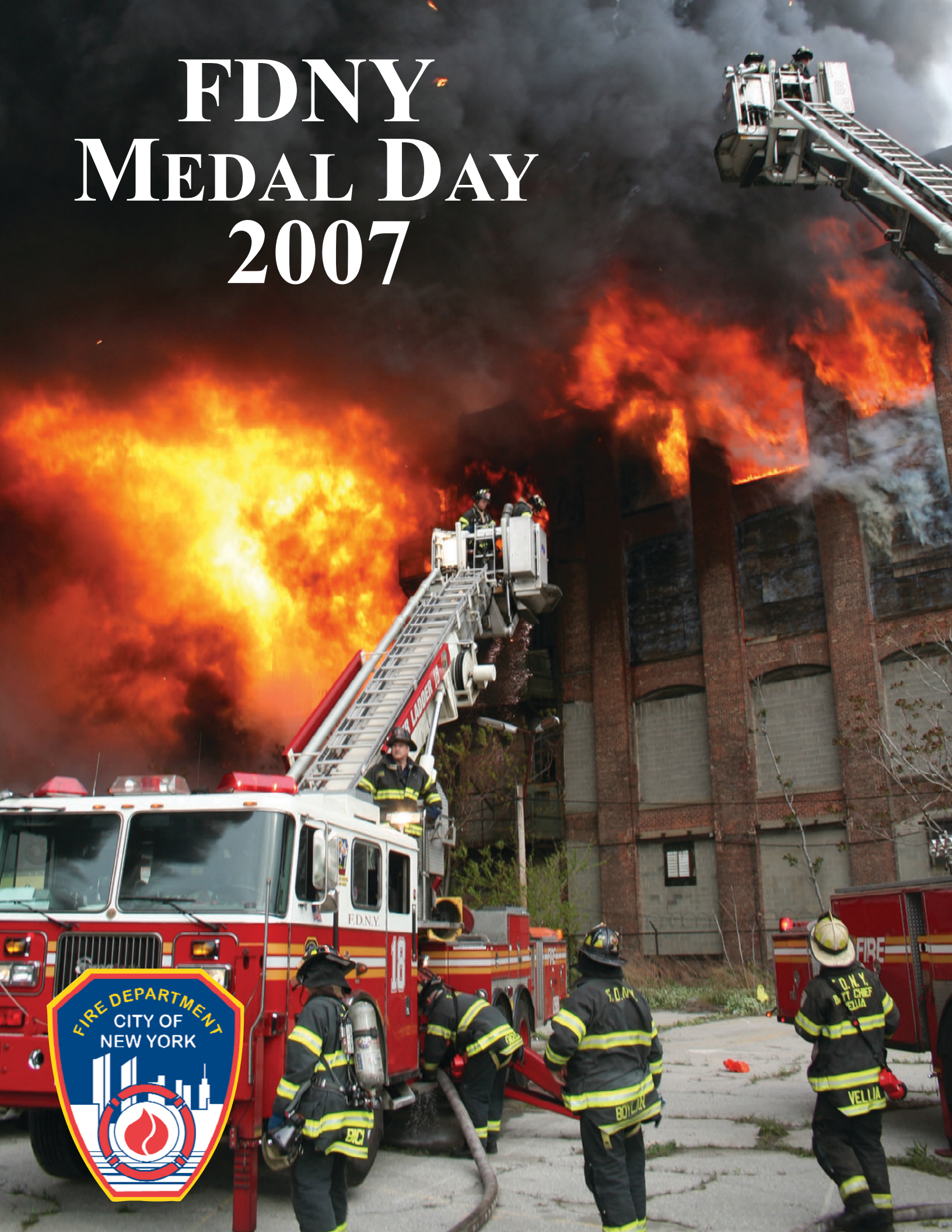
FDNY Medal Day 2007



FIRE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF
NEW YORK

New York's Bravest

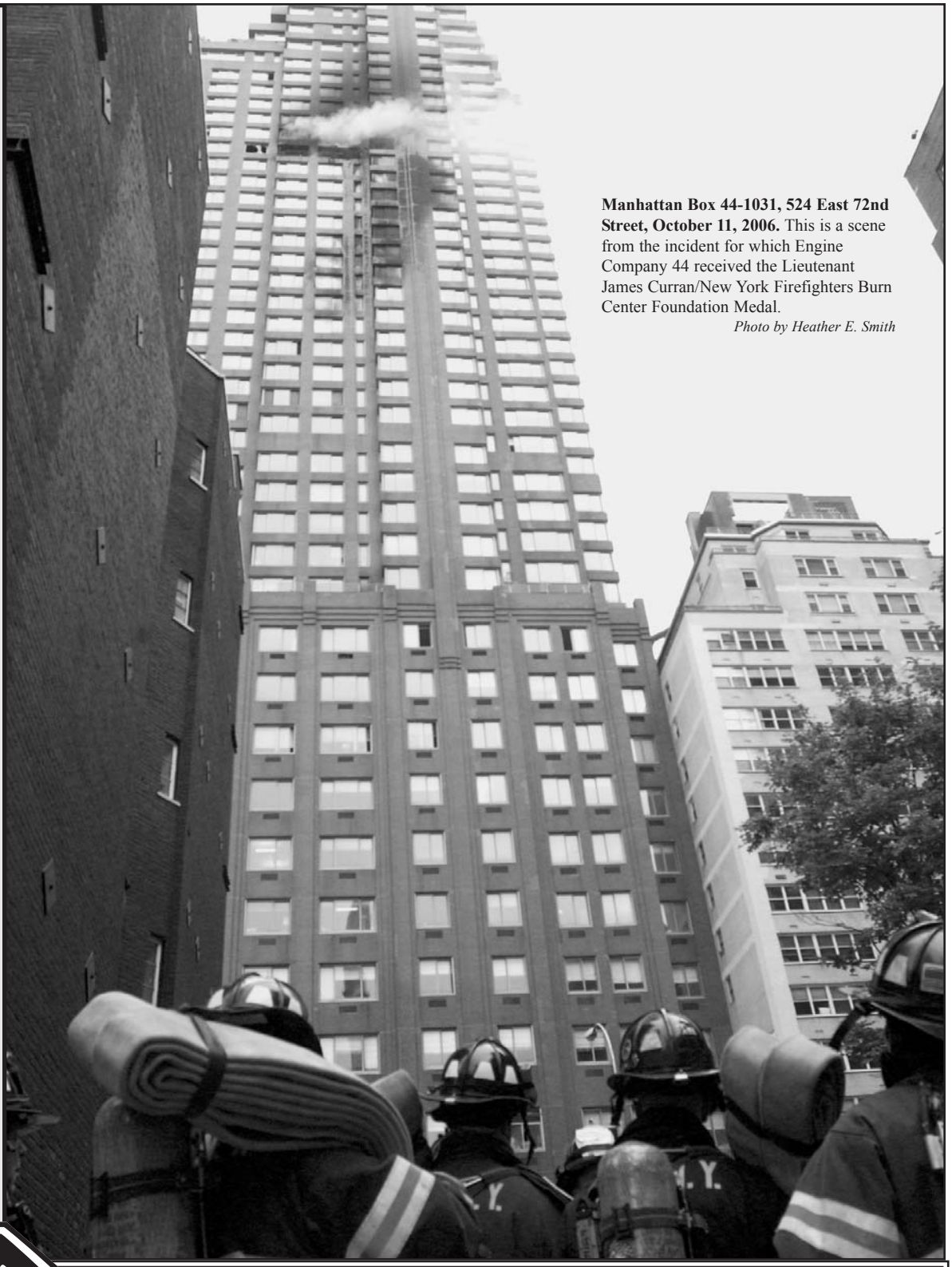
Proudly Serving Since 1865

Fire Department, City of New York

Michael R. Bloomberg, *Mayor*
Nicholas Scoppetta, *Fire Commissioner*
Salvatore J. Cassano, *Chief of Department*

9 MetroTech Center
Brooklyn, New York 11201
www.nyc.gov/fdny

MEDAL DAY 2007



Manhattan Box 44-1031, 524 East 72nd Street, October 11, 2006. This is a scene from the incident for which Engine Company 44 received the Lieutenant James Curran/New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal.

Photo by Heather E. Smith

FIRE DEPARTMENT CITY OF NEW YORK

MEDAL BOARD

Frank P. Cruthers
First Deputy Commissioner

Salvatore J. Cassano
Chief of Department

Patrick M. McNally
Chief of Operations

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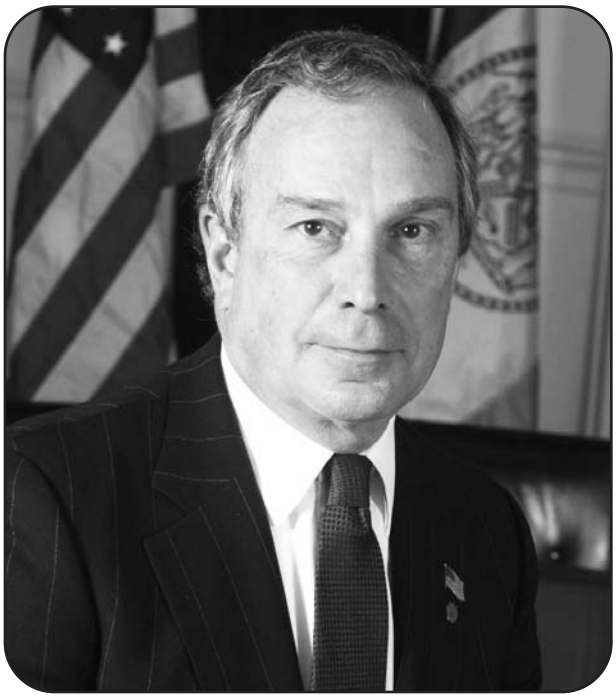


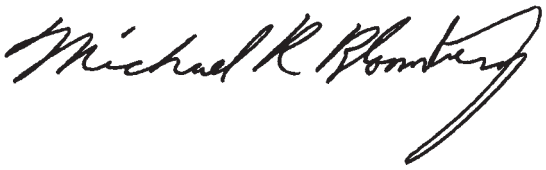
Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

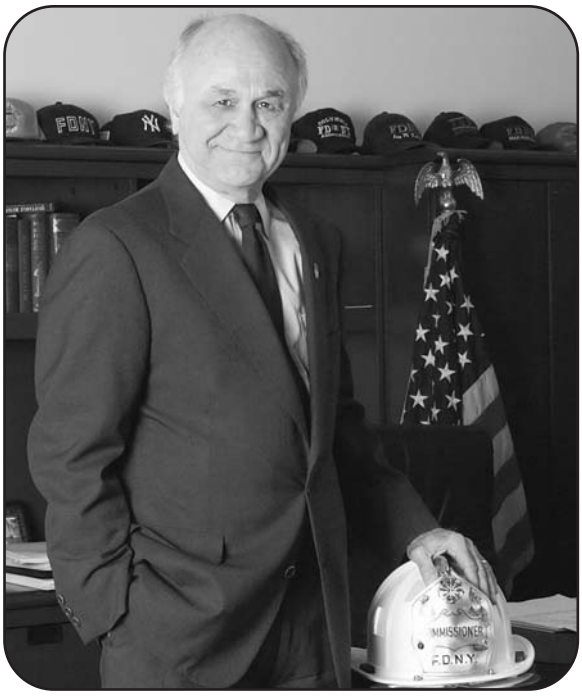
Since becoming Mayor of New York City, I have frequently been privileged to work closely with the New York City Fire Department and witness firsthand the dedication, commitment and courage of these brave men and women, who sacrifice so much to protect their fellow New Yorkers. I am proud to join all those gathered for Medal Day, when we celebrate the Firefighters and Fire Officers who make our Fire Department the world's most revered.

Since its establishment more than 140 years ago, the Fire Department of New York has extinguished more than two million fires and saved hundreds of thousands of lives. Every day, New York's Bravest conduct themselves with a professionalism, courage and respect for life that reflect our highest shared values. Today's honorees are the best of the best, public servants who have risen above and beyond the call of duty to serve our residents.

As we celebrate the achievements of today's medal winners, we also honor Lieutenant Howard Carpluk and Probationary Firefighter Michael Reilly--heroes who lost their lives protecting us. And we remain truly thankful that every day, the 15,000 members of the FDNY continue to exhibit the unparalleled heroism that has earned them the respect and admiration of all New Yorkers.

Congratulations to all of today's honorees on receiving this deserved recognition.





Nicholas Scoppetta
Fire Commissioner

In my five years as Commissioner of this great Department, I have continually been awed by the extraordinary acts of bravery performed by our Firefighters. Once again, on this Medal Day, we reflect upon and celebrate the selfless courage and professionalism of New York's Bravest.

The acts of heroism described in this book are all the more spectacular because they occurred during some extremely perilous situations in the air, on land and in the water.

- Firefighter Joseph Donatelli of Ladder 132 was lowered on a rope from the roof of a high-rise and rescued a woman who had climbed out the window of a 25th-floor apartment to escape a fire.
- Firefighter James Byrne of Ladder 121 faced down zero visibility and extreme conditions to save a downed Firefighter who had become trapped by the flames in a burning building.
- Firefighter Thomas McGlade of Ladder 14 jumped into the frigid waters of the East River to save a drowning man on Christmas Day 2005.

These courageous acts and many others that you'll read about in this book are what the citizens of New York can count on every day. No matter where you live, what language you speak or the color of your skin, when you call for help, our Firefighters respond quickly and will do whatever it takes to save lives.

I congratulate all our medal winners. And I commend the members of their respective units, because as every medal winner will attest, no one gets a medal without an extraordinary effort by the entire team. You all deserve the honor being bestowed today.

Salvatore J. Cassano
Chief of Department

Among the words that define what it means to be a New York City Firefighter are honor, bravery and service. Honor is the enormous commitment necessary to perform the Department's tasks and requires excellence of character. We inspire each other through pride in our company, which is a belief that every action reflects on all the members of the unit, both past and present. Bravery is courage and the foundation of our character. Bravery also is the ability to overcome fear through fortitude, instinct, compassion for others and training. Service is the Department's credo, as its members continue to answer the unwavering call to protect and serve. Each of these attributes is a key part of FDNY's mission statement.

These three characteristics came into play in all of the rescue narratives you will read in this book. As varied as these actions are--rescuing a Firefighter from a wind-driven, fireproof multiple dwelling fire, which is among the most dangerous fires our members battle; performing a lifesaving roof rope rescue under brutally cold and windy conditions; effecting a water rescue near the Triborough Bridge; working in a confined space that resulted from an explosion/fire/collapse to remove a victim; removing trapped residents from fire, often without the benefit of a protective hose-line; investigating a ruthless criminal enterprise that included arson, murder for hire and strong-arm tactics and securing convictions with a 60-year prison term--the honor, bravery and service of our members were the common traits exhibited in each case.

Our members are prepared and trained to handle all of these situations and many others. Much of FDNY's training has been dictated and shaped by the events of 9/11. By the fall, probationary Firefighters will receive 23 weeks of training. Apart from engine and ladder company operations, members receive instruction on weapons of mass destruction, subway evacuation, treating mass casualties, personal ropes, hazardous materials and much more. All of this is necessary, because as the incidents mentioned above prove, it no longer is just about fire.

To all Medal Day winners, congratulations and thank you for being such fine representatives for the FDNY.

FIRST DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

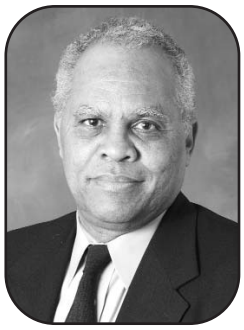
FRANK P. CRUTHERS

DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS

MILTON FISCHBERGER
Technology &
Support Services

FRANCIS X. GRIBBON
Public Information

DANIEL SHACKNAI
Legal Affairs
& Management Initiatives



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Intergovernmental Affairs

MICHAEL VECCHI
Management Initiatives

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Opportunity

DONAY J. QUEENAN
Human Resources

STEPHEN G. RUSH
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SUZANNE SEBERT
Family Assistance

DONALD STANTON
Technology
Development & Systems

ROBERT WALLACE
Investigations and Trials

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CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

EMS OFFICE OF MEDICAL AFFAIRS

Dr. David J. Prezant
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

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Monsignor Marc Filacchione

Reverend Stephen Harding

Father Joseph Hoffman

Father Christopher Keenan

Rabbi Joseph Potasnik

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Robert F. Sweeney
Assistant Chief of Operations

Thomas R. Galvin
Assistant Chief, Chief of Training

Allen S. Hay
Assistant Chief, Safety and Inspection Services Command

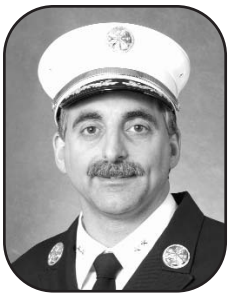
Joseph J. Ramos
Assistant Chief, Bureau of Operations

John A. Coloe
Deputy Assistant Chief, Chief of Communications

James J. Manahan, Jr.
Deputy Assistant Chief, Bureau of Operations

Joseph W. Pfeifer
Deputy Assistant Chief, Bureau of Operations

William Siegel
Deputy Assistant Chief, Special Operations Command



Ronald R. Spadafora
Deputy Assistant Chief, Bureau of Operations

Thomas Jensen
Assistant Chief, Chief of Fire Prevention

Richard Tobin
Deputy Assistant Chief, Assistant Chief of Fire Prevention

Louis F. Garcia
Chief Fire Marshal

Robert Byrnes
Assistant Chief Fire Marshal

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Assistant Chief Bronx

Edward S. Kilduff
Assistant Chief Brooklyn

Michael C. Weinlein
Assistant Chief Manhattan

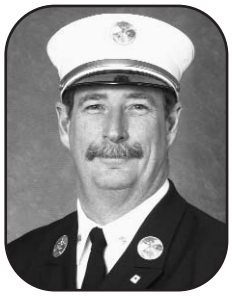
John Acerno
Deputy Assistant Chief Queens

Thomas J. Haring
Assistant Chief Staten Island

SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

Deputy Chief
William Seelig
Rescue Operations

Battalion Chief
James Dalton
Marine Operations



Battalion Chief
Robert Ingram
Haz-Mat Operations

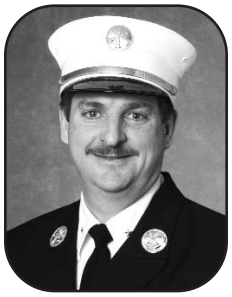
DIVISION COMMANDERS

Deputy Chief
Richard E. Fuerch
Division 1

Deputy Chief
John Sudnik
Division 3

Deputy Chief
Kevin Butler
Division 6

Deputy Chief
James F. Mulrenan
Division 7



Deputy Chief
James E. Leonard
Division 8

Deputy Chief
Michael Marrone
Division 11

Deputy Chief
James A. DiDomenico
Division 13

Deputy Chief
Mark Ferran
Division 14

Deputy Chief
Daniel Butler
Division 15

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EMS Command

Jerry Z. Gombo
Deputy Assistant Chief of EMS Operations

John S. McFarland
Deputy Assistant Chief of EMS Operations

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EMS Academy

Abdo Nahmod
Division Chief
EMS Operations

Jace Pinkus
Division Chief
Emergency Medical Dispatch

Mark Stone
Division Chief
Logistics & Support

Fredrick Villani
Division Chief
Planning & Strategy

Frances Pascale
Chief EMS Division 1

Mark Steffens
Chief EMS Division 2

Robert Hannafey
Chief EMS Division 3

Robert Browne
Chief EMS Division 4

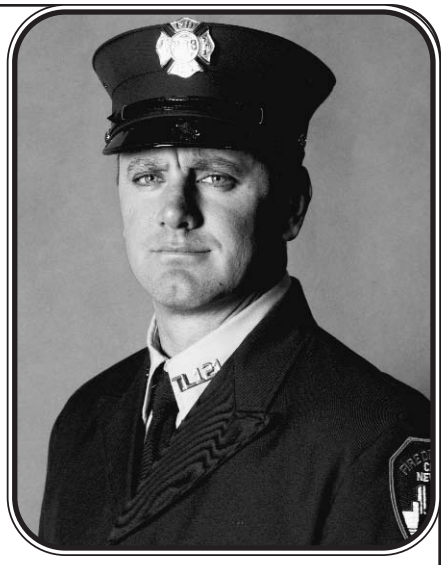
James Booth
Chief EMS Division 5

THE JAMES GORDON BENNETT MEDAL WINNERS

The James Gordon Bennett Medal was established in 1869 and, for years, it was the sole decoration awarded for valor in the Fire Department of the City of New York. As a result of its seniority among medals, it is awarded annually for the most outstanding act of heroism after the consideration and deliberate judgment of the members of the Medal Board of the NYC Fire Department.

