY firefighting forcible entry procedures. As a result, the *Forcible Entry Reference Guide: Techniques and Procedures* was published in March 2010. The guide highlights proficiency and professionalism for sound

forcible entry techniques.

He was influential in revising AUC 320--*Procedures for Managing Missing, Lost, Trapped, or Seriously Injured Members Requiring Extrication* (currently known as *Firefighting Procedures, Volume 4, Book 1--Managing Incidents Involving Members in Distress, Chapter 2: Firefighter Assist & Search Team--FAST Unit*). Specifically, he participated in the revision and standardization of the Department's procedures for the FAST Unit at fire and emergency operations.

FF DiTata's expertise also was used in the following projects:

- As a member of the Training Advisory Committee, he reviewed Firefighter training curriculums and made recommendations for training baselines at the FDNY Fire Academy.
- Helped develop technology and training curriculum for the FDNY Flashover Simulator at the FDNY Fire Academy.
- Helped develop DiamondPlate electronic training curriculums for the Firefighting Procedures--Ventilation and Training Bulletins--Search.
- Participated in curriculum development and currently is an instructor for the Vehicle Extrication Mobile Training program.
- Assisted with development of the disaster training curriculum and equipment purchasing for the air/rail grant. This training and equipment prepares Rescue Operations to respond to air and rail accidents and terrorism incidents.

Throughout his career, FF Kenneth DiTata has proved his deep commitment to improving the FDNY. For his achievements, he is awarded the 2014 James J. Johnston Memorial Medal.

**Administrative Medals & Awards 2014**

## HONORARY CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT JACK LERCH MEDAL



**VICTOR A. HOLDORF**  
*Deputy Director for Administration  
Bureau of Fleet Services*

*Employed his administrative and supervisory skills to help oversee a complex fleet of vehicles, as well as handle the acquisition and delivery of more than 700 new pieces of apparatus and support vehicles*

Victor Holdorf serves as the Deputy Director for Administration for the Bureau of Fleet Services. In this capacity, he is responsible for the planning of the Bureau's capital and expense budgets, managing all Bureau personnel actions, supervising and troubleshooting internal computer applications (including the City's Fleet Focus data base), as well as the Bureau's graphics program for front-line vehicles, and supervising those who oversee the Bureau's administrative staff.

The City's 2011 report on fleet consolidation noted that the Fire Department does not have the largest fleet in the City. However, this report did note that the agency has the most complex and costliest fleet to maintain. Moreover, since 2000, FDNY's fleet has grown by more than 20 percent. While the maintenance and repair of this larger, more complex fleet is a daunting task, the "behind the scenes" work to acquire these vehicles is extremely complicated and arduous.

Fortunately for the Fire Department, the Bureau of Fleet

Services entrusted this function to its Deputy Director for Administration, Mr. Holdorf. This past year, Mr. Holdorf has been the agency's point person in the acquisition and delivery of more than 700 new pieces of apparatus including, but not limited to, 91 pumpers, 25 tower ladders, 54 rear-mounts, 11 tillers, five rescue units, seven squad units, seven high-pressure pumpers, 24 command vehicles, 273 ambulances and more than 200 sedan and support vehicles.

The capability of Mr. Holdorf in managing this tremendous level of activity is remarkable as he was required to develop approximately 50 Office of Management and Budget (OMB)-required Certificates to Proceed (CPs) and approximately 100 purchase orders with a total value of more than \$120 million.

Recognizing his administrative and supervisory skills, which translate to outstanding service for the Bureau of Fleet Services, Victor Holdorf is awarded the Honorary Chief of Department Jack Lerch Medal.

# THE HONORARY FIRE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION MEDAL



**CAPTAIN BERNARD C. CORNELL**  
*Operations Officer*  
*Fire Academy, Bureau of Training*

*Worked tirelessly to improve training and infrastructure at the Fire Academy*

The Honorary Fire Officers Association Medal, established in 1994, is awarded to a uniformed member assigned or detailed to the Fire Academy, whose administrative contributions are such that they improved the Department's ability to carry out its mission or its services to the public.

Captain Bernard C. Cornell, Bureau of Training, is just such a person. He has held the position of Operations Officer at the Fire Academy for five years. In that time, the Captain has worked tirelessly to improve training and infrastructure at the Fire Academy. Thanks in large part to Captain Cornell's efforts, the Fire Academy runs with unparalleled efficiency.