1869--Lieutenant Minthorne D. Tompkins (L-l)
Captain Benjamin A. Gicquel (E-9)
1870--Lieutenant Charles L. Kelly (E-9)
1871--Firefighter Ambrose L. Austin (E-15)
1872--Lieutenant Thomas Henry (L-6)
Firefighter Thomas Hutchinson (L-1)
1873--Battalion Chief William H. Nash (Bn-7)
Firefighter Alfred Conner (L-10)
Lieutenant Henry Schuck (E-34)
1874--Captain William Mitchell (E-10)
1875--Lieutenant James Horn (E-11)
1876--Firefighter Joseph McGowan (E-6)
1877--Firefighter Thomas J. Dougherty (L-1)
1878--Captain Daniel J. Meagher (L-3)
1879--Firefighter Paul Bauer (L-4)
1880--Firefighter John Levins (L-2)
1881--Firefighter Michael Connerford (E-12)
1882--Firefighter John L. Rooney (L-10)
1883--Firefighter William B. Kirchner (E-11)
1884--Firefighter John Binns (E-32)
1885--Captain Peter H. Short (L-l)
1886--Firefighter Michael Brady (E-34)
1887--Lieutenant Samuel Banta (L-10)
1888--Lieutenant William Quirk (E-22)
1889--Firefighter William Reilly (L-12)
1890--Captain Thomas J. Ahern (E-5)
1891--Firefighter Patrick F. Lucas (E-30)
1892--Firefighter Patrick H. Aspell (L-4)
1893--Firefighter John Walker (L-6)
1894--Firefighter Denis Ryer (L-15)
1895--Firefighter William H. Behler (E-35)
1896--Firefighter Martin M. Coleman (L-3)
1898--Firefighter James Pearl (L-7)
1899--Firefighter John Hughes (1) (L-14)
1900--Firefighter William Clark (L-14)
1901--Firefighter Thomas J. McArthur (E-29)
1902--Firefighter Richard Nitsch (E-35)
1903--Firefighter Charles F. Douth (L-3)
1904--Firefighter James R. McAvoy (L-4)
1905--Firefighter Michael J. Stevens (L-4)
1906--Firefighter Cassimer C. Wodzicki (E-17)
1907--Firefighter Michael Nicklaus (L-4)
1908--Firefighter John T. Oakley (L-11)
1909--Battalion Chief George L. Ross (Bn-7)
1910--Firefighter John R. Harcke (L-12)
Firefighter Frank C. Clarke (L-24)
1911--Firefighter Richard J. Condon (2) (E-12)
1912--Firefighter Robert J. Boyle (L-10)
1913--Engineer of Steamer Seneca Larke (E-20)
1914--Firefighter John F. Mooney (1) (L-4)
1915--Captain Thomas W. Smith (E-2)
1916--Firefighter James T. Daniels (L-26)
1917--Firefighter John Walsh (1) (L-1)
1918--Firefighter Patrick R. O'Connor (L-14)
1919--Lieutenant Francis Blessing (R-1)
1920--Firefighter Timothy F. O'Leary, Jr. (E-15)
1921--Firefighter Frank J. Costello (L-12)
1922--Firefighter Jacob F. Ferber (E-239)
1923--Captain Edwin A.A. Quinn (E-14)
1924--Hon. Medical Off. Harry M. Archer, MD
1925--Captain Thomas J. O'Toole (E-27)
1926--Firefighter William G.R. Mitchell (E-18)
1927--Firefighter Michael McInerney (L-12)
1928--Captain James A. Walsh (1) (E-234)
1929--Firefighter George W. Reilly (L-19)
1930--Firefighter Edward V. Conroy (L-l)
1931--Captain Albert B. Carlson (E-66)
1932--Firefighter Vincent J. Hyde (R-3)
1933--Captain Cornell M. Garety (R-l)
1934--Firefighter Rudolph F. Musil (L-12)
1935--Firefighter George J. Wolken (E-60)
1936--Firefighter Joseph E. Smith (2) (E-211)
1937--Firefighter James P. Nevin (E-201)
1938--Firefighter Charles G. Roscher (L-1)
1939--Firefighter Daniel J. Sullivan (L-3)
1940--Firefighter Charles A. Merz (L-168)
1941--Firefighter Thomas F. Brennan (L-111)
1942--Captain John W. Heaney (Hdq.)
1943--Firefighter John Colgan (L-2)
1944--Firefighter Harvey W. Crook (R-3)
1945--Captain George H. Winter (L-3)
1946--Firefighter Arthur L. Speyer (L-24)
1947--Firefighter Anthony J. Riccardi (L-26)
1948--Captain Patrick T. Green (R-1)
1949--Firefighter James S. Norton (L-163)
1950--Firefighter Wilbur J. O'Donnell (L-111)
1951--Firefighter Victor F. Rossi (L-120)
1952--Lieutenant John F. McGlynn (L-10)
1953--Firefighter Angelo Michelini (E-97)
1954--Deputy Chief John T. Oakley (2) (Hdq.)
1955--Firefighter Bernard F. Curran (E-92)
1956--Firefighter Michael J. O'Driscoll (L-28)
1957--Firefighter William Von Diezelski (L-4)
1958--Firefighter Nicholas Sharko (L-11)
1959--Captain Arthur J. O'Connor (SQ-4)
1960--Firefighter William V. Russo (E-254)
1961--Firefighter Joseph G. Peragine (L-14)
1962--Firefighter Joseph E. Almon (L-35)
1963--Firefighter Lawrence F. Duenas (E-59)
1964--Firefighter David Crowley (L-14)
1965--Firefighter James E. Bowler (R-2)
1966--Firefighter Robert E. Farrell (L-31)
1967--Firefighter Thomas D. Ferraiuolo (L-28)
1968--Firefighter Gene P. Dowling (L-25)
1969--Firefighter James N. Tempro (E-217)
1970--Firefighter Charles Varner (L-55)
1971--Lieutenant Richard R. Hamilton (R-2)
1972--Firefighter Steven C. DeRosa (L-102)
1973--Firefighter Raymond G. McCann (L-40)
1974--Firefighter Gilbert J. Murtha (L-108)
1975--Firefighter Thomas J. Neary (L-31)
1976--Firefighter Martin McGovern (L-114)
1977--Captain Frederick W. Gallagher (R-2)
1978--Firefighter James H. Battillo (L-152)
1979--Firefighter John J. Pritchard (R-2)
1980--Lieutenant Thomas J. Neary (L-28)
1981--Lieutenant Howard R. Kennedy (L-154)
1982--Firefighter Joseph H. Dirks (L-103)
1983--Firefighter Kenneth L. Connelly (L-111)
1984--Firefighter Robert Merkel (L-42)
1985--Firefighter James A. Sollami (E-62)
1986--Captain James F. McDonnell (L-42)
1987--Lieutenant William F. Maloney (L-34)
1988--Firefighter John J. McDonnell (L-28)
1989--Captain Richard Jacquin (L-59)
1990--Lieutenant Gerard M. Murtha (R-3)
1991--Firefighter William E. Jutt (L-22)
1992--Firefighter Michael M. Dugan (L-43)
1993--Firefighter Albert J. Gonzalez, Jr. (L-18)
1994--Lieutenant John M. Fox (SQ-1)
1995--Firefighter Gregory J. Smith, Jr. (L-108)
1996--Firefighter Gerard J. Triglia (L-132)
1997--Firefighter John K. Duddy (L-28)
1998--Firefighter Stan J. Sussina (R-1)
1999--Captain John J. Pritchard (E-255)
2000--Firefighter Stephen P. Fenley (L-78)
2001--Firefighter John F. South (L-44)
2003--Battalion Chief James Marketti (Bn-48)
2004--Firefighter James F. Mills (L-176)
2005--Firefighter Victor J. Rosa, Jr. (L-138)
2006--Captain Christopher J. Joyce (E-318)

James Gordon Bennett Medal



FIREFIGHTER JAMES T. BYRNE

Ladder Company 121

January 26, 2006, 1349 hours, Box 33-1201, 40-20 Beach Channel Drive, Queens

Appointed to the FDNY on October 26, 1996. Brother-in-law, Lieutenant John O'Connor, is assigned to Engine 310 and brother-in-law, FF Christopher J. Haughie, is assigned to Engine 257. Member of the Holy Name and Emerald Societies. Attended Brooklyn College. Recipient of a Class II and two unit citations. Resides in Rockaway Beach, Queens, with his wife, Kathleen, and their sons, James, 6, Colin, 4, Brendan, 2, and Sean, 10 months.

On January 26, 2006, Ladder Company 121 responded first-due to Queens Box 1201 for a phone alarm reporting a fire in apartment 6G on the sixth floor at 40-20 Beach Channel Drive, a 13-story fireproof multiple dwelling. As units were arriving, the Queens dispatcher radioed them of a second source, also reporting fire on the sixth floor.

Arriving on the sixth floor via the "A" stairway with his inside team, Lieutenant Richard DePrima, Ladder 121, requested that Battalion Chief George Healy, Battalion 47, transmit the 10-75. The Lieutenant also informed the Chief that the public hallway was heavily charged, indicating that the apartment door was open. Lieutenant Steven Sharp, Engine 265, the first-due engine, was in the stairwell and entered the fifth floor so he could provide Ladder 121's inside team with the layout of the hallway and the direction and distance to the reported fire apartment.

Lieutenant DePrima ordered the forcible entry Firefighter, FF Richard Nash, to remain at the stairway door until the fire apartment was located. Lieutenants DePrima and Sharp, along with Probationary FF Joseph McMenamin, the extinguisher Firefighter, and FF James Byrne, the outside vent Firefighter, entered the sixth-floor hallway and crawled 12 feet to the T-shaped part of the public hallway. They turned right and went another 25 feet to the fire apartment, 6G.

After his successful rescue, FF Byrne is trapped in an adjoining apartment (area of refuge) with FF McCarthy, who he dragged to safety.

photo by FF Chris Landano

A search was initiated, with FF Byrne going to the right and Lieutenant DePrima and Proby McMenamin searching to the left. Lieutenant Sharp returned to the stairway door to meet up with the nozzle team and lead the hose-line to the fire apartment. FF Nash then began crawling down the hallway to the fire apartment. Probationary FF McMenamin was using the extinguisher in an attempt to contain the fire to the open walkway leading to the rear bedroom.

By this time, FF Byrne had completed his search of the living room and kitchen. Lieutenant DePrima repositioned his team back to the public hallway to await the arrival of the charged hose-line, which was advancing down the long T-shaped hallway. Before leaving the fire apartment, Lieutenant DePrima directed FF Byrne to close the entrance door. He made several attempts to close it with the Halligan, but was unsuccessful.

Engine 265 was attempting to advance the line into the fire apartment as conditions began to worsen. Lieutenant DePrima directed FF Byrne to conduct a primary search of the public hallway. The Firefighter crawled 22 feet and searched the dead end of the hallway. He then secured an area of refuge in apartment 6H, which was on the same side of the hallway as the fire apartment. Apartment 6H also was isolated between the fire apartment and the end of the hallway.

Almost immediately on FF Byrne's return to the fire apartment, the windows failed and conditions rapidly deteriorated. The influx of air, driven by a 40-mph wind, created blowtorch-like conditions, with fire exploding out the apartment door. Fire filled the public hallway and continued toward the open door of the attack stairs, making conditions in the hallway untenable.

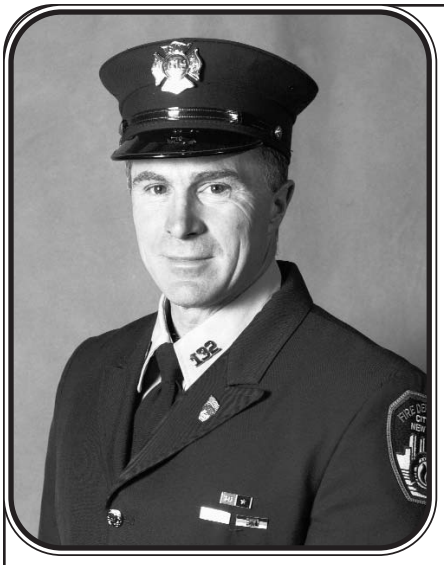
The extreme conditions separated FF Byrne and Proby McMenamin from their Officer and the other Firefighters in the public hallway. Since they were unable to cross in front of the door of the fire apartment, FF Byrne led Proby McMenamin away from the danger, to the safety of apartment 6H.

FF Byrne then heard a *mayday* transmitted by Engine 264, the second-due engine. The back-up Firefighter, Kevin McCarthy, said he was burning up. Conditions in the public hallway had deteriorated to the point where entering the hallway, even with a hose-line, was treacherous. FF Byrne opened the door to apartment 6H wide enough to yell "over here" to FF McCarthy and also banged on the floor with his Halligan. FF McCarthy could not hear him or was unable to respond.

FF Byrne left his safe area and crawled 22 feet into the public hallway, without the protection of a hose-line. Simultaneously, the members of Engine 328 were attempting to make a push from the stairwell with a charged hose-line. Conditions now were so severe that after advancing a few feet, the engine company was forced back to the safety of the stairwell. The public hallway was being burned to the floor. Many members suffered burn injuries that required medical leave.

While searching the public hallway in zero visibility for the downed Firefighter, FF Byrne discovered FF McCarthy in the prone position on the floor at the entrance to the fire apartment. FF McCarthy was in an extremely dangerous position with flames around him. FF Byrne pulled FF McCarthy by the shoulder straps of his SCBA and dragged him 22 feet back down the hallway to apartment 6H. FF Byrne made a second attempt to search the public hallway for FF Nash and any other trapped members. After a quick search, he was driven back by the extreme heat. After returning to the apartment, FF Byrne transmitted to the Incident Commander that he and the other members were safe.

FF McCarthy suffered second-degree burns to his neck and back and was admitted to Nassau County Medical Center before being placed on medical leave. For his actions in rescuing another Firefighter, FF James T. Byrne officially is recognized for his bravery with the James Gordon Bennett Medal.--*NG*



Brooklyn Citizens Medal/ FF Louis Valentino Award

Firefighter Joseph W. Donatelli

Ladder Company 132

March 1, 2006, 0300 hours, Box 22-3762, 1700 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on August 8, 1999. Brother, FF David Donatelli, is assigned to Ladder 33. Attended Suffolk Community College and Farmingdale University. Received a unit citation, a Service Rating B and the New York Post's *Liberty Award for Bravery. Resides in Huntington, Long Island, with his wife, Irene, and their children, Nicholas, Brian and Jillian.*

Any Firefighter who has fought a fire in a fireproof high-rise will tell you how unpredictable they can be. Height is a factor, but wind also can play a critical role in FDNY operations.

On March 1, 2006, at 0300 hours, units were dispatched to a structural fire at 1700 Bedford Avenue in Brooklyn. The members knew this was the Ebbets Field housing project, a 25-story building on the site of the once-famous ballpark of the *Brooklyn Dodgers* baseball team.

The first-arriving units were met with a host of problems: a fire that had originated in the first-floor compactor had vented itself on the upper three floors, trapping numerous occupants. Since the original call reported fire on the 23rd floor, the first-due units were committed to the upper floors. Fortunately, there were three elevators available for members' use.

As the units deployed to the upper floors, they were met with heavy smoke and fire venting out of the compactor closets in the hallways on floors 23, 24 and 25. With the 30-mph wind that was blowing, Firefighters had the makings of a very difficult fire.

Ladder 132 in action. *photo by the FDNY Photo Unit*

Arriving second-due, Ladder 132 members immediately went to their assigned positions. After positioning his apparatus, FF Joseph Donatelli, the chauffeur, entered the courtyard where he could hear screams coming from the upper floors. Due to the early-morning darkness, height and smoke condition, he could not see anyone, but knew that people were in danger.

Firefighters Donatelli and William Hansen, the chauffeur of Ladder 113, took one of the elevators to the 20th floor. From that point, they proceeded up the stairs to the roof. Firefighter Timothy Rail, Ladder 113, was on the roof. While executing his normal roof duties, he came upon two civilians hanging over the roof edge, holding onto another civilian, Cheryl Ann John. She had climbed out of her 25th-floor apartment onto the narrow window ledge and then climbed the face of the wall above the open window, which was venting hot, acrid smoke around her. Now, she was trapped, hanging onto the roof edge, 25 stories up. She had very little time before she would lose her grip and fall to her death.

By this time, a multiple alarm was transmitted. Fire was out the compactor closets on the three upper floors, the compactor bulkhead on the roof and the first-floor compactor closet. Additionally, there was a heavy smoke condition on all floors and people were awakening to discover they were trapped inside their apartments. Many of the panic-stricken people were at their windows, screaming for help.

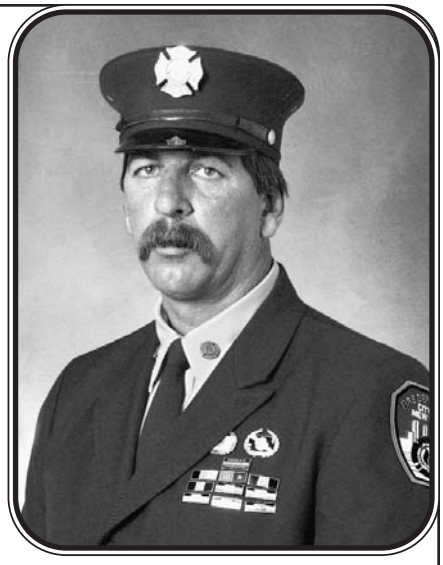
On the roof, members were quickly putting a lifesaving rope rescue into operation. FF Rail tied off the rope to a substantial object, but it was more than 60 feet away. FF Hansen took the necessary turns on his life belt and prepared to lower FF Donatelli.

As soon as FF Donatelli was secured, he dropped down to position himself on the outside of Mrs. John, to shield her from the wind and pin her against the building so she could not fall. Since Mrs. John was facing the building, she could not assist herself or FF Donatelli in the rescue attempt.

This was not an easy rescue. Mrs. John was barely dressed in the 25-degree temperatures with 30-mph winds. She no longer could maintain her grip. She became dead weight for FF Donatelli. Since there were three floors of fire below them and not much rope to make it below the fire, the decision was made to pull rescuer and victim up to the roof. It took an extraordinary effort by FF Donatelli to hold this woman under these conditions. With the teamwork of the members on the roof, the pair was pulled up to safety. The woman was treated for smoke inhalation at Kings County Hospital.

FF Donatelli's actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the fire service. His act of bravery was accomplished under very dangerous conditions. As the investigating Chiefs wrote in their endorsements, "This was an outstanding act of bravery. His actions were taken without hesitation or consideration for his own personal safety." For his heroics, FF Joseph W. Donatelli is awarded the Brooklyn Citizens Medal/FF Louis Valentino Award.--*JTV*

Hugh Bonner Medal



FIREFIGHTER RICHARD G. SCHMIDT

Rescue Company 4

July 10, 2006, 0843 hours, Box 66-0947,
34 East 62nd Street, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on September 4, 1991. Previously assigned to Ladder 154. Uncle, FF John O'Brien, is retired from the Marine Division. Member of the Holy Name and Emerald Societies and FEMA's Urban Search and Rescue Team. Recipient of two Service Rating Bs, a Class III and four unit citations. Resides in Hicksville, Long Island, with his wife, Denise, 18-year-old twin sons, Richard and Daniel, and Robert, 9.

Building explosion and collapse with multiple people trapped--few emergencies to which Firefighters respond have more complexity. These situations require a multitude of skills that must be harnessed quickly and effectively in order to save lives.

At approximately 0840 hours on July 10, 2006, the east side of midtown Manhattan was rocked by a powerful explosion. The Manhattan Communications Office dispatched more than 10 companies, including a number of specialized units, to the scene. Seeing the destruction, Ladder 16--the first unit to arrive--transmitted a 10-60 signal. At 0843 hours, the members of Rescue 4, including FF Richard Schmidt, were called into service.

Lieutenant George Torres and the members of Rescue 4 reported to the Command Post. They were ordered to conduct searches and assist with fire suppression in the front area of the collapse. FF Schmidt sized up the situation and found a pancake collapse, with a void created by a lean-to adjacent to the remaining stoop, with heavy fire and smoke.

Firefighters search through the debris for victims at Manhattan Box 66-0947, the incident for which FF Richard Schmidt received the Hugh Bonner Medal.
*photo by Matthew Roberts/*Daily News

FF Schmidt notified his Officer and Battalion Chief Wayne McPartland, Battalion 8 (covering), that a void measuring 10 feet deep and three and a half feet wide was near the remaining stoop and the exposure #2 parapet. Moving quickly, FF Schmidt obtained a scissor ladder from Ladder 35's apparatus and placed it into the void. Simultaneously, he began taking meter readings for CO levels and explosive limits just outside the void.

At this point, members were ordered off the debris pile so a tower ladder stream could knock down a heavy volume of fire. FF Schmidt and the other members of Rescue 4 continued their size-up and FF Schmidt noticed the fire in the stoop area was gas-fed. Thus, an urgent search with members of Con Ed was initiated to identify the gas valve and shut it down.

With the gas and tower ladder lines shut down, FF Schmidt returned to the void. While re-checking meter readings, he heard someone within the void. Making his way gingerly down the scissor ladder, FF Schmidt removed his facepiece and called out in search of a victim. He heard a faint cry for help in reply.

Moving to the bottom of the void, FF Schmidt rechecked his meter and relayed this information to Lieutenant Torres. He then crawled along the rubble floor while calling out to the victim to ascertain his location. FF Schmidt found a door half buried in the debris with a still-intact piece of glass in the frame. He broke the glass and shined his flashlight through the opening and found Dr. Nicholas Bartha, badly burned and bleeding.

FF Schmidt assured Dr. Bartha he would be rescued and then asked if anyone else was in the building. Dr. Bartha said he was alone. FF Schmidt transmitted a 10-45 code 2 signal on his handie-talkie.

Working quickly, FF Schmidt first provided the victim with air from his SCBA. He then requested a Fast Pak because the device's 20-foot hose was long enough to provide the victim with air, while the pack could remain outside the void. With the victim now receiving air, FF Schmidt focused on the job of extraction.

FF Schmidt radioed Lieutenant Torres and requested forcible entry tools, a hydra-ram, a backboard with webbing and two Paratech struts. He was joined in the void by FF Charles Wiemann, Rescue 4, and the pair set to work (from their knees), trying to force the hinges on the upper half of the door. The door was forced and folded over and FF Schmidt crawled to the victim, while FF Wiemann removed some debris to facilitate the man's removal.

FF Schmidt monitored the patient's vitals and performed a C-spine stabilization with a rigid collar. A call also was made to set up a 4:1 mechanical system to lift the victim vertically from the void. Because the fire on top of the debris pile was advancing and due to the patient's critical condition, a rope was attached to the backboard. The Firefighters outside the void pulled the victim up, while FFs Schmidt and Wiemann lifted from below. The victim was removed from the void and passed off the pile to awaiting EMS personnel. The two Firefighters then exited the void via the scissor ladder as the fire increased in intensity above them. Unfortunately, the doctor died days later in the hospital.

In his report of the incident, Deputy Chief Daniel Donoghue wrote, "Without regard for his own safety, FF Schmidt found, packaged and removed a seriously injured victim quickly and safely. During this entire operation, FF Schmidt was faced with the danger of fire, additional explosions and secondary collapse." For these reasons, the FDNY is proud to honor FF Richard Schmidt with the Hugh Bonner Medal.--*DJH*

Emily Trevor/ Mary B. Warren Medal

FIREFIGHTER KEITH V. LAGAN

Ladder Company 41

March 24, 2006, 1500 hours, Box 75-3226, 782 Pelham Parkway South, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on May 5, 2001. Previously assigned to Engine 216 and Ladder 108. Member of the FDNY Football Team. Served with the U.S. Marine Corps. Resides in Mahopac, New York, with his wife, Susanne, and their son, Kasey, 3, and infant daughter, Jenna.

In the course of Firefighters' careers, there are times that stand out and define the type of professionals they are; times when they put aside any concern for their personal safety and lay it all on the line for a total stranger. It was just such a moment that presented itself to FF Keith Lagan on an early spring afternoon.

At 1500 hours on March 24, 2006, Ladder 41 was conducting building inspection when members received a phone alarm for Box 3226. The call was for a smoke condition on the third floor of 782 Pelham Parkway South. When Ladder 41, commanded by Captain Vincent Leahy, entered the lobby, the distinct odor of smoke was in the air. Captain Leahy and his forcible entry team--FFs Lagan with the irons and Dominic Dimino with the extinguisher--ascended the stairs where they saw fire pushing out a third-floor courtyard window. They continued up to the third floor and found heavy smoke pushing from around the door of apartment 6C.

Captain Leahy had his forcible entry team force the door. When the door opened, they were all pressed to the floor by the super-heated gases and heavy black smoke that poured from the open doorway. While Captain Leahy's team maintained control of the door, the fire flashed out directly toward them into the public hallway.

FF Dimino positioned himself in the doorway. With his skillful, intermittent use of the extinguisher, he attempted to push the fire back into the kitchen, just inside the entrance door.

FF Keith Lagan operates from bucket of Ladder 41.

The moment of truth was at hand. Would FF Lagan wait for a hose-line to be stretched to protect him as he entered the fire apartment? Or would he rush past the raging fire in front of him, possibly save someone trapped inside and potentially become trapped in the rear of the apartment if he got caught before the hose-line could move in? FF Lagan did not hesitate. He quickly crawled under the intense fire that raged before him.

FF Lagan made a quick, methodical search of the living room. The intense heat and blinding smoke let him know that his time was limited. He felt the searing heat around him and made a desperate attempt to complete his search. Through his sense of touch, FF Lagan found a daybed at the rear of the apartment. A quick sweep of the bed revealed the motionless Lucy Basile, who was half on and half off the bed.

FF Lagan gave a 10-45 and quickly started to drag the woman back toward the front door. The rescuer was having great difficulty moving Ms. Basile because she was entangled in the linens on the bed. FF Lagan finally freed her and continued toward the door.

FF Dimino had just expended the rest of the water in the extinguisher as FF Lagan neared the kitchen. Engine 90 still had not gotten the hose-line into position because it was a 12-length stretch that was difficult and time-consuming.

The fire now was free-burning and blocked the entryway, the Firefighter's only means of escape. FF Lagan knew time was critical. He had to get Ms. Basile past the fire or they would both be trapped. FF Lagan then placed himself between the raging fire and Ms. Basile to protect her from the flames. He dragged her as fast as he could to the hallway, past the flames roaring around them.

FF Lagan, with great effort, was able to remove Ms. Basile to the hallway, where he was met by Lieutenant Sean O'Sullivan, Engine 90. The Lieutenant brought the victim to an uncontaminated apartment. Ms. Basile then was taken to the street where she was transported by EMS personnel. At Jacobi Hospital, the woman was treated in the hyperbaric chamber for high-level CO poisoning. FF Lagan returned to the fire apartment and continued his search, along with the other members of Ladder 41.

FF Keith Lagan's actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of the New York City Fire Department. Due to his courage, Ms. Basile is alive today. It is for this reason that FF Lagan is presented with the Emily Trevor/Mary B. Warren Medal.--*CB*

Thomas E. Crimmins Medal

FIREFIGHTER GLEN J. MERKITCH

Ladder Company 120

December 11, 2006, 0423 hours, Box 75-845, 2132A Fulton Street, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on February 1, 2000. Previous assignments include Ladder 158, Engine 332 and Ladder 3. Father, FF Arnold Merkitch, is retired from Rescue 4. Received a unit citation. Resides in Westchester, New York, with his wife, Sandy.

As FF Glen Merkitch--at the time, a seven-year veteran of the Department--responded with Ladder 120 on an early-morning call on December 11, 2006, the dispatcher reported a second source for the alarm. This was not a false alarm. In fact, before it was over, two lives would be saved and FF Merkitch would have his search skills and determination put to the test.

The alarm came in at 0423 hours for a three-story brick and wood-joist building located at 2132A Fulton Street, near Rockaway Avenue. A hair salon occupied the first floor. It was secured by roll-down gates. On each of the two floors above, single railroad flats had been split into front and rear apartments. This, of course, was not obvious from the street.

Arriving shortly after the 10-75 signal was transmitted by Engine 233, FF Merkitch saw that the heavy fire blowing out the three second-floor windows was licking at the windows on the third floor. It was evident that the fire soon would extend to the top floor through the front windows.

Father, FF Arnold Merkitch, retired from Rescue 4 after 25 years of service and FF Glen Merkitch, Ladder 120.

That night, FF Merkitch was assigned to the forcible entry position by Lieutenant Robert Brown. FF Michael Twomey had the extinguisher. As they entered the building on the way to their second-due truck position on the floor above the fire, they heard a report of people trapped in the rear. Passing the second floor, FF Merkitch noticed that fire had warped the fire apartment door, allowing flames to roll out a gap at the top of the door and rise into the stairway.

The first-due truck Firefighters waited for the first line to arrive at the door. On the roof, preparations for a rope rescue were in progress. Engine 233 members were stretching the first line as the Firefighters of Ladder 120 climbed the stairs to the third floor, passing the encroaching flames.

On the third floor, they encountered Lieutenant David Dietz, officer of the first-due truck, Ladder 176. He had forced the door to the rear apartment. FF Merkitch entered the apartment with Ladder 120's inside team and commenced searching the room, mindful that there was no water on the fire and the available search time was limited.

Lieutenant Dietz found a victim and FF Twomey removed him. When the search of the rear apartment was completed, flames could be seen in the hall scuttle closet as FF Merkitch moved through the increasingly hot hallway into the front apartment. Here, directly above the fire, conditions were rapidly deteriorating. Fire had extended to the apartment through the front windows and up the building recesses. The upper portion of the apartment door was gone, burned down to the lower door hinge.

FF Merkitch climbed over the charred door edge into the apartment. Hot smoke obscured his vision as he crawled past the burning bathroom and kitchen. He stayed low under the building heat. The first line was in operation on the fire below, but there was no hose-line protecting FF Merkitch on the third floor.

Reaching a bedroom farther down the hallway toward the rear of the apartment, FF Merkitch began a systematic search of the debris-filled room. His progress impeded by old boxes, damaged televisions and other junk, he found an empty bed. He checked behind it and located Theodore Dinkins, unconscious and jammed between the bed and wall.

FF Merkitch transmitted the 10-45 signal and considered his egress options. There was still no line operating on the third floor and the spreading fire was cutting off his access to the hall, so he headed for the front windows. FF Merkitch dragged the limp Mr. Dinkins through the cluttered room and across the length of the apartment to the front windows, where he managed to lift him off the floor and out into the waiting arms of FFs John Drew and Twomey in Ladder 120's bucket. FF Merkitch then turned back to continue his primary search of the apartment. When the additional search proved negative, he exited the apartment.

In cardiac arrest and seriously burned, Mr. Dinkins was transported to Brookdale Hospital, where he was revived and spent two weeks in the intensive care facility. It was FF Merkitch's dedication and determination, coupled with diligent training, that enabled him to effect this difficult rescue under deteriorating conditions. FF Glen Merkitch put himself directly in harm's way, without the protection of a hose stream, and saved the life of Mr. Dinkins, who surely would have perished. His selfless actions follow in the proud tradition of Ladder 120 and the New York City Fire Department. He is presented with the Thomas E. Crimmins Medal.--*FM*

Thomas A. Kenny Memorial Medal

Lieutenant Brian P. Davan

Ladder Company 28

June 24, 2006, 2213 hours, Box 22-1656, 2 St. Nicholas Place, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on July 16, 1989. Previously assigned to Ladder 120 and Engine 231. Since promoted to Captain and assigned to Division 15. Father-in-law, First Deputy Commissioner William Feehan, made the Supreme Sacrifice on September 11, 2001; father, Captain Robert Davan, is retired from Engine 264; brother, Lieutenant Gerry Davan, is retired from Battalion 42; brother, Lieutenant Richard Davan, is assigned to Ladder 23; brother-in-law, Captain Mike Thompson, is retired from Engine 257; brother-in-law, Lieutenant John Feehan, is assigned to Ladder 108; and nephew, FF Ryan Davan, is assigned to Ladder 45. Member of the Emerald Society and Company Officers Association. Currently attending John Jay College. Cited for bravery on three previous occasions. Resides in Rockaway, Queens, with his wife, Tara, and their children, Connor, Ginna and Kelly.

In a manner not foreign to Firefighters in this busy area of Manhattan, the tone of the evening changed suddenly and dramatically. "Manhattan to Ladder 28. Respond in on a phone alarm. Box 1656, 2 St. Nicholas Avenue, fire on the second floor." Such was the transmission that kicked off a response that proved to be both rewarding and challenging for members of this proud truck company.

Ladder 28 rolled into the Box just as Engine 69 turned the corner. Lieutenant Brian Davan sized up the address through the windshield of the aerial and noted that the building fully met his expectations--large in area, complex and unpredictable in layout, well-constructed, but susceptible to hidden fire spread and challenging for search and evacuation purposes--all characteristics associated with the new law tenement.

Lieutenant Davan further observed that numerous occupants had begun to self-evacuate via the fire escapes. Recognizing the likelihood of additional occupants within the structure and the exceptional need for a rapid entry, the Lieutenant led his entry team--FFs Christian Brett and James Smith--into the lobby while prompting Battalion 16 to transmit a 10-75.

Ascending the interior stairs, Lieutenant Davan determined from fleeing occupants that the fire was on the second floor. His rapid ascent to the second-floor landing was met with heavy smoke and elevated temperatures. Fully aware that these conditions indicated that the fire apartment door had been left open, the Officer instructed his members to don their facepieces. He proceeded to crawl down the hallway and into the fire apartment--#21--as his entry team followed.

Lieutenant Davan encountered a locked door and ordered his entry team to perform forcible entry and search. Re-entering the hallway, he heard a radio transmission that suddenly raised the stakes in an already tenuous operation: "*mayday*, *mayday*; burst length." He immediately conveyed this critical information to both members of the entry team and rapidly conducted a risk vs. reward assessment. Sensing that a relatively small portion of the apartment remained to be searched, Lieutenant Davan felt confident that the elevated risk was outweighed by the potential of an incapacitated victim. He pushed on.

Ladder 28 works at Manhattan Box 33-1578, 2371 Seventh Avenue, May 23, 1999.
photo by then-FF John Leavy

Experiencing a sense of increasing pressure due to the ever-narrowing time window, Lieutenant Davan crawled a bit further to the end of the hallway and felt even more intense heat. Instinct told him that the fire was in proximity, directly ahead, possibly in a "final" room at the end of the hallway. He also sensed an opening to his right and slipped through it into the kitchen area of the apartment.

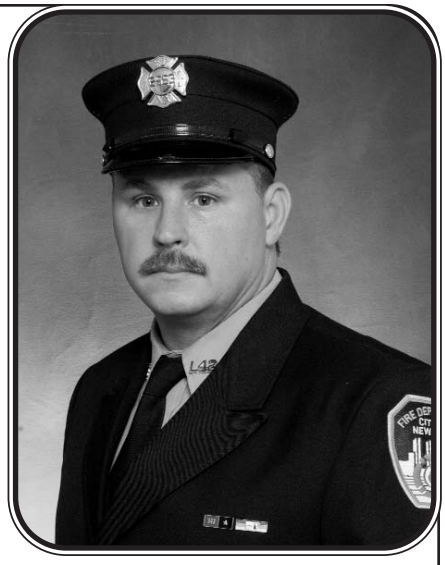
It was here that Lieutenant Davan's perseverance paid off. An unconscious male victim was prostrate in the middle of the kitchen floor. The rescuer transmitted a 10-45 and dragged the victim into the apartment hallway, shielding him from the increasing heat and sudden fire conditions that emanated from the room at the end of the hallway. Maintaining his composure under incredibly stressful conditions and acutely conscious of the long run of the hallway, Lieutenant Davan realized that Engine 69 would stretch their line into this passageway, thereby restricting his exit.