In his capacity as Operations Officer at Randall's Island, Captain Cornell runs the day-to-day operations of the Fire Academy. He interacts with field units, other fire departments, City, state and federal agencies and even international visitors to *The Rock*. He is charged with ensuring

that FDNY units and other departments have what is needed for training.

Additionally, Captain Cornell is instrumental in planning and steering the yearly FDNY/Fire Foundation Symposium. This particular responsibility is one that especially enhances the Department's reputation and outreach.

He also assists with construction projects around the Fire Academy. The props created by these construction projects are powerful and realistic training tools that have greatly improved Firefighter and EMS training.

Captain Cornell's commitment is a major reason why the Fire Academy boasts such a high quality of training. With his unwavering devotion to improving training and the safety of Department members, he has enhanced the FDNY's ability to carry out its mission.

For his dedication to making the Fire Academy the best training facility it can be, Captain Bernard C. Cornell is presented with The Honorary Fire Officers Association Medal.

# COMMUNITY MAYORS NICHOLAS DeGAETA AWARD



## UNIFORMED PENSIONS UNIT STAFF

### *Bureau of Uniformed Pensions and Bureau of Technology & Development Systems*

**Mary E. Basso**, Director of Uniformed Pensions; **Albert Connolly**, Deputy Director of Uniformed Pensions; **Angel G. Garcia**, Chief Accountant/Assistant Deputy Director; **Murray Rosen**, Accountant; **Doreen A. Spinelli**, Loans & Life Insurance Supervisor; **Sheree M. Robateau**, Loans & Life Insurance Processor; **Timica Wilson**, Buyback/Finalization Supervisor; **Dean A. Campbell**, Buyback/Finalization Assistant; **Stephen E. Brown**, Retirement Counseling Supervisor; **Randal P. Shaw**, Retirement Application Processor; **Natalia Zorina**, Transfer/Partials Supervisor; **Debra Person**, Administrative Assistant; **Barbara A. Mollica**, Associate Retirement Benefits Examiner & Pension Seminar Coordinator; **Jason (Yat-Wee) Cheng**, Deputy Director, Programming, BTDS; **Zemfira Shapiro**, Computer Specialist, BTDS; **Shakir Gusaroff**, Computer Specialist, BTDS; **Sam Feldman**, Computer Specialist, BTDS; **Ching Wah Tsang**, Database Administrator, BTDS; **Sarath Suragana**, Application Administrator, BTDS; and **Wen Q. Tian**, Application Administrator, BTDS

### *Developed and implemented FDNY's first electronic uniformed pension system*

**D**uring the past three years, staff members of the Bureau of Uniformed Pensions and the Bureau of Technology & Development Systems (BTDS) have worked tirelessly to develop the new Electronic Uniformed Pension System (e-UPS). This project involved the development of an Oracle web-based application to replace the existing UNISYS mainframe COBOL pension system that was comprised of various antiquated data bases.

Under the direction of Mary Basso, Albert Connolly and Jason Cheng, the project team was responsible for the requirements gathering process and developing and reviewing the functional specifications to ensure all required changes were implemented. The project team worked with consultants to develop the system architecture and technical specifications. Together, the project team designed, developed and tested various modules--such as Pension Statements, Pension Desktop that is used for pension estimates, Actuary Valuations, Loans and Member Services--as well as the creation of various forms and reports.

Partial pension payments and finalizations now are automated in e-UPS, which provides a streamlined, efficient and

accurate process. In May 2013, the Bureau of Uniformed Pensions and BTDS successfully issued the first electronic uniformed pension statement.

Additionally, uniformed members now are able to log in to a web-based application that provides current pension account information. This self-service application empowers uniformed members to access account contribution balances, pension account details, loan information, beneficiary information and the ability to run estimates of the service retirement allowance based on future dates, salaries and overtime, as well as computing the cost of options.

Due to the efforts of this dedicated project team, the Department successfully implemented the Electronic Uniformed Pension System. Moving forward, the initiative will be continued, striving to upgrade systems and enhance the services provided to uniformed members.

For developing and implementing the new Electronic Uniformed Pension System (e-UPS), the FDNY is pleased to present the above-mentioned people with the Community Mayors Nicholas DeGaeta Award.