He conveyed his concern via handie-talkie to the engine officer, prompting Engine 69 to forestall their advancement. Continuing to drag the victim down the hallway, Lieutenant Davan was met and assisted by his entry team. Together, they traversed the remaining hallway and exited to the public hallway, permitting Engine 69 to enter the apartment for extinguishment operations. The three exhausted, but determined, truck members then carried the victim down the stairs to the lobby and handed him off to waiting Firefighters, who delivered the victim to EMS personnel on the exterior of the building. Lifesaving medical care and resuscitation were provided.

The victim--Manuel Padilla--was removed from the scene via ambulance to Harlem Hospital and ultimately to the Burn Unit. He was in critical condition with both burns and smoke inhalation. Lieutenant Davan experienced second-degree burns to both knees and was admitted to St. Luke's Hospital.

Simply stated, Lieutenant Davan saved Mr. Padilla's life. In the performance of this heroic act, he exhibited remarkable size-up skills, exceptional judgment, commendable dedication and persistence of effort and inordinate foresight. Lieutenant Brian Davan proved that he embodies those characteristics that best represent the proud tradition of the FDNY. He is presented with the Thomas A. Kenny Memorial Medal.--*JF*

Walter Scott Medal



Firefighter George Porter

Ladder Company 42 (assigned), Ladder Company 19 (detailed)

June 27, 2006, 0222 hours, Box 75-2573, 1161 Sherman Avenue, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on November 14, 1999. Member of the Emerald and Holy Name Societies. Holds an associate's degree in computer science programming. Recipient of a unit citation and Class III. Resides in Putnam Valley, New York, with his wife, Lisa, and their children, Nicole, 11, and Matthew, 9.

Ladder 19, normally assigned as the second-due ladder company on Box 2573, arrived first-due to an occupied apartment building fire with occupants trapped in apartment 4-B. On arrival, fire had reached an advanced stage, with flames lapping out into the public hallway via the burned-through door to apartment 4-B. Fire had complete possession of the kitchen, had extended into the interior hallway of apartment 4-B and was traveling toward the living room and bedrooms located at the front of the building. The intensity of the fire cut off any egress from the front of the fire apartment via the interior stairs.

Lieutenant Michael Higgins and the members of Ladder 19's forcible entry team moved past Engine 92's nozzle team as they were flaking out their hose, in a attempt to make their way toward the front bedrooms for the primary search. The interior hallway of the apartment was blocked by bicycles, clutter and storage, reflecting a Collyers' mansion-type condition. Fire was passing over the heads of the forcible entry team as they struggled to make their way toward the front of the apartment.

FF George Porter, detailed to Ladder 19, used the extinguisher to hold back fire passing over the members' heads as they made their way toward the front of the apartment where the bedrooms were located. Lieutenant Higgins notified the members of the forcible entry team that he believed he heard moaning and other noises of distress coming from the front area of the apartment. The smoke was banked down to the apartment floor, cutting visibility to zero. The high heat from the fire made progress through the cluttered hallway extremely difficult.

Ladder 42 operates at a crane collapse on 163rd Street. *photo by Matthew P. Daly*

Once the front bedrooms were reached, Lieutenant Higgins, along with FF Porter, began searching for victims. Operating in zero visibility, their only guide was their sense of touch. The moaning heard earlier by Lieutenant Higgins had ceased. Moving around the perimeter of the bedroom and probing toward the center, Lieutenant Higgins located Alana Amao, a young girl who was unconscious and not breathing.

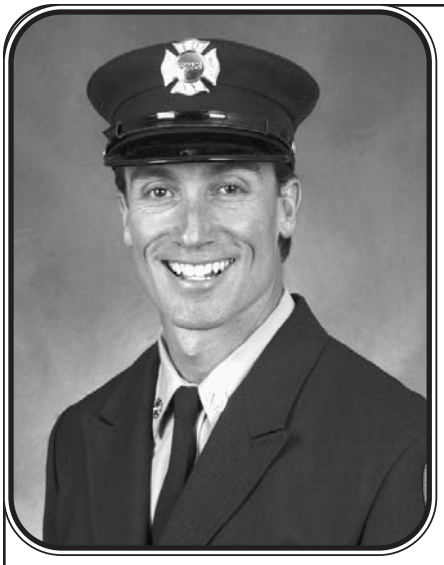
The signal 10-45 code 2 was transmitted immediately and Lieutenant Higgins notified Ladder 19's chauffeur, FF John Lopez, to lower the aerial ladder from the roof of the fire building to the bedroom of the fire apartment, take the window and ascend the ladder to remove the victim.

When the window was removed, it fell into the bedroom on top of Lieutenant Higgins and the victim. The Officer called for FF Porter to assist him with removing the window and window frame that had fallen in and was hindering their access to the window. In order to accomplish this task, FF Porter was forced to stand and was exposed to the punishing high heat that had collected in the room.

FF Porter then continued searching the bedroom for other victims. Sweeping under the bunk bed with his leg, the Firefighter discovered seven-year-old Courtney Amao. She was under a bunk bed and covered with blankets and clothing. The young girl was unconscious and not breathing.

FF Porter was aware that the first victim still was being removed via the aerial ladder and that Engine 92 now was putting water on the fire. Therefore, he decided to retrace his path out of the apartment and removed the victim via the interior stairs to the street. The youngster immediately was assisted by members of the EMS Command, who administered CPR to the girl.

FF George Porter displayed excellent firefighting skills during this rescue. His actions were in keeping with highest traditions of the FDNY and he is presented with the Walter Scott Medal.



John H. Prentice Medal

Firefighter Thomas F. McGlade

Ladder Company 14

December 25, 2005, 1117 hours, Box 1482, Harlem River (under the Manhattan Spur of the Triborough Bridge at East 125th Street), Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on July 9, 1995. Previously assigned to Engine 35. Father-in-law, Deputy Chief Richard Fanning, is retired from Division 3; cousin, Lieutenant Thomas Herlich, is retired from Ladder 11; and uncles, FF Fred Herlich and Lieutenant Robert McKeon, also are retired. Recipient of two Service Rating As, two Life Saving Benevolent Association awards in 2005 and 2007 and the New York Rotary International Award. Resides in Kent, New York, with his wife, Karen.

Christmas morning is best known for attending church services, opening presents, smiling young faces and piles of torn wrapping paper, but for some Firefighters, the holiday means a day at work. The FDNY cannot afford to interrupt or lower its protection of the City, even during major holidays. Most Firefighters would prefer to spend this day with their families, but they all know that their unique vocation sometimes demands otherwise. FF Thomas F. McGlade is no exception. He reported to the firehouse as part of Ladder 14's crew for the Christmas daytime shift and because of his talents and strong initiative, he was the best qualified to give a total stranger the most sacred gift of all: another chance at life.

When it comes to water rescues, FF McGlade was the right Firefighter in the right place at the right time. His resumé reads more like a professional lifeguard in Hawaii than a Firefighter in East Harlem. FF McGlade was the captain of his college swim team, a lifeguard, a big-wave surfer and a rock climber. Additionally, he has finished three long-distance triathlons, including the grueling Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii. Out of the roughly 12,000 Firefighters in the FDNY, it was FF McGlade who was most qualified to jump into the frigid waters near Hell's Gate in the Harlem River, considered one of the most treacherous currents on the East Coast.

FF Thomas McGlade operating with Ladder 14 in Harlem.

With no other information except, "a man hanging from the bridge at that location," Ladder 14 was the first to arrive at First Avenue and East 125th Street for a report of a man in the water. The truck's veteran chauffeur that day, FF Christopher Reilly, knew that a dirt pathway called Marginal Road provided the quickest access to the water's edge, so he maneuvered the truck to a spot directly under the Triborough Bridge.

When they arrived at the water, a pedestrian, Robert Guzman, waved Ladder 14 down and pointed out the victim in the water--Norman McCollum--who was clinging to a bridge pillar with only his head and shoulders above the surface. Mr. McCollum had jumped from the bridge and was now 120 feet from the shore and quickly losing his grip in the punishing 42-degree-Fahrenheit water, where a human's survival time is measured in minutes.

FF McGlade removed his bulky firefighting bunker gear, gathered his rope and a life preserver and climbed into the tower ladder bucket with the company's outside vent Firefighter, Christopher Kirwan. As the truck's ladder was extended over the water, FF McGlade (the roof Firefighter) tied the safety line around himself in anticipation of a possible plunge. As the tower ladder was closing the distance, the victim lost his grip on the stanchion and slid under the water. The current quickly pulled him away from his rescuers.

FF McGlade acted immediately. He jumped off the bucket, dropped 15 feet into the murky water and swam toward Mr. McCollum. Due to the excessive cold, FF McGlade's chest tightened and his limbs became less responsive, but his stamina and years of ocean experience allowed him to reach the victim, who already had gone under three times and now was unresponsive. With his own body feeling the effects of hypothermia, FF McGlade somehow was able to get the life preserver around the victim. With both rescuer and victim now secured to ropes, the tower ladder bucket was retracted and the lines were pulled to safety by the other members of Ladder 14. The forcible entry Firefighter pulled both FF McGlade and Mr. McCollum up to the roadway by using a 16-foot portable ladder with the help of another first responder.

Both the victim and FF McGlade were treated for hypothermia at Cornell Medical Center, despite their relatively short duration in the water. This was the second time in FF McGlade's career that he performed a water rescue. Mr. McCollum certainly would have drowned if not for FF Thomas McGlade's decisiveness and swimming expertise. For his heroic act, he is awarded the John H. Prentice Medal.--*SN*

Henry D. Brookman Medal

Lieutenant Daniel J. Crowe

Engine Company 72 (assigned), Ladder Company 58 (detailed)

August 21, 2006, 1618 hours, Box 22-3348, 2475 Southern Boulevard, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on August 3, 1985. Previously assigned to Ladders 61 and 19, Battalion 8 and Engines 16 and 72. Holds a BS degree in Criminal Justice from SUNY at Brockport. Recipient of a Class III, a unit citation and Steuben Association Medal. Resides in Dobbs Ferry, New York, with his wife, Leslie, and sons, Danny, 13, and Matthew, 9.

Fires in fireproof multiple dwellings can spread quickly, are extremely hot and, depending on wind conditions and building air flow patterns, can be very difficult to extinguish. In past years, many factors have changed that affect FDNY's firefighting capabilities. FDNY members no longer fight fires in residential buildings where the fire load is natural fiber-based. With the onset of the chemical age, properties of the average residential furnishings are, for the most part, petroleum-based. As Lieutenant Daniel Crowe experienced firsthand, the fire load has increased tremendously, resulting in higher temperatures and faster-spreading fires.

As Bronx Box 3348 was transmitted for a structural fire, the responding members of Ladder Company 58 instantly began to talk up an operational plan. They recalled the dangers of indiscriminate ventilation, as well as the potential for rapid fire and extensive heavy smoke development on the fire floor and the floors above.

Ladder 58 apparatus. *photo by Joe Pinto*

As the first ladder company officer to arrive at the location, Lieutenant Crowe (detailed to Ladder 58) immediately and with purpose led his Firefighters into the building entrance of 2475 Southern Boulevard. Entering on the mezzanine level, Ladder 58 and Engine Company 45 members tried to gain control of the 31-story fireproof multiple dwelling's elevators by use of the fireman's service, but the elevators were not responding.

Faced with heavy fire and smoke issuing from two windows on the 12th floor, Lieutenant Crowe was forced to order the members of Ladder 58 to climb the stairs, knowing full well that this would dramatically reduce the members' strength and stamina once they arrived on the fire floor.

Arriving on the 12th floor, fatigued and out of breath, Lieutenant Crowe took a moment to compose himself while conducting a size-up of the public hallway. His size-up of the 12th-floor hallway revealed that the fire apartment door was open, as evidenced by the high heat and dense black smoke, which banked down to the floor.

Subsequently, FF Walter Powers, the forcible entry Firefighter of Ladder 58, arrived on the 12th-floor stairway landing and also noted the deteriorating conditions. Knowing that an open fire apartment door is one of the leading causes of civilian fatalities, Lieutenant Crowe and FF Powers entered the 12th-floor hallway without the protection of a charged hose-line in an attempt to both locate the fire apartment and minimize this fire's deadly potential.

In extreme heat conditions, Lieutenant Crowe and FF Powers systematically searched their way down the hallway with a search line in an attempt to find the fire apartment, as well as gain control of the apartment door. During their search, Lieutenant Crowe came upon a small area off the hallway and swept this area, finding a victim on the floor in an unconscious state. Unable to remove the victim by himself, Lieutenant Crowe called FF Powers for assistance and together, they dragged the victim 50 feet back down the hallway to the safe refuge of the stairway.

The fire victim was removed from the building to the street. He was rushed to St. Barnabas Hospital and ultimately moved to the hyperbaric chamber at Jacobi Hospital for burns and smoke inhalation.

In one defining moment, Lieutenant Daniel Crowe showed tremendous stamina, coupled with quick thinking and aggressive search techniques that undoubtedly saved the life of this man. For these reasons, he is recognized with the Henry D. Brookman Medal.--*PWB*

M.J. Delehanty Medal

Firefighter Scott J. Breslin

Ladder Company 133

July 18, 2006, 2157 hours, Box 44-4794, 103-17 169th Street, Queens

Appointed to the FDNY on July 28, 2002. Member of the Emerald Society. Attended Empire State College. Resides in Levittown, Long Island, with his wife, Colleen, and their son, Hunter.

On the hot, rainy and windy summer evening of July 18, 2006, Engine 275 and Ladder 133 turned out for a run at 2157 hours for Box 4794 for a report of a fire in a private dwelling at 103-17 169th Street. While en route to the Box from quarters, the dispatcher notified the companies that they received a second source and were filling out the Box.

On arrival, Engine 275 transmitted a 10-75 for fire in a two-story, flat-roof private dwelling in the middle of a row of similar dwellings. There was heavy smoke pushing from the second floor with visible fire on the exposure #2 side of the second floor. There was also fire through the roof. Engine 275 took a hydrant past the fire building and Ladder 133 positioned its apparatus in front of the fire building.

Exiting the rig, FF Scott Breslin, Ladder 133, was informed by a distraught man that a woman was trapped on the second floor. The inside team entered the fire building and ascended the stairs to the second floor. Reaching the landing at the top of the stairs, FF Breslin, who was assigned the irons, heard a faint moan coming from the rear of the apartment.

He informed his officer, Lieutenant Richard Kobbe, and started to make his way toward the rear of the apartment, using the wall as a guide because of the zero visibility. Lieutenant Kobbe, who was aware of the danger of this rescue because a charged hand-line was not in position, ordered FF Christian Minara to use his extinguisher to hold back the fire, which had possession of the rooms adjacent to and alongside the hallway leading to the rear bedroom. With FF Minara using the extinguisher to protect the means of egress, Lieutenant Kobbe made his way down the hallway to join FF Breslin in the search for the trapped woman.

Ladder 133 members in action.
photo by FF Daniel P. Alfonso

While dealing with extreme heat and zero visibility, the two rescuers made their way down the hallway. They encountered boxes and furniture stored in the narrow hallway, which made their search more difficult. FF Breslin heard the moans coming from the bedroom on his left. He forced his way into the bedroom and Lieutenant Kobbe followed him.

Once inside the bedroom, an aggressive search was made for the trapped woman because the intensity of the heat indicated that conditions in the room were becoming untenable. FF Breslin, who was barely able to crawl around the bed due to the heat, located a woman on the floor on the far side of the bed against the wall. A 10-45 was transmitted and FF Breslin dragged the unconscious victim around the bed toward the door and met up with Lieutenant Kobbe.

They dragged her out of the bedroom and down the hall toward the stairs. While moving down the hallway, the bedroom lit up and fire rolled overhead and extended into the hallway. Shielding the victim from the heat, FF Breslin and Lieutenant Kobbe continued down the long hallway under the difficult conditions and made their way back to the stair landing.

Engine 275 had completed stretching their line, put it into operation and began knocking down the fire extending from the living room area, which was threatening to cut off the means of egress of Ladder 133's inside team. While the inside team was in proximity to the stairs, the cockloft exploded, completely involving the hallway in fire. Engine 275 members maintained their position and redirected their hand-line over the heads of the truck's inside team to protect them and push back the fire that was all around them.

The force of the cockloft explosion and the blast of heat it caused blew FF Breslin down the stairs and dropped the skylight on top of him. He noticed that heavy fire from the first floor was about to cut off the stairway from below. He made his way back to the second floor to alert the members and continue dragging the woman down the stairs with Lieutenant Kobbe. Following their renewed efforts, they were able to remove her to the safety of the street.

Once FF Breslin, Lieutenant Kobbe and the victim were outside, FF Breslin began first aid. He was assisted by CFR-D personnel and then turned her care over to them. Engine 275 was continuing to make a push on the fire. However, due to the volume and extension, Battalion Chief Rocco Rinaldi, Battalion 50, ordered everyone out of the fire building. The victim was transported to Cornell Hospital, but she passed away from the injuries she sustained. The fire ultimately involved five attached frame buildings and went to a fourth alarm.

For his valiant effort and brave actions to rescue this woman, FF Scott J. Breslin officially is recognized and presented with the M.J. Delehanty Medal.--*NG*

William F. Conran Medal

Firefighter Charles E. Wiemann

Rescue Company 4

July 10, 2006, 0843 hours, Box 66-0947,
34 East 62nd Street, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on October 21, 1990. Previously assigned to Engine 263 and Ladder 154. Father, FF Edward Wiemann, is retired from Battalion 46. Member of the Steuben Association. Holds an associate's degree from the State University of New York at Farmingdale. Recipient of a Class III and unit citation. Resides in Bellmore, Long Island, with his wife, Karyn, and infant son, Kyle.

Building collapse is one of the more treacherous jobs to which FDNY members respond. On Monday, July 10, 2006, at 0843 hours, Rescue 4 was dispatched to Manhattan Box 0947 for numerous calls for a building explosion and collapse with multiple people trapped.

Rescue 4 arrived at 0901 hours. Lieutenant George Torres, Rescue 4, reported to the Command Post and was ordered by Division 3 Deputy Chief Daniel Donoghue or Deputy Chief William Siegel, Chief of Rescue Operations, to conduct searches and assist with fire suppression in the front of the collapsed building. At the front of the collapsed building, FF Charles Wiemann, Rescue 4, assisted the first-arriving units in extinguishing the fire. He also began assessing the collapsed area. He remained with the hose-line until the heavy volume of fire was knocked down, except for a portion that was being fed by gas.

Members of Rescue 4--FFs Charles Wiemann, Dominick Bertucci and Bill Murphy.