## Administrative Medals & Awards 2014

# COMMISSIONER MARTIN SCOTT MEDAL



**FIRE MARSHAL ANTHONY W. KOTOWICZ**

*Citywide South Command  
Bureau of Fire Investigation*

*Investigated an arson fire at a commercial establishment with three floors of occupied apartments above, resulting in the arrest and indictment of the two people responsible for this crime*

**F**ire Marshal Anthony Kotowicz has been with the FDNY for 12 years. He was promoted to the rank of Fire Marshal in 2012 and in just a short time, has distinguished himself as a highly motivated member of the Bureau of Fire Investigation (BFI).

Fire Marshal Kotowicz is responsible for conducting a broad range of investigations related to fire and arson. A typical day for him might include the following activities: conducting forensic examinations of fire scenes to determine the origin and cause of fires; identifying and collecting fire scene evidence; interviewing witnesses and victims; interrogating suspects; effecting summary arrests; preparing and serving subpoenas; evaluating documents, insurance policies and bank records; applying for and executing search and arrest warrants; developing sources of information; deploying and controlling confidential informants; conducting electronic surveillance; preparing investigative reports; and providing expert testimony in court.

FM Kotowicz demonstrated his unwavering standard of excellence and dedication to duty during the investigation of

a Brooklyn arson fire that took place on May 8, 2013, at 0323 hours. The target was a commercial establishment with three floors of occupied apartments above.

The outstanding efforts put forth by FM Kotowicz, operating with other members of the BFI, resulted in the arrest and indictment of the two individuals responsible for this violent crime. His work reinforces a powerful message--to both the public and potential offenders--that the Fire Department will use all lawful means to apprehend those who challenge the safety and security of the citizens of New York City and the Firefighters of the FDNY.

Since 1967, the Commissioner Martin Scott Medal is awarded to a member of the Bureau of Fire Investigation for distinguished service and display of unusual initiative, resourcefulness and capability in the investigation of arson and the apprehension of a perpetrator. FM Kotowicz has lived up to these standards. With these guidelines in mind, the Commissioner Martin Scott Medal is awarded to Fire Marshal Anthony Kotowicz.

# THE FIRE COMMISSIONER'S AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE



## **NALOXONE TRAINING STAFF**

*Fire and EMS Bureaus of Training*

*EMS Captain Cesar A. Escobar; EMS Lieutenant Farooq H. Muhammad; EMS Lieutenant Ronald G. Grubert; EMT Steven Negrón; Battalion Chief Leonard Roe; Battalion Chief Michael J. Kendall, IMT; Captain Steven Berube, IMT; Captain Thomas E. Smith, IMT; Captain Joseph Cavanagh, IMT; Lieutenant Patrick J. Keegan, IMT; Lieutenant John R. Driscoll; and Captain Todd C. Heaney*

*Designed and developed program materials to train FDNY first responders in the use of Intranasal Naloxone, a lifesaving medication*

In March 2014, a major CFR and EMT protocol change was announced requiring the FDNY to train all of its CFR- and EMT-certified rescuers in the use of Intranasal Naloxone. This medication had been used in the past by FDNY Paramedics to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose and now would be available to more responders in order to save lives.

Target date for field implementation was July 1, 2014. In less than one month, EMS Captain Cesar A. Escobar, EMS Lieutenant Farooq H. Muhammad and EMT Steven Negrón designed and developed the training program materials, which included training videos, PowerPoint presentation, handouts and program objectives, for both the CFR- and EMT-level members. The training curriculum was thorough with many objectives.

Due to such a pressing deadline, implementation and delivery of this program required a multi-level, unified approach. Captain Escobar and Battalion Chief Leonard Roe coordinated all the needed training material, personnel and equipment necessary to quickly conduct multiple “train the trainer” sessions for EMS and Fire instructors. This was required in order to have a large number of training teams to conduct the training for thousands of CFR and EMT personnel in a short period of time.

The Incident Management Team (IMT), led by Captains Steven Berube, Thomas E. Smith and Joseph Cavanagh, assumed the responsibility of scheduling weekend classes and instruction for the CFR Firefighters, as well as the coordination of the logistics necessary to successfully conduct the training.

On April 2, 2014, training began City-wide and continued daily. EMS Lieutenant Ronald Grubert was assigned to track all training activity and developed a data base that accurately kept the Department updated on the number of EMTs and CFR personnel trained.

By July 1, 2014, more than 7000 CFRs and EMTs had received training in the use of this lifesaving medication. The outstanding, open communication among Captain Escobar, Chief Roe and the IMT throughout the entire process propelled the project to successful, on-time completion.

Already, several lives have been saved by CFR engine companies and FDNY EMTs as a result of this training. A true example of *Together, we save lives.*

For their dedication in seeing this lifesaving project through to fruition, the above-named and deserving individuals are presented with The Fire Commissioner's Award for Meritorious Service.

# THE FIRE COMMISSIONER'S AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE



**BATTALION CHIEF JOHN F. REGAN**  
*Bureau of Operations*

*Ensured that all facilities were in compliance with applicable codes and laws for the safe and legal occupancy of children who enrolled in City Hall's Universal Pre-K Initiative*

The FDNY Bureau of Operations was charged with the duties and responsibilities of collaborating with City Hall on the Universal Pre-K Initiative. The objective was to ensure that all existing schools, community-based occupancies and buildings were in compliance with all applicable codes and laws for the safe and legal occupancy of children who would enroll in one of these schools and programs under this initiative in September 2014.

This effort involved months of planning with many City agencies, including the Departments of Buildings, Health, Design and Construction and Education, as well as City Hall personnel. Battalion Chief John F. Regan was the Operations point person with this effort and he assumed the leadership role in attending all of these meetings.

In this capacity, he assembled and supervised the required Fire Department Operations Inspection Teams throughout the five boroughs, contacted the owners and agents of these schools to arrange Fire Department inspec-

tions, kept the Department informed and updated with information on the City Hall Pre-K Initiative as necessary and collaborated with the Bureau of Fire Prevention in coordinating the collection, recording and sharing of inspections data with the Department of Health and City Hall.

During his detail to Operations, Chief Regan has been involved in handling a variety of important and critical operations and administrative projects. His focus is always on improving the efficiencies of the Department, from his work in developing the 10-35 application to the relationships he's built with leading academic institutions, including the Wharton Business School and Pratt University.

Chief Regan has been a positive influence and resource in Operations for the past five years and the FDNY for the past 25 years. Today, Battalion Chief John F. Regan is recognized for those successes as he is presented with The Fire Commissioner's Award for Meritorious Service.

# THE FIRE COMMISSIONER'S AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE



**RYAN D. ZIRNGIBL**

*Data Scientist*

*Management Initiatives*

*Identified new and innovative uses of data, particularly how data can be used to enhance fire operations, and re-designed FireCast, a risk-prediction algorithm to identify buildings with the greatest risk of fire*

**A**s a data scientist for Management Initiatives, Ryan Zirngibl is responsible for identifying new and innovative uses of data throughout the FDNY; in particular, for fire operations. He develops data analysis methodologies to enhance operations and inform policy.

Mr. Zirngibl's efforts were pivotal in the redesign of FireCast, which has gained local and national attention. Day in and day out for eight months, he diligently worked on the artificial intelligence program to make FireCast the most advanced system of its kind. While it doesn't quite predict the future, FireCast does provide an impressively accurate estimation of the likelihood of a fire occurring in a given building on a given day.

FireCast is a risk-prediction algorithm that identifies buildings with the greatest risk of fire. Employing a greater degree of data-sharing, FireCast 2.0 uses the data from a range of City agencies to find patterns that tie 60

geographic and building characteristics to previous fires. Now, FDNY can estimate the probability that a fire will occur, based on a building's structural and neighborhood profile.

During the past year, Mr. Zirngibl coordinated a task force targeting efforts that led to more than 30,000 inspections, in addition to all other building inspections conducted.

The Fire Commissioner's Award for Meritorious Service, which was established in 1994, is awarded to individuals or groups selected for distinguished service, superior accomplishment, performance of duties, innovation and commitment to the Department's mission to provide citizens with vital public safety services.

Ryan Zirngibl's recent accomplishments make him deserving of receiving The Fire Commissioner's Award for Meritorious Service.

# THE FIRE COMMISSIONER'S AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE



**STACEY Y. BANKS**

*Project Manager*

*Bureau of Communications*

***Coordinated and monitored ECTP-related information and ensured adequate support of day-to-day Emergency Dispatch Operations***

The Emergency Communications Transformation Program (ECTP) and planned implementation of a new FDCAD system is one of the FDNY's most ambitious initiatives in decades, one that will impact the Department for decades to come. The Bureau of Communications (BOC) currently is working toward moving its Dispatch Operations into a newly built Public Safety Answering Center, PSAC2, the proper functional development of a new CAD system, developing new training criteria and curriculum and planning for change to current work flow, while maintaining proper performance levels of its Emergency Dispatch Operations.