Adjacent to the stoop, a void was found that was large enough to search. As FF Richard Schmidt, Rescue 4, placed a scissor ladder in the void, FF Wiemann initiated meter readings for radiation, explosive limits and CO levels. Fire conditions worsened and members operating on the collapsed structure were ordered to back out to allow the tower ladder stream to knock down the fire.

At this time, FF Wiemann began to prepare the search camera for use. When the gas main was shut off, Chief Donoghue ordered the tower ladder stream shut down and members were permitted back on the collapsed structure. FFs Wiemann and Schmidt resumed searching and metering at the void.

FF Schmidt heard a faint call for help within the void and was permitted to enter and search. He located a trapped and badly injured male within the void and requested the fast pac. FF Wiemann lowered it into the void and then worked with other members to prepare other tools for use within the void.

Lieutenant Torres ordered FF Wiemann to descend the ladder into the void to assist. Measuring approximately four by six feet and and four feet in height, the void had a medium smoke condition. FF Wiemann handed two Paratech struts down to FF Schmidt. He then took the Halligan and the hydra-ram, reached the bottom of the void and crawled over the debris pile to the door. The pair of Firefighters discussed a plan to force the top of the door inward to gain access to the trapped victim.

Working from his knees, FF Wiemann worked with the Halligan to free one side of the door, while FF Schmidt worked on the opposite side with the hydra-ram. Before and during this time, they were able to see that the header was still intact above the door and able to hold the load, which meant that shoring of this opening was unnecessary. The upper portion of the door was forced and folded in half to allow access to the victim.

While they were working in the void, the fire on the collapsed pile was increasing in size. A hose-line was opened and pushed the fire back from where they were operating. FF Wiemann then began removing debris and clearing a path to facilitate removal of the victim. A medical backboard was handed down from above. The two rescuers packaged the man for removal. They diamond-lashed the victim onto the backboard with tubular webbing and continued monitoring the victim's vital signs and air supply.

Considering the critical condition of the victim, FFs Schmidt and Wiemann worked quickly to package him for removal. With sufficient members at the top of the void, a rope was attached to the backboard and members hauled up the victim, while FFs Schmidt and Wiemann pushed up from below. The victim remained on supplied air as he was removed from the void and passed down from the pile to other Firefighters and Paramedics. He expired days later in the hospital.

FF Wiemann operated in an extremely dangerous and volatile position within this small void for nearly 20 minutes. He was constantly faced with the threat of fire, explosion and secondary collapse during this rescue. The size of the victim and the fact that FF Wiemann could operate only on this knees made this a difficult rescue/removal. FF Charles Wiemann's brave actions are recognized today with the William F. Conran Medal.

Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia Medal

Firefighter Kevin R. Jensen

Ladder Company 58

May 21, 2006, 0102 hours, Box 22-3096, 1181 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on October 15, 1995. Grandfather, Lieutenant John Mohre, is retired from Engine Company 235. Attended Queens College. Resides in Tarrytown, New York, with his wife, Meredith.

It was early in the morning and Ladder Company 58 was returning to its West Farms quarters from a water leak assignment in a housing project. Suddenly, the onboard computer directed the unit to respond to a reported building fire on East Tremont Avenue. As the company proceeded to the location, the Bronx Fire Alarm Dispatcher was heard advising Battalion 18 that numerous calls were being received for a fire in an apartment house. The members of Ladder 58, including FF Kevin Jensen, who was assigned the roof position, could see smoke in the distance as the apparatus roared down the street.

On arrival, fire was blowing out the second-floor windows of a six-story, 100- by 100-foot, H-type multiple dwelling. As the first company to arrive, the officer notified the dispatcher of a working fire, heavy smoke banked down in the street and civilians evacuating down the fire escapes.

Ladder 58 in action. FF Kevin Jensen was the second-due forcible entry Firefighter, operating on the floor above the fire apartment.

Realizing that the fire was on the "A" side of the building, FF Jensen quickly proceeded to the building's roof via the "B" side staircase. Once on the roof, the Firefighter made his way to the bulkhead on the opposite side and proceeded to force open the door. There he encountered a very heavy smoke condition and, after checking for any occupants, worked his way around the bulkhead so he could vent the skylight and relieve some of the smoke.

As FF Jensen proceeded toward the skylight, he was joined by FF Fred Schwarzrock from Ladder Company 41. As the two Firefighters teamed up, they realized that they had worked together at a third alarm a week earlier where they laddered a private dwelling.

FF Schwarzrock informed FF Jensen that he heard cries for help coming from the bulkhead stairway. Without hesitation, FF Jensen donned his facepiece and caught up with FF Schwarzrock in the stairwell. Reaching the landing between the top floor and the roof, numerous unconscious occupants were located. However, the victims were trapped behind a locked security gate.

After quickly apprising the Battalion Chief via handie-talkie of the situation, FF Jensen tried to force open the gate. Although the black smoke made for zero visibility, he worked by feel. With strength of purpose and resolve, coupled with his experience, FF Jensen was able to force open the gate.

Once the gate was open, FFs Jensen and Schwarzrock moved down the stairs and encountered a jumbled mass of bodies. There were seven people--from an infant to a grandmother--all in distress. Along with other members who had arrived at the base of the stairs, FF Jensen carried victims to safe refuge in an apartment that had been opened by FF William Smith, Ladder 58.

After making three grueling trips to carry victims from the staircase to the apartment, an exhausted FF Jensen worked to assess the medical condition of the victims. Knowing that the job was not done, he then assisted in the laborious task of removing an unconscious resident down to the street where patient care was assumed by EMS personnel.

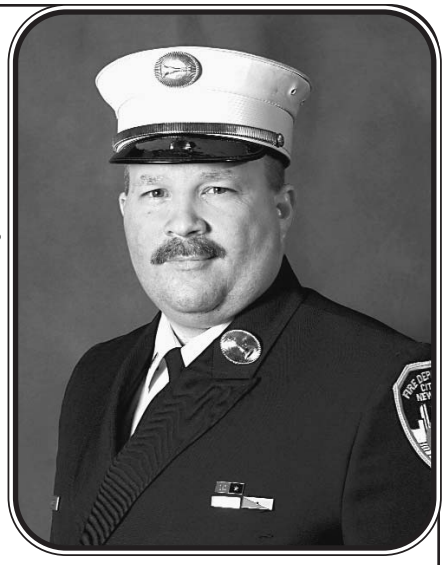
As Deputy Chief Thomas Dunne wrote in his report, "FF Jensen encountered a very hazardous situation...he elected to act decisively...in a heavy smoke condition...he exposed himself to danger and...his actions were directly responsible for successfully saving lives."

In recognition of his heroic actions and sound decision-making, the Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia Medal is awarded to FF Kevin R. Jensen.--*BDG*

Chief John J. McElligott Medal/ FFs Fitzpatrick and Frisby Award

LIEUTENANT JEFFREY F. MONSEN, SR.

Engine Company 23



May 23, 2006, 1631 hours, Box 75-0914, 463 West 57th Street, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on October 23, 1993. Previously assigned to Engine 227. Member of the Emerald Society and Company Officers Association. Recipient of a Service Rating A and a Service Rating B. Resides in Merrick, Long Island, with his wife, Leslie, and their sons, Jeffrey, Jr., and Daniel, and daughter, Valerie.

Engine Company 23, known as the "Lions Den," protects a very unique portion of midtown Manhattan. Members respond to Central Park, the enormous AOL-Time Warner high-rise complex, theaters and several five-star hotels. But they also protect many common buildings, such as tenements, multiple dwellings and brownstones.

On May 23, 2006, Lieutenant Jeffrey F. Monsen, Sr., working a day tour in Engine 23, performed a rescue in one of these more common structures. At approximately 1630 hours this spring afternoon, Engine 23 responded as the first-due engine to a reported fire on the top floor of a multiple dwelling. When the engine company members arrived, heavy smoke was pushing from the top-floor windows of the occupied, five-story, brownstone multiple dwelling.

Engine 23 gets ready to leave quarters. *photo by the FDNY Photo Unit*

Lieutenant Monsen performed a quick size-up of the fire conditions and transmitted a 10-75 via the Department radio. He then ordered the Firefighters of Engine 23 to quickly stretch a 1 3/4-inch hose-line to the top floor. The Lieutenant entered the fire building, but was forced to pause briefly as the windows on the top floor self-vented. He and the Firefighters narrowly avoided the broken glass that cascaded down onto them. Once they continued their steps to the fire apartment, they received a report of a trapped occupant still inside from an hysterical, fleeing tenant.

Lieutenant Monsen quickly ascended the stairs to the fifth floor. As he made his way to the fourth floor, he was met by two police officers who told him they could not make it to the fire floor due to the heat and heavy smoke conditions. Lieutenant Monsen rounded the stairs above and knew that these extreme conditions meant one thing--the door to the fire apartment was open.

He got down on his hands and knees and could barely see the door. He then radioed to his members the conditions he found and called for the line. Lieutenant Monsen donned his facepiece and began to crawl down the hallway. He was driven down to the floor by the high heat, but continued searching for any indication of life. He took a stab with his right hand and found the fire apartment door, which was slightly ajar. Lieutenant Monsen gained control of the door and transmitted his progress over the handie-talkie. Again, he called for the hose-line.

The heat condition was getting worse and the Firefighters of Engine 23 were struggling with a difficult hose-line stretch. Lieutenant Monsen knew time was critical for the trapped victim, so with all his protective equipment in place (hood on and ear flaps down), he entered the apartment and searched. Lieutenant Monsen crawled in deep, sweeping the floor, hoping to find the victim. Approximately 15 feet later, his efforts paid off.

Lieutenant Monsen found 62-year-old David Brubaker lying at the foot of his bed. The rescuer immediately transmitted the radio code 10-45, signifying that he located a victim, and began removing him from the fire apartment.

Lieutenant Monsen could feel the heat through his protective hood and recognized that he would have to shield the vulnerable victim from the heat. He repositioned himself with his back to the heat. He dragged the unconscious male out of the fire area and made his way to the public hallway. When he reached the top of the stairs, he passed the victim to his Engine 23 members, who had arrived with the hose-line. The Officer knew that he still had more work to do, so he directed the remaining members of Engine 23 to advance their way through the fire apartment and extinguish the fire.

The victim, found unconscious, was hospitalized for several days. He suffered from burn injuries, but did recover. If not for Lieutenant Monsen's brave actions, Mr. Brubaker might have succumbed to his injuries. Under severe and punishing conditions, Lieutenant Monsen entered the fire area without any protection from a hose-line to save Mr. Brubaker's life. For these reasons, the Chief John J. McElligott Medal/FFs Fitzpatrick & Frisby Award is awarded to Lieutenant Jeffrey F. Monsen, Sr.--*AP*

Thomas F. Dougherty Medal

Lieutenant George Brennan

Engine Company 53

November 6, 2006, 1558 hours, Box 75-1274, 173 East 101st Street, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on September 2, 1978. Previously assigned to Engine 69. Recipient of three unit citations and one Service Rating A. Resides in Floral Park, Long Island, with his wife, Kathy, and their children, Leo and Nora.

Engine 53 is quartered with Ladder 43 in Manhattan's Spanish Harlem. Both companies are consistently among the busiest in the job and have earned a strong reputation as such. On November 6, 2006, Lieutenant George Brennan of Engine 53, a 29-year veteran, performed a courageous act that upheld that reputation once again.

Lieutenant Brennan was doing paperwork and preparing for the upcoming night tour. At approximately 1600 hours, he was interrupted by a civilian knocking at the door of the firehouse. The civilian was reporting a fire around the corner. Before the Firefighter on housewatch duty could react, the tone alert sounded and Engine 53 was dispatched for an ERS Box alarm for a fire at 173 East 101st Street. Engine 53 turned out by themselves because Ladder 43 was relocated uptown to the quarters of Ladder 34.

When Engine 53 arrived at the location, they were the only unit on-scene and met by fire blowing out a fourth-floor front window of the reported address. Lieutenant Brennan ordered his members to start a line while he went up to the fire floor. After ascending the stairs, he arrived at the fire apartment door and began to use his Officer's tool to force the door open and gain entry to the apartment.

Before he could enter the apartment, Lieutenant Brennan had to address another problem. Two fleeing tenants were attempting to leave the upper floors via the stairs. When the fire apartment door was opened, the escaping smoke and heat began to fill the stairs and hallways on the floors above, which caused the fleeing tenants to panic. Lieutenant Brennan secured the fire apartment door in the closed position and made his way up to the floor above through the now-heavy smoke condition to guide the hysterical tenants down to safety.

Lieutenant Brennan returned back to the fire floor and crawled into the fire apartment to conduct a search. He was confident that the members of Engine 53 would have their hose-line in position quickly. Working his way around the fire apartment searching for any possible victims, the rescuer found an unconscious elderly woman in the living room. The 83-year-old woman was overcome by the fire and smoke.

The Lieutenant dragged the woman out of the apartment. He was met by his Firefighters and the victim was removed to the floor below, where EMS personnel treated her. The victim then was transported to the Burn Center for treatment of her injuries. Lieutenant Brennan and his remaining Firefighters proceeded to extinguish the fire.

Lieutenant Brennan bravely saved the lives of three people that November afternoon. He did this under severe and dangerous fire conditions, without the protection of a hose-line or a water extinguisher. The Lieutenant's only desire was to have his company, Engine 53, recognized with a Unit Citation.

Engine 53 in operation. *photo by the FDNY Photo Unit*

However, it was obvious to all FDNY members who operated at this fire that Lieutenant Brennan should be recognized for his courageous actions, prompting the officers in command at this incident to nominate him for a medal in their report of meritorious act. In the proud and honorable traditions of this Department, Lieutenant George Brennan is awarded the Thomas F. Dougherty Medal.--*AP*

Albert S. Johnston Medal

FIREFIGHTER CRAIG H. MCDONALD

Ladder Company 147

December 22, 2006, 2340 hours, Box 22-1541, 1809 Albermarle Road, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on December 4, 2004. Father, Battalion Chief Henry McDonald, is retired, and brother, FF Matthew McDonald, is assigned to Ladder 157. Member of the Emerald Society. Holds a BS degree in Facilities Engineering from SUNY Maritime College. Recipient of a Service Rating A. Resides in Breezy Point, Queens.

Fires occurring late at night in multiple dwellings generally will feature trapped people who are in need of assistance. Such was the case on December 22, 2006, at 1809 Albermarle Road, Brooklyn. This building is a six-story, 200- by 200-foot, non-fireproof, multiple dwelling with several wings.

At 2340 hours on that date, numerous phone alarms were received at the Brooklyn Fire Communications Office for a fire on the sixth floor with people trapped. This information was transmitted to the local firehouses, including Engine 281 and Ladder 147, the first-due units.

A combination of a fast turnout, quick response and heroic action would be necessary to lessen the severity of injuries to any trapped occupants. Ladder 147 members--through training and experience--were up to this task.

As Ladder 147, commanded by Lieutenant Gerard Curran, was responding to the scene, he was notified by the dispatcher of a large fire at this building and that people were jumping from the fire floor. Engine 281 arrived just ahead of Ladder 147 and transmitted a 10-75.

When Ladder 147 rolled up to the fire location, Lieutenant Curran and members noticed a heavy smoke condition emanating from the upper floors. As Lieutenant Curran and FF Craig McDonald entered the lobby, they observed many occupants had fled their apartments due to the hazardous condition on the upper floors. Experienced Firefighters realize that extreme heat conditions and blinding smoke are generated from fires in these kinds of structures.

The members of Ladder 147.

Without delay, Lieutenant Curran and FF McDonald ascended the interior stairwell to search for the origin of the fire. At the sixth-floor level, they were forced to don their facepieces and SCBA because of a heavy smoke condition. While moving along the sixth-floor hallway, the team located the fire in apartment 62 of the D wing. This information was transmitted to the Chief in charge and to Engine 281, whose members were making a long hose stretch through the ground-level courtyard and then up six flights of stairs.

The fire apartment door was cherry red and slightly warped from the intense heat. The search and rescue team could not wait for the charged hose-line because of the possibility of trapped victims. They forced the door to gain entry and were met with fire immediately. The fire had originated in a rear bedroom and now was extending to the apartment entrance, preventing FF McDonald from performing his primary search mission. He then discharged his water extinguisher to beat back the fire, reduce the heat and allow a rescue attempt.

At this time, conditions in this apartment and the top floor were deteriorating, which necessitated a second-alarm transmission. Lieutenant Curran decided that the team could not wait for the charged hose-line. They entered and crawled past the fire, with the Lieutenant searching toward the left bedroom and FF McDonald searching the bedroom to the right. The Firefighter made a sweep under a bed and there he felt the motionless body of a 12-year-old boy. FF McDonald grabbed the unconscious victim and began to make his way toward the exit.

The heat buildup was intense. Fearing additional injuries to the victim, FF McDonald shielded the boy with his own body while partially dragging and carrying him to safety. Once he reached a safe atmosphere, the Firefighter initiated rescue breathing and cardiac massage.

After this rescue was successfully completed, Lieutenant Curran and FF McDonald returned to the fire apartment to complete their primary search mission while working alongside the advancing hose-line. The young boy, Cevatius Cambell, was admitted to Kings County Hospital with severe smoke injuries and respiratory burns, as well as burns to his arms and hands.

FF Craig McDonald's courage and selfless actions in a dangerous situation, without the protection of a charged hose-line, gave life to this youngster. For his initiative, bravery and heroic actions without regard for his own safety, the Fire Department is proud to honor him with the Albert S. Johnston Medal.--*EB*

Bella Stiefel Medal

Lieutenant David C. Bengyak

Ladder Company 127 (assigned), Engine Company 275 (detailed)

July 18, 2006, 2157 hours, Box 44-4794, 103-17 169th Street, Jamaica, Queens

*Appointed to the FDNY on August 7, 1982. Previously assigned to Ladders 2 and 58. Father, FF William Bengyak, is retired from Ladder 16; uncle, Frank Bengyak, is retired from Engine 47; uncle, Victor **tk**, is retired from Engine 24; and cousin, Anthony Quaglietta, is retired from Engine 91. Cited for bravery on one other occasion. Resides in Levittown, Long Island, with his wife, Nancy. They have three children, Lisa, 24, David, 22, and Lauren, 21.*

At 2157 hours, Engine 275 and Ladder 133 responded first-due to a phone alarm for a fire in a private dwelling located at 103-17 169th Street. On arrival, Engine 275 transmitted a 10-75 for heavy fire on the top floor of a two-story, flat-roof private dwelling. Engine 275 members stretched a 1 3/4-inch line into the fire building via the front door. Ladder 133 entered the fire building and proceeded to the top floor. Reaching the top floor, Ladder 133 members entered the rear room to start a search.

Lieutenant David Bengyak (detailed to Engine 275) called for water and then he, nozzle FF Michael Urbanick and back-up FF John Kelly ascended the stairs to the top floor where they were met with extreme heat and zero visibility. When they reached the top floor, Lieutenant Bengyak made verbal communication with Ladder 133 and positioned the line to protect the stairs and the Ladder 133 members involved in search operations.