As a BOC Project Manager, Stacey Banks' responsibilities include coordinating and monitoring various complex ECTP Project-related information. Additionally, she helps identify issues that impact on day-to-day BOC activities and assists in the development and implementation of subsequent new methodologies in change management.

Ms. Banks has been a member of the FDNY for nine years. She brings the values of hard work, along with a sense of responsibility, progress and positive attitude to every aspect of her duties. Prior to becoming part of the Bureau of Communications Project Management, Ms. Banks was an FDNY EMT in the Bronx and worked as an EMD Assignment Receiving Dispatcher. This experience in EMS and EMD has served her well, enabling her to excel in her role as a BOC's Project Manager.

She continues to demonstrate her ability to quickly learn and adapt to the complexities of the ECTP and identify poten-

tial short- and long-term effects on Fire and Emergency Medical Dispatch Operations. Regardless of any project activities in which BOC personnel participate, the primary responsibility is to ensure adequate support of day-to-day Emergency Dispatch Operations.

Ms. Banks has been instrumental in helping to reorganize the BOC ECTP Project office and structure project activities in such a way that allows dispatch personnel to support the critical nature of day-to-day operations, while participating in a host of varied project activities.

While diligently performing her regular duties, Ms. Banks also participated in months of detailed analysis and development of new BOC procedures for progressive and modernized methods to help ensure an orderly distribution and retrieval of complex project-related information and any potential effects on day-to-day operations. These new methods will support the monumental task of migrating FDNY Dispatch Operations to a new CAD system. By combining her EMS/EMD knowledge and project management skills, Ms. Banks has played a key role in the Bureau's ability to support the planning, managing and coordinating of new business processes.

Throughout the performance of her duties, Ms. Banks continues to raise the bar for excellence. She elicits respect, interest and enthusiasm. Her diligence, dedication and positive attitude are the definition of what it means to be a member of the FDNY. For these attributes, Stacey Banks is presented with The Fire Commissioner's Award for Meritorious Service.

**Administrative Medals & Awards 2014**

# EMS EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH (EMD) COMMENDATION



**EMT AMANDA TORRISI**

*Emergency Medical Dispatch, Bureau of Communications*

*Exhibited great skills and knowledge of EMD, parlaying those attributes as part of the EMD training staff, as well as assisting with daily administration*

**E**MT Amanda Torrissi is a member of the Emergency Medical Dispatch Operations staff. She is an APCO-certified Emergency Medical Dispatcher, in addition to being a member of the EMD training staff. She assists with the administrative operation at EMD on a daily basis and plays a major role in the maintenance of daily reports and special projects as needed and directed.

EMT Torrissi is a valued member of the EMD staff. Most recently, she participated in the lengthy and labor-intensive Relay Project. She assists in the coordination of investigations and paperwork on a daily basis.

In addition to her administrative functions, EMT Torrissi remains an active dispatcher and mentor to the new members of the Division. She has a positive impact on multiple projects that directly affect the well-being of patients requesting emergency medical assistance through the 911 system.

EMT Torrissi joined the ranks of New York City per-

sonnel as a member of the Emergency Medical Service in 1986. Originally, she was assigned to the Bureau of Communications before completing her certifications as a Paramedic and transferring to a field assignment. Her path since has returned her back to EMD, where she routinely worked as a City-wide dispatcher. Because of her skills and knowledge of EMD, she was requested to assist on staff.

EMT Torrissi is enthusiastic and passionate about her career. She is dedicated, diligent and highly committed to her profession.

The Bureau of Communications Emergency Medical Dispatch Commendation is awarded at the discretion of the Assistant Commissioner for the Bureau of Communications to any Emergency Medical Dispatch member who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the mission and the objectives of the Bureau. Therefore, EMT Amanda Torrissi has been chosen to receive the EMS Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Commendation.

# EMS OFFICE OF MEDICAL AFFAIRS (OMA) DR. JOHN E. SHERIDAN COMMENDATION



**PARAMEDIC MICHAEL E. ROMPS**

*Division 4*

*Bureau of EMS Operations*

*Demonstrated his dedication as a pre-hospital medical care professional, handling the day-to-day coordination of advanced life support services within EMS Division 4*

Paramedic Michael E. Romps exemplifies the pre-hospital medical care professional. Starting his career in October 1989, Paramedic Romps began as an Emergency Medical Technician, assigned to the Elmhurst Station in western Queens. Following several years of experience in the field, he applied and was accepted to the Paramedic Basic program in 1991 and graduated in June 1992.