With visible fire now extending from the front and middle rooms (quickly gaining control of the front hallway and stairs, threatening the means of egress), Lieutenant Bengyak ordered Engine 275's line to advance down the narrow hallway in the direction of the fire. Heavy fire now was reported in the cockloft and moving from front to rear. There were also reports of fire on the first floor of exposure #2.

Ladder 127 in action. *photo by Fred Kopf*

As Engine 275's nozzle Firefighter operated the line in the direction of the fire room, Lieutenant Bengyak could not see due to zero visibility, but he felt a person pass him, heading toward the fire. Not knowing who had passed him, Lieutenant Bengyak left his position to pursue the individual. With the fire advancing down the hallway and conditions rapidly deteriorating, Lieutenant Bengyak entered the front room, which was heavily involved, and came upon a disoriented, combative member without a helmet or facepiece.

Due to the heavy fire conditions and the severity of the situation, Lieutenant Bengyak had to take decisive physical control. He was able to crawl onto the member's back, shield the member with his body and reassure him. While battling heavy smoke and severe fire conditions, Lieutenant Bengyak made his way from the fully involved room into the hallway.

With fire over their heads and behind them, Engine 275's nozzle team was still fighting to maintain the integrity of the rear hallway and stairs to provide a means of egress for Ladder 133 members who were removing a deceased victim from the rear bedroom. Entering the hallway, Lieutenant Bengyak realized he couldn't reach the stairs due to the intense heat and heavy fire dropping down.

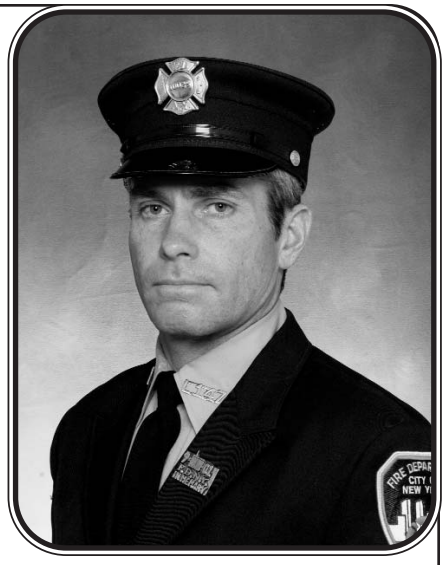
He immediately began looking for an alternative means of egress. Lieutenant Bengyak turned the member to the front and attempted to seek refuge in the room where the dead victim was found. When he reached the front room, Lieutenant Bengyak located a window and assisted the member out onto the roof of the front porch. The member was brought down a ladder to safety.

Lieutenant Bengyak returned to the hallway and located his nozzle team. Due to advanced fire conditions in the cockloft, the ceiling in the hallway collapsed on Lieutenant Bengyak and the nozzle team. Heavy fire was reported through the roof and in exposure #2.

Engine 275, now back to full strength, attempted to make one last push. When conditions became untenable, Battalion Chief Rocco Rinaldi, Battalion 50, ordered all members out of the building.

This act was performed under extremely dangerous, arduous and punishing conditions. By putting himself in harm's way, Lieutenant David Bengyak kept fellow Firefighters from sustaining further injuries. He is presented with the Bella Stiefel Medal.

Vincent J. Kane Medal



FIREFIGHTER JAMES T. LUNNY

Ladder Company 147

August 27, 2005, 1547 hours, Box 75-1527, 60 Turner Place, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on May 9, 1993. Previously assigned to Engines 1 and 281. Brother, Lieutenant Kevin Lunny, is retired from Engine 279; nephew, FF Kevin Lunny, is assigned to Engine 276; nephew, Probationary FF Brendan Lunny, is a Proby at the Fire Academy; and brother-in-law, Lieutenant Edward Mullen, is assigned to Ladder 142. Member of the.Emerald and Holy Name Societies. Resides in Belle Harbor, New York, with his wife, Bridget, and their son, James, 7, and daughter, Catherine, 5.

During the afternoon of August 27, 2005, Ladder 147 responded to Box 75-1527 for a report of a fire in a multiple dwelling. Arriving on-scene, members were confronted with heavy smoke pushing from the window of apartment 3E on the fourth floor. Engine 281 transmitted a 10-75 and the forcible entry team of Ladder 147 raced up the stairs to the fourth floor, encountering a heavy smoke condition in the hallway.

Lieutenant Joseph D'emic, Engine 281, had forced the locks of the door to apartment 3E, but was unable to open the door more than 12 inches. An unconscious victim and a large accumulation of debris were behind the door, preventing the Officer from entering. Conditions were Collyers' mansion-like. Flames were visible just inside the apartment door.

Members of Ladder 147--FFs Kenny Klipp and Tommy Alioto, Lieutenant Gerard Curran and FFs Kyle McGoff (Engine 281), James Lunny and Josh Lomask.

Without hesitation, FF James Lunny performed a reduced profile with his SCBA. FF Kyle McGoff, Ladder 147, operated the extinguisher on the flames over FF Lunny's head, while the latter squeezed through the narrow opening in the door.

FF Lunny, shielding the first victim, Constance Dalmage, from the flames with his own body, pulled the woman away from the door. He removed the household junk and then was able to pull the door open just enough to pass the victim out to Lieutenant Gerard Curran, Ladder 147, Lieutenant D'emic and FF McGoff. The victim then was passed to FF Richard Montanez, Engine 281, who carried the victim down the smoke-filled hallway and turned her over to EMS personnel for transport to Lutheran Hospital.

FF McGoff began to hit the fire with the extinguisher prior to the line being charged. Receiving a report of more people trapped, FF Lunny, without the protection of a charged hose-line and with little regard for his own safety, crawled under the fire to continue his search.

Making his way through the Collyers' mansion conditions, FF Lunny found a second victim, Deanna Bontemps, in the rear of the apartment. The rescuer began to drag the victim out. Meanwhile, Lieutenant Curran and FF McGoff made their way to the rear of the apartment to assist with the removal of the second victim. FF Kenny Klipp forced his way into the apartment through a fire escape window and also assisted with the victim.

The woman was unconscious and not breathing at this time. Engine 281 began knocking down the fire. A stokes basket was called to handle the second victim. She then was removed via the stokes and transferred to EMS personnel, who transported her to Maimonides Hospital.

Constance Dalmage, the first victim, is alive and well today because of FF Lunny's heroic act. Unfortunately, Deanna Bontemps died in the hospital a few hours later. Both rescues were performed in a manner that exemplifies the FDNY professionalism and, in particular, FF Lunny's courage.

FF James Lunny risked his life to save the life of these two victims. He displayed courage and initiative while at risk. For these reasons, he is presented with the Vincent J. Kane Medal.

Pulaski Association Medal

FIREFIGHTER LARRY D. SCHNECKENBURGER

Ladder Company 120

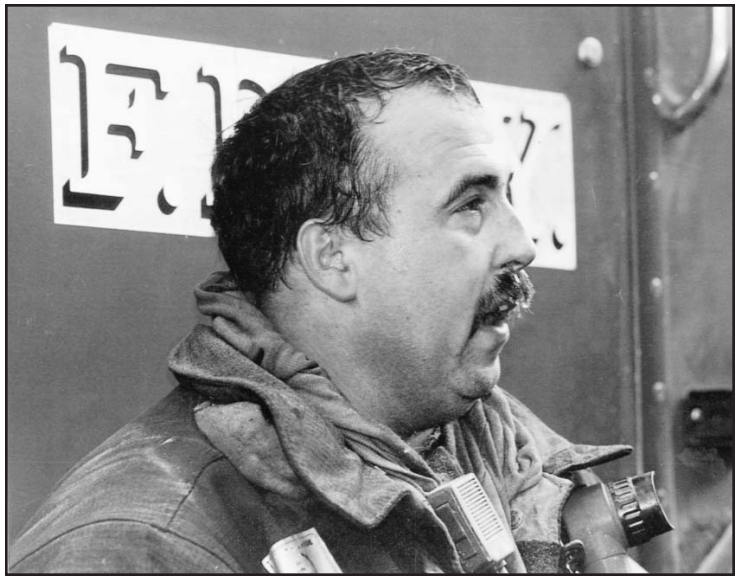
March 20, 2006, 1457 hours, Box 1674,
shoot-out in front of Ladder 120 quarters, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on March 5, 1984. Previously assigned to Engine 231. Former member of the FDNY Football Team. Attended Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas. Cited for bravery on two previous occasions. Resides in Commack, Long Island, with his wife, Patricia. They have two sons, Matthew, 25, and Dean, 23.

Occasionally, Firefighters protect citizens where there is no fire, but the danger of a life-threatening injury is just as great. On March 20, 2006, at approximately 1500 hours, FF Larry Schneckenburger, Ladder 120, performed such a feat.

As the members of Ladder 120 were completing their daily drill, the sound of gunshots were heard outside of quarters. FF Schneckenburger, a former police officer with more than 20 years of firefighting experience, immediately left the safety of the firehouse via the apparatus door to investigate.

When he stepped onto Watkins Street, FF Schneckenburger saw two individuals running onto the street from Pitkin Avenue. They were engaged in a running gun battle with automatic pistols. Because the firehouse is adjacent to Public School 298 and due to the time of day, FF Schneckenburger realized many innocent children and their parents could be hurt. At that moment, school was being dismissed for the day and approximately 40 children and parents were on the sidewalk.



FF Larry Schneckenburger takes a break after a job.

As the two gunmen continued to exchange shots, they also were moving toward a public housing project and closer to the children. FF Schneckenburger, with complete disregard for his safety, decided to intercede in the situation.

As both children and parents quickly sought cover from gunfire, FF Schneckenburger shouted to the Firefighter at the housewatch to call for help and then ran in between the two gunmen to protect several children. The Firefighter grabbed two of the children and began to move the other children back in the direction of the school. Calling out to other innocent parents and children, FF Schneckenburger successfully began ushering them back toward the safety of the school.

When the gunfire momentarily stopped, FF Schneckenburger was able to reassess the situation. He noticed one of the teachers' aides was shot twice in the leg and was in the middle of the walkway leading into the housing project. Just then, the firing resumed and the gunmen continued their assault.

FF Schneckenburger continued to stay between the gunmen and the children and other horrified onlookers, directing the innocents back to the safety of the school. After 17 shots were fired, the gunmen ran off into the housing project, where one eventually was captured by the police.

In his report of the incident, Lieutenant Robert Brown noted, "In keeping with the highest traditions of the Department, FF Schneckenburger exhibited great initiative…(as) the lives of countless civilians were at risk. This Firefighter's swift and unselfish actions were instrumental in sheltering the schoolchildren, thereby saving untold lives."

This sentiment was echoed by Battalion Chief James J. Montgomery, who stated, "FF Schneckenburger acted without regard for his safety and on his own initiative. If not for (his) bravery and quick actions, many children who just exited the school would have been left to fend for themselves in the middle of a gun battle."

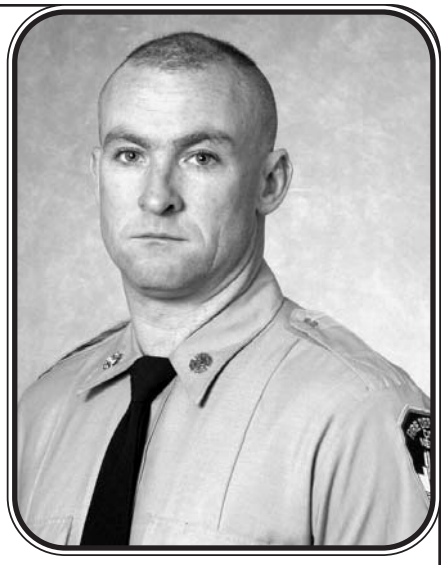
In recognition of this tremendous act of heroism, the Fire Department of the City of New York is proud to honor FF Larry Schneckenburger today with the Pulaski Association Medal.--*DJH*

Commissioner Edward Thompson Medal

FIREFIGHTER WALTER D. POWERS

Ladder Company 58

August 21, 2006, 1618 hours, Box 22-3348, 2475 Southern Boulevard, Bronx



Appointed to the FDNY on February 4, 1996. Previously assigned to Engine 45. Father, Captain Walter Powers, is retired from Ladder 54. Member of the Holy Name and Emerald Societies. Holds a BS degree from Iona College. Recipient of a unit citation. Currently on military leave, serving as a Lieutenant Colonel with the Marine Corps Reserves in Iraq. (This is his second tour of duty for Operation Iraqi Freedom. *Also served during* Operations Desert Storm *and* Desert Hope*.) Served on active duty from 1988 to 1995 and reserve duty from 1995 to the present. Recipient of the Marine Corps Officer of the Year for Professionalism, 1999. Resides in Yonkers, New York, with his wife, Julianne, and their two sons, Nicholas and Sam.*

On August 21, 2006, at 1618 hours, Ladder 58 responded to a phone alarm for Box 3348, Southern Boulevard. The initial report was for smoke on the 14th floor of a 31-story, fireproof, multiple dwelling. Boarding the apparatus, Lieutenant Daniel Crowe was informed by the Ladder 58 chauffeur, FF Thomas Dunn, that this Box was out of the company's response area and Engine 88 and Ladder 38 must be out.

While en route to Box 3348, the dispatcher provided reports of smoke on multiple floors. As Ladder 58 turned north onto Southern Boulevard--about seven blocks away--it was evident there was a fire by the large amount of smoke pushing from the middle of the building. At this time, Battalion Chief John Salka, Battalion 18, traveling behind Ladder 58, gave the 10-75 from his vehicle.

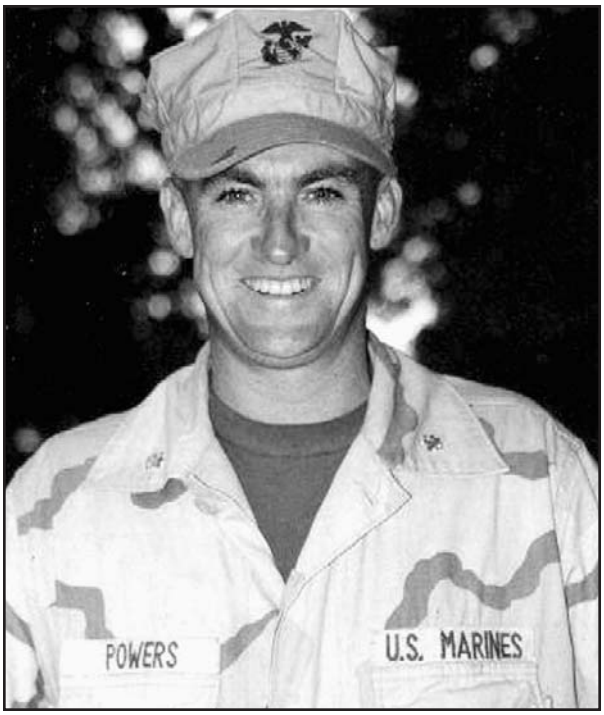
Arriving at the fire building, it was apparent that the fire was in the free-burning stage as indicated by the heavy fire and smoke issuing from two windows of 2475 Southern Boulevard. The exact floor was difficult to determine from the outside because the building entrance was on a mezzanine level.

Entering the lobby area, Ladder 58 and Engine 45 members tried to gain control of the building's elevators by using the Fireman Service, but the elevators were not responding. Lieutenant Crowe then ordered the members of Ladder 58 to take the stairs and they began ascending the stairs of stairway "B."

Climbing the stairs was an arduous task. Weighed down with their gear and equipment, the members of Ladder 58 exhibited tremendous strength and stamina just to make it up the stairs to the 12th floor.

Arriving on the 12th-floor stairway landing, FF Walter Powers, part of the forcible entry team, caught up with Lieutenant Crowe. The Lieutenant gave Chief Salka a report of high heat and dense smoke banked down to the floor on the 12th floor, making it apparent that the apartment door was open, allowing fire to extend down the hallway.

Knowing there was no protection of a charged hose-line, Lieutenant Crowe and FF Powers still began their search down the hallway. In the extreme heat conditions, FF Powers began his search along the right side of the hallway off the search line. Lieutenant Crowe than called out that he had found a victim and needed assistance.



FF Walter Powers is on his second tour of duty in Iraq, where he is serving as a Lieutenant Colonel.

FF Powers located Lieutenant Crowe and, together, they dragged the unconscious victim 50 feet down the hallway to the stairway. The victim was removed to the street, treated by EMS personnel and immediately rushed to St. Barnabas Hospital. The victim later was moved to the hyperbaric chamber at Jacobi Hospital.

FF Powers showed tremendous stamina, courage and aggressive firefighting skills. His ability to stay focused during these extreme conditions facilitated the rescue of the victim. If more time had elapsed, the victim's chance of survival in high heat and smoke conditions would have been greatly reduced.

By entering the hallway without the protection of a charged hose-line, FF Powers placed himself in danger. FF Walter Powers performed his duties in the highest tradition of the New York City Fire Department and is honored with the Commissioner Edward Thompson Medal.

Columbia Association Medal

Lieutenant Victor Spadaro

Battalion 38 (assigned), Ladder Company 120 (detailed)

December 27, 2005, 0808 hours, Box 75-1668, 348 Chester Street, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on September 19, 1988. Previous assignments include Ladder 20, Engine 290 and Ladder 103. Member of the Columbia Association and the Emerald Society. Recipient of a Service Rating A.Attended Kingsborough/Brooklyn College. Resides in Brooklyn with his 12-year-old son, Matthew.

During the week between Christmas and New Year's, many New Yorkers take off from work to enjoy time with family and friends. Fortunately for one New Yorker, Lieutenant Victor Spadaro was detailed to work at Ladder 120, where "the tradition continues."

At approximately 0800 hours on December 27, 2005, Ladder 120 was ordered to respond to a telephone alarm for a structural fire opposite 353 Chester Street in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn. While the company was en route, Brooklyn fire dispatchers notified Lieutenant Spadaro there were reports of people trapped on the upper floors of the building.

As Ladder 120 turned onto Chester Street, Engine 283 transmitted a 10-75 signal for a working fire and gave the location as 348 Chester Street in the Marcus Garvey Village Houses. Arriving in front of the four-story, 20- by 40-foot, class one structure, Lieutenant Spadaro and the members of Ladder 120 were confronted by fire emanating from the three front windows on the top floor. Moving quickly, Lieutenant Spadaro assured the proper placement of the truck's 75-foot ladder and then proceeded to the interior staircase to ascend to the fire floor.

Flatbush, Brooklyn, fire at which Ladder 120 worked on September 28, 2006. Photo shows the outside vent Firefighter.

photo by Paul Martinka, New York Post

Reaching the top floor, Lieutenant Spadaro was informed the apartment door was locked. He ordered FF Allan Goetz, Ladder 120, to force the door with the company's Hydra Ram. As FF Goetz was working to force the door, Lieutenant Spadaro received a radio report from the outside vent Firefighter that people were screaming they were trapped in the rear of the top floor. With this report, Lieutenant Spadaro knew time was critical.