Following graduation, Paramedic Romps returned to his roots in western Queens and worked as a Paramedic through 1997, when he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Though he scored exceptionally well on the exam and was considered an asset to the Officer ranks, he felt disconnected from what he loved and needed to be directly involved with patient care, supporting not only his patients as their advocate, but his peers, through mentoring and support. Requesting a voluntary demotion, he returned to Queens as a Paramedic to continue his work as a pre-hospital care provider.

In March 2008, Paramedic Romps was selected by the Division 4 Commander to fulfill the prestigious role of Division

ALS Coordinator. As one of only five Paramedics in this City-wide assignment, Paramedic Romps assumed responsibility for the day-to-day coordination of advanced life support services within the Division. In this role, Paramedic Romps coordinates the assignment of all Paramedic members, tracks the internships of all new members (ALS and BLS) in the Division, oversees equipment management and distribution for ALS resources and functions as the Division 4 liaison to the Office of Medical Affairs and the Division 4 Medical Director.

Concurrently, Paramedic Romps is personally responsible for the management of all equipment and assets for the Dignitary Protection Unit.

The Dr. John E. Sheridan Commendation is presented to an EMS member who epitomizes the enthusiasm, motivation and dedication of a true professional. Paramedic Michael Romps is the very definition of this commendation; well-respected by his peers and supervisors alike.

## FDNY ADMINISTRATIVE MEDALS/AWARDS--2014

### ADMINISTRATION MEDAL (ESTABLISHED 1914)

This award encourages uniformed and civilian members of the Department to study Department problems and develop viable solutions. Awarded to a member whose ideas and experience have proved to benefit the Fire Department. Established by former Fire Commissioner Robert Adamson "in order that the Fire Department may have the benefit of the ideas of its trained Officers and men."

### THE LEON LOWENSTEIN AWARD (ESTABLISHED 1962)

Awarded to a member of the Department who has performed exceptional service for the Department, in recognition of outstanding contribution and devotion to duty. Established by John M. Bendheim in memory of his uncle, Leon Lowenstein.

### GEORGE F. MAND AWARD (ESTABLISHED 1966)

Awarded to a Department member whose services during the prior calendar year led to the improvement of Fire Department services. Developing and coordinating work techniques, resourcefulness, assumption of responsibility and effectiveness of accomplishments are considered when making this award. Established by the late Bertram F. Brummer and his wife, Susie.

### CHIEF THOMAS P. O'BRIEN AWARD (ESTABLISHED 1967)

This award is presented annually to a deserving civilian member of the Bureau of Fire Communications. Established by Thomas A. Coleman (deceased) in memory of former Assistant Chief-in-Charge of the Bureau of Fire Communications, Thomas P. O'Brien.

### THE FIRE COMMISSIONER'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE (ESTABLISHED 1971)

Rewards an FDNY member who performs acts above and beyond the call of duty. Established by a group of prominent New York City business people and friends of the FDNY.

### MOE GINSBERG AWARD (ESTABLISHED 1975)

Presented to a deserving civilian member of the Bureau of Fire Prevention in honor of Moe Ginsberg, former Senior Management Consultant in the Bureau of Fire Prevention and dedicated member of the fire service. Established by George Kelly (retired FDNY).

### JAMES J. JOHNSTON MEMORIAL MEDAL (ESTABLISHED 1984)

Presented to a Fire Department member who has contributed significantly to the Department in the areas of fire extinguishing operational procedures, fire prevention programs and recognizing and reporting defects in design and construction practices. Established by the friends of Chief Johnston, in recognition of the devotion and loyalty with which he served.

### HONORARY CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT JACK LERCH MEDAL (ESTABLISHED 1989)

Presented to a uniformed or civilian member of the Bureau of Fleet Services for outstanding service. This medal was endowed by Mrs. Roberta Lerch to honor her husband, Honorary Chief of Department Jack Lerch.

### THE HONORARY FIRE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION MEDAL (ESTABLISHED 1994)

Awarded to a selected uniformed member assigned or detailed to the Fire Academy, whose administrative contributions are such that they improve the Department's ability to carry out its mission or improve the delivery of Department services to the public.