As the door was forced, conditions in the public hallway deteriorated quickly. High heat and smoke burst into the hallway from the apartment and Lieutenant Spadaro found the living room was completely involved and the fire was moving into the kitchen. Without the benefit of a charged hose-line for protection, Lieutenant Spadaro, accompanied by FF John Drew, Ladder 120, entered the apartment and worked their way down the interior hallway toward the rear of the apartment.

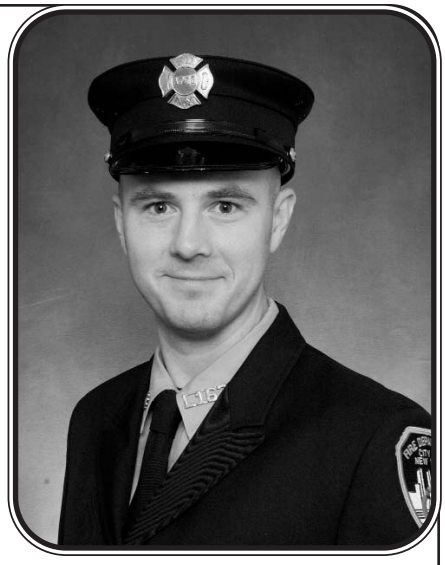
As the fire continued to advance, FF Drew moved to the right to check one bedroom, while Lieutenant Spadaro continued left toward the rear bedroom. During his search, the Lieutenant found the semi-conscious body of Floyd Patterson between the bed and rear wall. Transmitting a 10-45 signal, Lieutenant Spadaro hoisted the victim onto his right shoulder. However, due to the high heat conditions, he had to crawl out of the apartment.

Reaching the public hallway, Lieutenant Spadaro was able to stand. He then repositioned the victim over his shoulder and carried him out to the street where he was turned over to EMS personnel. Lieutenant Spadaro then returned to the fire floor in search of other victims. He was informed that FF Drew had removed a second victim, while reports of a third victim proved to be negative.

In his report, Battalion Chief James Montgomery, Battalion 44, concluded, "In keeping with the highest traditions of the Department, Lieutenant Spadaro exhibited unusual courage and capability in performance of this rescue. Lieutenant Spadaro never hesitated in entering the fire apartment, displaying great initiative in coordinating his company's actions in saving two lives." Deputy Chief Wayne Cartwright, Division 15, also noted, "Lieutenant Spadaro was confronted with a known life-hazard, which was confirmed via his outside team. He then demonstrated personal initiative by entering the fire apartment without the protection of a charged hand-line."

Due to this selfless act, the Fire Department of the City of New York is proud to honor Lieutenant Victor Spadaro today with the Columbia Association Medal.--*DJH*

Susan Wagner Medal



FIREFIGHTER TERENCE J. OSBORN

Ladder Company 163

February 21, 2006, 1159 hours, Box 22-7307, 43-29 39th Place, Woodside, Queens

Appointed to the FDNY on October 28, 2001. Previously assigned to Engine 325. Cousin, Captain Chris Dougherty, is assigned to Division 7. Member of the Emerald Society and the Knights of Columbus. Holds a BS degree in criminal justice from St. John's University. Recipient of two Service Rating As. Resides in Flushing, Queens, with his wife, Caresa, and their two sons, Daniel, 2, and Dylan, a newborn.

When fire spreads into the cockloft, Firefighters can expect a smoky, nasty environment. On February 21, 2006, at 1159 hours, Ladder 163 responded, first-due, to just such a fire, following a phone alarm for Box 7307. The building was a four-story, class 3, non-fireproof multiple dwelling. On arrival at the location, heavy smoke was issuing from the top floor of the fire building.

FF Terence Osborn, along with the rest of the inside team, entered the lobby as civilians fled down the stairs. Due to the heavy volume of smoke on the top-floor landing, members were forced to don facepieces and use SCBA to advance further down the hall to locate the apartment.

The fire apartment was located at the end of the hallway. After checking the door to verify its locked position, FF Osborn, assigned the irons position, quickly sized up the task of forcible entry. This door was protected with a secondary lock above the main lock and outfitted with angle iron. He expeditiously forced entry of the door and was met with heavy smoke and high heat.

Standing left to right are Lieutenant Nick D'Alessandro, Engine 325, FFs Mathew Desjardin, Engine 325, Duncan Cooke, Ladder 163, Terence Osborn, Ladder 163, and Michael Doda, Ladder 163 (recently promoted to Lieutenant), Lieutenant Jack Reicherter, Ladder 163, and FF Ronald Winnegar, Engine 325. Kneeling left to right are FFs Basil Soletti, Engine 325, Bryan Kuck, Ladder 163, and John O'Connor, Ladder 163.

Lieutenant John Reicherter and FF Michael Doda with the extinguisher, both from Ladder 163, proceeded along the right wall, while FF Osborn took the left wall. At this point, a report from Ladder 163's outside vent Firefighter indicated to the inside team that heavy fire was coming from the cuts just begun on the roof and also from numerous inspection holes.

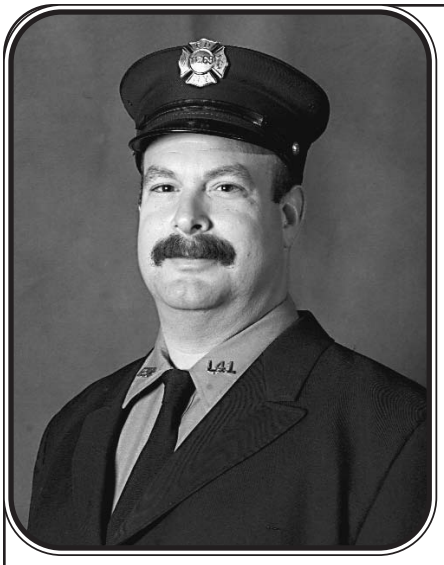
Fire in the cockloft throughout the apartment now was evident. Without a hose-line in place, because of the long stretch involved, FF Osborn made his way down the hallway and entered the kitchen. Feeling with his hands, he came upon an unconscious female in the supine position. A 10-45 signal was transmitted to the Officer.

The victim was dragged to the entrance of the kitchen where FF Doda, after hearing the 10-45, came to assist FF Osborn. The victim was taken from the apartment to the hallway and then down a flight of stairs. The woman then was passed off to EMS personnel, who transported her to Elmhurst General Hospital.

FF Osborn then re-entered the apartment to assist his company with continuing search and fire extinguishing efforts.

FF Osborn placed himself in the precarious position of a high heat, heavy fire and smoke environment with the apartment engulfed in a cockloft fire. Despite not having a hose-line in place and with little regard for his own safety, he showed great determination in saving the life of this woman.

His actions were in the highest traditions of the FDNY. FF Terence Osborn performed his duties, resulting in a life being saved from sure death. He is honored with the Susan Wagner Medal.



Steuben Association Medal

FIREFIGHTER FREDERICK M. SCHWARZROCK

Ladder Company 41

May 21, 2006, 0100 hours, Box 22-3096, 1181 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on February 5, 1995. Father, Lieutenant Frederick Schwarzrock, is retired from Ladder 11. Brother, FF Stephen Schwarzrock, is assigned to Ladder 123. Uncle, Captain James Maher, is retired from Ladder 102. Member of the St. George Association. Cited for bravery on one previous occasion. Resides in Otisville, New York, with his wife, Theresa.

It was approximately one o'clock in the morning when the tone alarm shattered the silence of the Bronx firehouse known as the "Morris Park Fire Department." FF Fred Schwarzrock, along with the other members of Ladder 41, quickly took their positions on the rig as it started its journey to the East Tremont section of the Bronx.

Arriving second-due, FF Schwarzrock and his colleagues could see fire lapping out the windows on the side of the building--a 100- by 100-foot, six-story apartment house. Additionally, panicky residents were making their way through the heavy smoke, which was banked down in the street. They knew they were going to work.

FF Schwarzrock, who was assigned the roof position, stepped off the apparatus and proceeded to the adjoining structure. Once inside, he quickly made his way to the roof and moved to the bulkhead of the fire building.

When FF Schwarzrock got to the bulkhead, he teamed up with FF Kevin Jensen, the roof Firefighter from Ladder 58. Together, they forced the bulkhead door. At this time, FF Schwarzrock heard faint cries for help. He immediately entered the staircase and, although there was heavy smoke and zero visibility, made his way down to the half-landing between the top floor and the roof.

At this location, he discovered numerous civilians trapped behind a locked security gate. He notified the Chief of the situation and called to FF Jensen to work with him to free the unconscious occupants.

Working in an atmosphere that was heavily charged with smoke and extremely hot, FF Schwarzrock, along with FF Jensen, forced open the gate and pulled the huddled bodies off the pile where they were crumpled. Supported by members of Rescue Company 3 and Squad Company 61, they carried the civilians to an apartment on the top floor that had been opened by FF William Smith of Ladder 58.

FF Schwarzrock made several grueling trips to remove the trapped residents from danger. In doing so, he became totally exhausted. His situation was so extreme that it was necessary for EMS personnel to transport him to Jacobi Hospital. Subsequently, he was placed on medical leave.

By acting quickly and efficiently, with courage and tenacity, in a deteriorating environment, his personal actions resulted in lifesaving rescues. For his gallant efforts, the Steuben Association Medal is awarded to FF Frederick M. Schwarzrock.--*BDG*

Left to right, members of Ladder 41--FFs Torres, Burke, Feeley, Schwarzrock (recipient of the Steuben Association Medal), Deleo and Batis and Captain Leahy. Sitting are FFs Cantwell (on his last tour in 2003) and Tutone (Engine 90).

Dr. J.W. Goldenkranz Medal

Firefighter Steven F. Devaney

Engine Company 46

November 22, 2005, 1530 hours, Box 9467, 137-03 Booth Memorial Avenue, Queens

Appointed to the FDNY in November of 1999 . Previously assigned to Engine 242. Member of the Holy Name and Emerald Societies. Holds a BA degree in Political Science/Sociology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Cited for bravery on three previous occasions. Resides in Franklin Square, Long Island, with his wife, Diana, and their three children, Nicolas, 17, Shannon, 14, and Ryan, 6.

Similar to a Marine, a Firefighter is always a Firefighter, even when off-duty. On November 22, 2005, FF Steven Devaney proved the veracity of this statement.

While off-duty, FF Devaney, Engine 46, was passing by the area of 137-03 Booth Memorial Avenue in Queens when he heard screaming. He looked to his right and saw heavy smoke coming from all floors of a three-story, non-fireproof multiple dwelling.

The screams came from Mabel Valenzazo. She was on a second-floor ledge and threatening to jump. While approaching the building, FF Devaney called 911. He noticed two civilians placing a portable ladder to the woman's position. After FF Devaney ensured that the woman reached safety, she told him there were still people trapped inside.

The door to the first floor had been left open, thus blocking the primary means of egress from the upper floors. Once inside the building, the Firefighter entered the fire apartment and conducted a search. Finding no one, he exited the apartment and closed the door behind him, preventing extension to the upper floors.

At this point, he heard a sound coming from the floor above. He ascended the stairs and found John Hu between the first and second floors in the heavy smoke. FF Devaney assisted the 10-year-old down the stairs to safety.

FF Devaney then re-entered the building to search the upper floors. While searching the second floor, FF Devaney teamed up with FF Thomas Morgan, Ladder 18, who also was off-duty. The pair proceeded to the third floor and attempted to force this door. After repeated attempts, they were forced to leave the building due to deteriorating conditions.

The first FDNY units now were arriving on-scene. FF Devaney apprised the units of conditions and the actions taken. The Firefighter then was transported to Flushing Hospital and treated for smoke inhalation and CO poisoning.

FF Devaney exhibited tremendous initiative and bravery by his actions. He put himself at risk by searching the fire apartment and twice passing and going above the fire to perform the search. All of his actions were performed without the protection of a charged hose-line, bunker gear or self-contained breathing apparatus.

Deputy Chief John Acerno, then the Division Commander of Division 14, mentioned in his endorsement of FF Devaney that two civilians jumped from the upper floors and there were three other injuries. That comment attests to the gravity of the situation.

FF Steven Devaney acted in the finest traditions of the New York City Fire Department. For his brave efforts, he is recognized with the Dr. J.W. Goldenkranz Medal.

Engine 46 apparatus. *photo by Joe Pinto*

Uniformed Fire Officers Association Medal

Captain Peter J. Melly

Division 7 (assigned), Engine Company 79 (detailed)

February 26, 2006, 1604 hours, Box 33-3553, 20 West Mosholu Parkway South, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on September 7, 1983. Now assigned to Ladder Company 37. Previously assigned to Engine 45, Ladder 58 and Engine 289. Member of the Holy Name and Emerald Societies. Holds an Associate's degree from Westchester Community College. Recipient of a Service Rating A, Service Rating B and four unit citations. Resides in Oakdale, Long Island, with his wife, Cathy, and daughters, Erin, 11, and Hannah, 8.

On February 26, 2006, Captain Peter Melly and the members of Engine Company 79 received radio alarm Box 3553 for a reported fire on the 24th floor of 20 Mosholu Parkway South. This building is a 41-story, occupied, fireproof multiple dwelling. Members gained access through #40 West, crossed over to #20 and attempted to use the high-rise bank of elevators, but found them failing. This forced the company to use the low bank and then walk up the remaining floors to the fire floor.

Arriving at the fire floor, the members encountered heavy smoke and heat conditions in the public hall. Captain Melly ordered a 2 1/2-inch hose-line stretched from the 22nd floor as he made his way to the fire apartment door. Ladder 37 informed him that fire had possession of the two rear bedrooms and was extending. After making a quick search, Ladder 37 controlled the apartment door. With the line now charged and in position, Captain Melly ordered the advance of the hose-line into the fire apartment. Firefighters were met with very severe conditions.

Captain Melly urged his nozzle team forward some 20 feet. As they did, the windows failed and 50-mph winds whipped through the apartment, feeding the fire and driving the rapidly extending flames and heat toward the nozzle team. The Captain urged his members to press the attack to beat back the fire. Unfortunately, they were not able to use the reach of the stream into the bedrooms due to the right angle of the hallway. Conditions rapidly deteriorated when this wind-fed fire began to overtake the nozzle team.

Captain Peter Melly with members of Ladder 37.

At this time, members of Ladder 37 were pinned down behind the nozzle team and unable to move due to the searing heat. The fire was forcing Engine 79 to protect the members and back out toward the apartment door. Captain Melly ensured that the line was kept in operation, allowing the members of Ladder 37 to get into the public hall.

Conditions turned extreme and were at blowtorch proportions. Battalion Chief Michael Puzziferri, Battalion 27, was on the fire floor and saw that the second-due engine could not advance to assist Engine 79. With Ladder 56 pinned down and Ladder 37 trying to make it back to the stairwell, he ordered the apartment door shut and the second line placed into operation. Captain Melly realized that the members of Engine 79 now were getting burned.

Although he knew that there were still unsearched apartments with civilian life hazards, he also knew that the line must stay in operation to protect the members in the hallway. The back-up and door Firefighters were ordered back out to the stairwell. Captain Melly kept the nozzle Firefighter, FF Ronald Deaso, and together, they fought valiantly to hold back the wind-swept flames. Simultaneously, they attempted to close the apartment door.

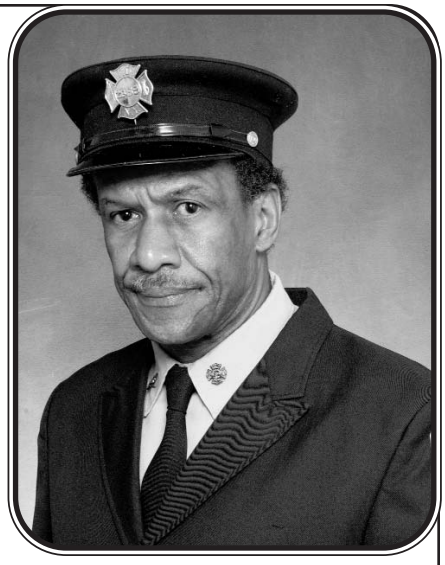
On the first attempt, Captain Melly stepped in front of the nozzle Firefighter and closed it halfway. Then he saw a loop in the hose-line, blocking the door. The Firefighter pulled the hose clear and when the Captain closed the door, the hand-line hit the door, pushing it open. The ricocheting water now hit the Captain in his face. His helmet and hood were ripped off his head and his facepiece filled with water.

At this point, Captain Melly was subjected to intense heat and received second-degree burns to his neck and ears. Undeterred, he regrouped and on his third attempt, closed the apartment door. The fire apartment was fully involved and auto-extending to the 25th and 26th floors.

The public hall was completely untenable as Captain Melly and FF Deaso remained at the nozzle, shielding the members as they attempted to get back to the stairwell. Together, these two members began to back down the hallway toward the stairwell while continuing to operate the nozzle. The intense fire, heat and smoke were pushed into the public hallway. Both members, already burned, refused to shut down the line as they continued to get burned in their retreat. At a point close to the stairwell, Captain Melly was informed that all other members had made it to safety and ordered FF Deaso to shut down the line as they themselves reached the stairs. Captain Melly was transported and admitted to the Burn Center.

Undaunted by the extremely arduous conditions and severe burns to himself, Captain Melly selflessly and without regard for his own safety maintained his position and kept the hose-line in operation, allowing several fire companies to reach the safety of the public stairwell. His decisive actions under the most extreme conditions are in the highest traditions of the FDNY. The FDNY recognizes Captain Peter J. Melly with the Uniformed Fire Officers Association Medal.--*TW*

Edith B. Goldman Medal



Firefighter William H. Smith, III

Ladder Company 58

May 21, 2006, 0102 hours, Box 22-3096, 1181 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on January 9, 1982. Previous assignments include Engine 45. Father, Lieutenant William H. Smith, II, retired from Ladder 26 and was the recipient of the Henry D. Brookman Medal in 1960. He is deceased. Member of the Vulcan Society. Holds a BS degree in History from St. John's University. Recipient of a Service Rating A, Service Rating B and eight unit citations. Resides in the Bronx with his youngest son, William, IV. His oldest son, Lamar S., is a Marine Corps Sergeant, stationed in Japan.

In the early-morning hours of May 21, 2006, as most of the City slept, FF William H. Smith and the members of Ladder 58 in the Bronx were ordered to respond (as the first-due ladder company) to a reported fire in a class 3, H-type, multiple-dwelling structure at 1181 East Tremont Avenue. Arriving on-scene, the company members found smoke banking down the street and fire pushing from two windows on the exposure #2 side of the building. The members also witnessed numerous civilians fleeing from all available exits, including two fire escapes.

FF Smith, assigned to the outside vent position, quickly surveyed the perimeter of the building and then began to ascend the fire escape on the exposure #2 side of the building. During his ascent, he encountered several building occupants who required assistance. FF Smith escorted these civilians to the safety of the fire escape landing below the fire floor, where they were rescued using Ladder 58's bucket.