### COMMUNITY MAYORS NICHOLAS DeGAETA AWARD (ESTABLISHED 1994)

Presented to a group or individual who demonstrates the commitment to excellence and persistence of duty, valued and exhibited by Mr. Nicholas DeGaeta, in meeting the Department's mission. This award was established by the New York State Community Mayors in honor of Mr. DeGaeta, a retired Firefighter and highly decorated World War II veteran.

### COMMISSIONER MARTIN SCOTT MEDAL (ESTABLISHED 1967)

Established by Thomas A. Coleman (now deceased), Honorary Fire Commissioner, in honor of former Commissioner Martin Scott. Awarded annually to a member of the Bureau of Fire Investigation for distinguished service and a display of unusual initiative, resourcefulness and capability in the investigation of arson and the apprehension of a perpetrator.

### THE FIRE COMMISSIONER'S AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE (ESTABLISHED 1994)

Awarded to individuals or groups selected for distinguished service, superior accomplishment, performance of duties, innovation and commitment to the Department's mission to provide citizens with vital public safety services.

### EMS EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH COMMENDATION (ESTABLISHED 2004)

The Bureau of Communications Emergency Medical Dispatch Commendation is awarded at the discretion of the Assistant Commissioner for the Bureau of Communications to any Emergency Medical Dispatch member who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the mission and the objectives of the Bureau.

### EMS OFFICE OF MEDICAL AFFAIRS (OMA) (ESTABLISHED 2004), renamed in 2007, posthumously, as DR. JOHN E. SHERIDAN COMMENDATION

Presented to an EMS member who epitomizes the enthusiasm, motivation and dedication of a true professional, Dr. John E. Sheridan, who joined EMS in 1993 as a Telemetry Control Physician.

## FDNY MISSION STATEMENT

**A**s first responders to fires, public safety and medical emergencies, disasters and terrorist acts, the FDNY protects the lives and property of New York City residents and visitors. The Department advances public safety through its fire prevention, investigation and education programs. The timely delivery of these services enables the FDNY to make significant contributions to the safety of New York City and homeland security efforts.

## CORE VALUES OF THE DEPARTMENT

### ■ SERVICE

The Department continues its unwavering call to protect and serve.

### ■ BRAVERY

Courage is the foundation of our character. Bravery is the ability to overcome fear through fortitude, instinct, compassion for others and training.

### ■ SAFETY

Our citizens must be reasonably free from danger, especially deliberate, harmful acts. With the best equipment and training, the Department can reduce the risk to the public and its members at fires, emergencies and medical incidents.

### ■ HONOR

The enormous commitment necessary to perform the Department's tasks requires excellence of character. We inspire each other through pride in our unit, which is a belief that every action reflects on all the members of the unit, both past and present.

### ■ DEDICATION

A commitment to the objectives of our mission is an essential part of our code of conduct. The faithful observance of duty calls for us to fulfill our obligations professionally and honestly.

### ■ PREPAREDNESS

By combining all the components of our core values, the FDNY will maintain its constant state of readiness to meet all threats and challenges, traditional and new.

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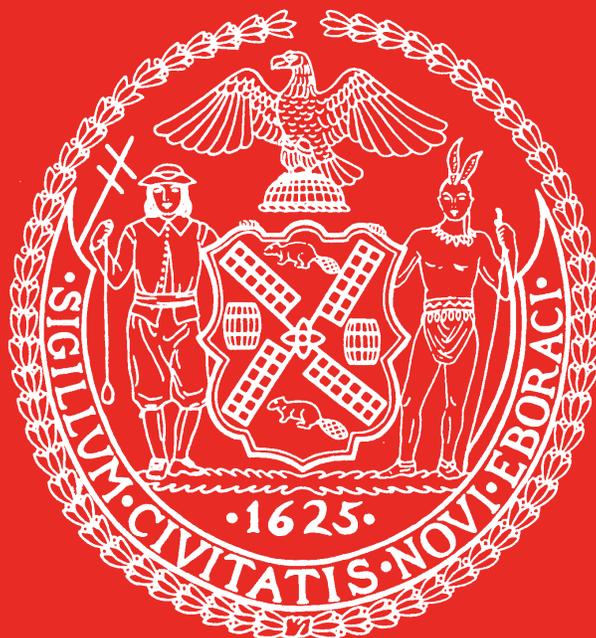
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**Administrative Medals & Awards 2014**





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