Almost simultaneously, an urgent transmission was made by the roof Firefighter to Battalion Chief Michael Treanor, Battalion 18, stating that numerous civilians were trapped behind a locked security gate in the open stairway below the bulkhead. Chief Treanor, ascertaining from the occupants of the burning apartment that the unit was empty, released FF Smith from his outside vent duties to assist with rescuing the trapped victims.

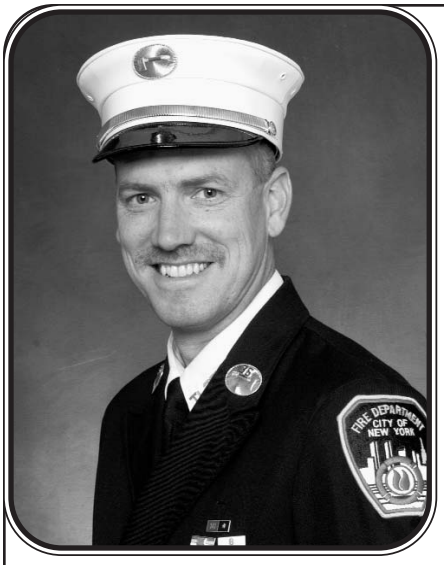
Moving quickly, FF Smith climbed to the floor above the fire and forced entry into an apartment from the fire escape to gain access to the public hallway. Reaching the hallway, FF Smith encountered the roof team of FFs Kevin Jensen, Ladder 58, and Fred Schwarzrock, Ladder 41, who were in the process of trying to untangle a group of seven unconscious victims in the heavy smoke and high heat. In zero visibility, FF Smith guided the roof team, with victims in tow, to an area of refuge.

Three times, FF Smith and the members of the roof team went back into the hallway to remove these victims to an area of safety and clean air. Moving back into the apartment, FF Smith quickly assessed the situation. Realizing oxygen was needed, he quickly radioed for help and then began CPR on one victim. After some time had passed and after hearing various radio reports on the status of the fire, FF Smith began to carry a victim down the stairs where he was assisted by Ladder 58's chauffeur.

After the incident, Chief Treanor noted, "FF Smith operated in a heavy smoke condition (and) his actions resulted in there being no loss of life." Deputy Chief Thomas Dunne, Division 7, further stated, "FF Smith displayed great capability under difficult conditions (and) operated effectively on the fire escape, located a top-floor apartment that provided an area of refuge for victims and guided the roof team in their lifesaving efforts."

In recognition of his quick actions, which resulted in saving several lives, the Fire Department of the City of New York is proud to honor FF William H. Smith today with the Edith B. Goldman Medal.--*DJH*

Ladder 58 apparatus. *photo by Joe Pinto*



American Legion Fire Dept. Post 930/ Mark M. Wohlfeld Memorial Medal

Lieutenant Stephen E. McNally

Ladder Company 35

March 8, 2006, 1509 hours, Box 1024, 235 West End Avenue, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on April 17, 1994. Previous assignments include Ladder 33. Brother, Lieutenant Sean McNally, is assigned to Ladder 49. Member of the Emerald and Holy Name Societies.Holds an associate's degree from the University of South Florida and a bachelor's degree in accounting from Manhattan College. Recipient of the Arthur J. Laufer Memorial Medal in 2003, a Service Rating A and a unit citation. Resides in Suffern, New York, with his wife, Rochelle, and their son, Connor.

Due to the urgency of the situation, many FDNY rescues are performed without the protection of a hose-line being in place. On March 8, 2006, such a rescue took place. At 1509 hours, Ladder 35 received a phone alarm for a report of smoke from apartment 3C at 235 West End Avenue. First to arrive, members of Ladder 35 were met by people in the lobby reporting smoke on the upper floors of the building, a 17-story, class 1 multiple dwelling. Building personnel in the lobby reported that there was a fire in apartment 3C on the third floor.

Reaching the third floor, Lieutenant Stephen McNally and FFs Robert Ostrofsky (Ladder 35) and Matthew Butler (Engine 40), were met by heavy black smoke, which quickly filled the public hallway. The apartment door had been left open by building personnel.

At this point, reports were being generated that there might be an elderly female in the rear bedroom. The members of Ladder 35 quickly coordinated the search with Lieutenant McNally, who checked behind the entrance door and continued left. FF Ostrofsky went to the right. FF Butler was at the door as a guide Firefighter to use the extinguisher to control fire and protect the escape route.

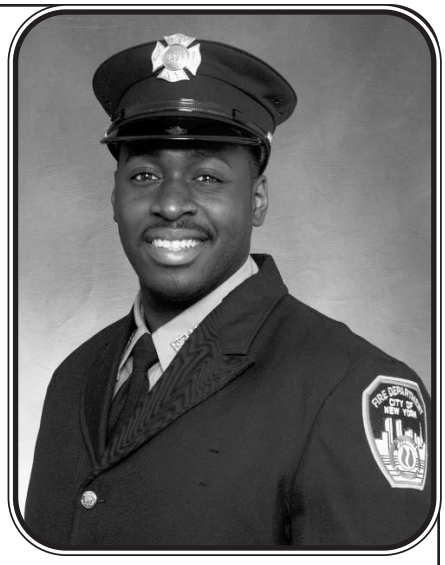
Under high heat conditions and without the protection of a hose-line, Lieutenant McNally encountered fire in the hallway. After passing the fire area, the Officer reached the rear bedroom and found 90-year-old Frances Zalin, unconscious on the bed. After transmitting a 10-45, Lieutenant McNally started to drag Ms. Zalin toward the front entrance, past the fire area. Once he reached the public hallway, the rescuer carried the victim down three floors to the street.

There is no fire escape on this apartment and both means of egress led to the public hallway, which was cut off by fire. The victim was taken to St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital and treated for smoke inhalation. Later, she was transported to Jacobi Hospital for additional treatment.

Without the protection of a hose-line and little regard for his own safety, Lieutenant Stephen McNally saved the life of Frances Zalin and performed in the highest traditions of the FDNY. It is for these reasons that he is presented with the American Legion Fire Department Post 930/Mark M. Wohlfeld Memorial Medal.

Lieutenant Stephen McNally and the members of Tower Ladder 35.

Arthur J. Laufer Memorial Medal



Firefighter Brian E. Pascascio

Engine Company 318 (assigned), Ladder Company 166 (detailed)

August 24, 2006, 0643 hours, Box 75-3451, 1935 Belt Parkway, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY in September 2005. Member of the Vulcan Society. Attended the College of New Rochelle. Recipient of a Service Rating A. Resides in Brooklyn.

Any rescue is a tremendous achievement because of the danger encountered and the skills, knowledge and experience that come into play to mitigate the situation. A rescue made by a probationary FF is special, because he/she faces the peril, but lacks the experience. Probationary FF Brian Pascascio was assigned to the extinguisher position in Ladder 166 (where he was detailed) for the 6x9 tour on August 23, 2006. At 0643 hours the next morning, Ladder 166 responded to a phone alarm from quarters for 1935 Belt Parkway, a 16-story, 200- by 50-foot, fireproof multiple dwelling.

Arriving on the 11th floor, members found the cause of the alarm to be a heavy smoke condition in the public hall. A signal 10-75 was transmitted while the Ladder 166 inside team ascertained which apartment was involved.

It was determined that apartment 11A was the fire apartment. The irons team began forcible entry. Engine 253 was hooking up to a hydrant and stretching a hoseline.

Moving into apartment 11A, the Ladder 166 inside team encountered a heavy smoke and high heat condition in front of the charged hand-line. Fire was located to the right, in the kitchen. FF Pascascio expended the extinguisher on the fire and with Ladder 166 members, moved past the fire and began searching the apartment. They moved down the apartment hall to the bedroom areas.

FF Pascascio found a victim on the floor in the bedroom and transmitted a 10-45. With the assistance of the irons Firefighter, the pair of rescuers removed the victim from the apartment to the elevator. The victim then was brought down to the lobby.

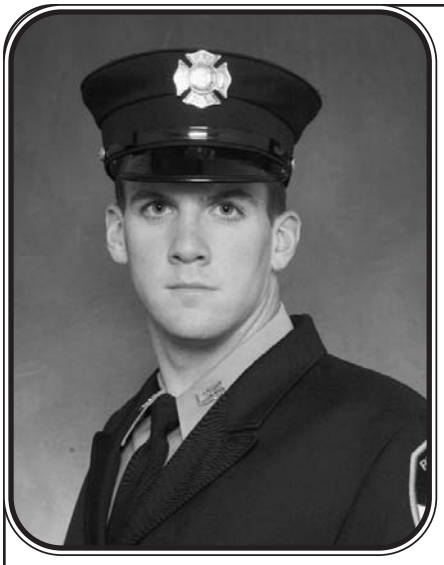
FF Pascasio returned to the fire apartment to continue to search for possible victims. No additional occupants were found in the apartment.

Probationary FF Pascascio saved the life of Silvia Bonios. Initially transported to Coney Island Hospital suffering from respiratory arrest and smoke inhalation, Ms. Bonios subsequently was transferred to the Burn Center at Jacobi Hospital.

As Acting Deputy Chief John Calderone, Division 8, said in his endorsement, the critical condition of the victim was indicative of the heat conditions encountered inside the apartment during the search and rescue.

FF Brian Pascascio's actions were in accord with the highest traditions of the Department. For these reasons, he is presented with the Arthur J. Laufer Memorial Medal.

Brooklyn Box 55-3246, 3030 Emmons Avenue/Nostrand Avenue, January 17, 2004. Both Engine 318 and Ladder 166, companies to which FF Brian Pascascio is assigned and was detailed, respectively, operated at this blaze.
photo by Stephen "Butch" Moran



Emerald Society Pipes and Drums Medal

Firefighter Brian J. O'Sullivan

Ladder Company 25

May 20, 2006, 1830 hours, Box 1210, 74 West 92nd Street, Manhattan

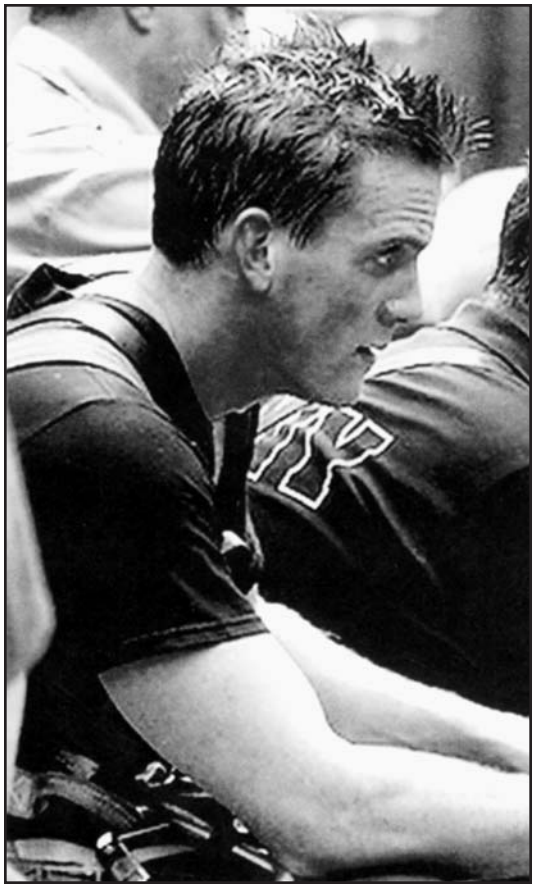
Appointed to the FDNY on September 14, 2003. Brothers, Lieutenant Patrick O'Sullivan, is assigned to SOC, Daniel O'Sullivan is assigned to Division 7 and Dermott O'Sullivan is assigned to Engine 79. Holds a BA degree from the State University of New York at Oneonta. Recipient of a Service Rating A. Resides in the Bronx.

On the night of May 20, 2006, FF Brian O'Sullivan was assigned to the forcible entry position of the Ladder 25 forcible entry team. At 1830 hours, Box 1210 was received by Ladder 25 housewatch for a kitchen fire in apartment 7H on the seventh floor at 74 West 92nd Street. Ladder 25 was assigned first-due for a second-due Box and was the only truck on the ticket. Engine 74 was assigned first-due engine. Engine 22 was assigned second-due, coming from the east side, through Central Park.

Ladder 25 arrived first-due and members took the stairs to the seventh floor. The occupant of apartment 7H stated there was smoke in her apartment. Lieutenant James Barrett, Ladder 25, and the forcible entry team entered her apartment and found a light smoke condition, coming from under her kitchen sink.

At that time, the Officer of Engine 74 made a 10-75 radio transmission, reporting that he had smoke pushing from apartment 6H. The members of Ladder 25 dropped down to the sixth floor. Engine 74 had to drop down to the fifth floor to hook up to the standpipe, which delayed water on the fire.

Ladder 25 members made entry into the fire apartment and encountered a high heat and heavy smoke condition. Lieutenant Barrett and the forcible entry team crawled 20 feet down the fire apartment hallway to the kitchen, where FF Benny Munoz, Ladder 25, was directed to use the extinguisher on the fire. The fire consumed most of the kitchen and flames were rolling overhead. The fire would darken down and then flare up again, due to a leaking natural gas line behind the stove.



FF Brian O'Sullivan takes a break after a tough job.

Unaware that the fire was gas-fed, FF Sullivan passed the fire for the first time to begin his search. He made his way 15 feet into the bedroom where he came upon a bed. He swiped the top of the bed and then underneath, where he felt a leg and then an arm. He transmitted a 10-45. Using all his strength, he pulled the victim from under the bed.

As conditions in the fire apartment deteriorated, the extinguisher Firefighter depleted his water supply and was unable to extinguish the fire. He could not control the spread of fire to the bedroom and hallway area. FF O'Sullivan placed himself in a dangerous position by passing the fire for a second time with the unconscious woman. He dragged her more than 30 feet to the public hall as Engine 74 was advancing the hose-line.

Once in the hall, using his CFR-D training, FF O'Sullivan rolled the victim onto her back and made a quick assessment. The victim was not breathing. He repositioned her head into the neutral position and cleared her airway. The victim began to breathe. FF O'Sullivan placed his facepiece to her face to assist in ventilation and then was relieved by the CFR-D company.

FF O'Sullivan's initiative and determination to put himself in danger without the protection of a hose-line made a difference. (In a tragic set of circumstances, the woman died in a second fire in her apartment eight days later.)

His actions were in the highest traditions of the Fire Department. FF Brian O'Sullivan is presented with the Emerald Society Pipes and Drums Medal.

Company Officers Association Medal

LIEUTENANT DANIEL J. BOWMAN

Engine Company 281

December 22, 2006, 2341 hours, Box 22-1541, 1809 Albermarle Road, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on January 26, 1997. Previously assigned to Ladder 108 and Engines 318 and 152. Member of the Emerald Society. Holds a BA in public relations/psychology from Marist College. Received a Service Rating A and a ribbon for his work at the World Trade Center. Resides in Massapequa, Long Island, with his wife, Sharon, and daughter, Neave, 10 months.

On December 22, 2006, at 2341 hours, Engine 281 responded to Box 22-1541 for a fire at 1809 Albermarle Road. Initial reports from the dispatcher indicated heavy fire on the top floor with people trapped.

The conditions on arrival were smoke venting out the top floor on the exposure #1 side and four sides of the D wing. The building is a six-story, H-type, multiple dwelling with four separate and distinct wings. One civilian already had jumped from the top floor on the exposure #1 side of the building.

Lieutenant Daniel Bowman, Engine 281, transmitted the 10-75 signal and informed the dispatcher of an occupant on the pavement in front of the building. After ordering his ECC to position the apparatus on the hydrant in front of the fire building and members of Engine 281 to stretch to the top floor of the D wing, Lieutenant Bowman made his way into the lobby. Entering the lobby, he encountered hundreds of civilians in the process of self-evacuating. This made the climb to the top floor an overwhelming task for all members of Engine 281 and Ladder 147.

Engine Company 281 in action.

Realizing that the line might be delayed, Lieutenant Bowman forced many occupants to stop clogging the stairwells and take refuge into apartments on the floors below the fire. This diminished the overcrowding minimally. Lieutenant Bowman notified all members of the difficult conditions in the stairwell and lobby and proceeded to the top floor. While proceeding, he was approached by a burn victim who had self-evacuated the fire apartment. This burn victim confirmed that several other people still were trapped in that apartment.

Reaching the top floor, Lieutenant Bowman found a high heat and smoke condition in apartment 62D. The door to the apartment was warped and charred as fire met Firefighters in the foyer right at the entrance. Large amounts of clothes were on fire on the floor, which gave the false impression that a flammable liquid might have been used. The apartment was large and conditions were made more difficult with a Collyers' mansion-type environment.

While Ladder 147 members expended two extinguishers because of the intensity and position of the fire, Lieutenant Bowman confirmed with Engine 281 that the line was in place. The Lieutenant then called for water. While waiting at the door, he heard what he thought was a call for help. Based on the knowledge of confirmed life, Lieutenant Bowman made his way into the apartment, passing the main body of fire in the foyer. He made his way into the rear bedroom on the left-hand side, in the direction of the noise.

Approximately 20 feet into the apartment and on the right-hand wall of the bedroom, Sandra Stevens was found underneath junk and a baby crib. At this point, a 10-45 was given and Lieutenant Bowman began dragging the victim through debris. FF Chris Livolsi, Ladder 147, assisted the Officer in the difficult removal through debris and heat.

After removing the victim from the dangerous environment, Lieutenant Bowman ordered FF Livolsi and another member to begin CPR and continue carrying the woman to the street. Lieutenant Bowman then returned to the fire apartment to supervise Engine 281.

The location of the victim in the rear of the apartment and the debris on the floor made it difficult to find her, necessitating a physically demanding removal. The woman suffered second- and third-degree burns over 80 percent of her body and ultimately perished. Lieutenant Daniel Bowman's brave actions gave her a chance to live. He is honored with the Company Officers Association Medal.

Chief Joseph B. Martin Medal

Firefighter John P. Drew

Ladder Company 120

December 27, 2005, 0808 hours, Box 75-1668, 348 Chester Street, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on October 2, 2000. Previously assigned to Engine 279 and Ladder 131. Member of the Emerald Society. Holds a BA degree in Fire Service Administration from John Jay College. Recipient of a unit citation and Service Rating A. Resides in Brooklyn with his wife, Donna.

While in quarters, Tower Ladder 120 received a teleprinter message for a phone alarm indicating a structural fire "opposite" 353 Chester Street. Box 1668 was transmitted for a fire in an occupied multiple dwelling. The actual fire building was across from this address, at 348 Chester Street. The time of this CADS message was 0808 hours.

As Ladder 120 turned onto Chester Street, Lieutenant Victor Spadaro (assigned to Battalion 38), observed fire issuing from the top-floor front windows of this occupancy. Engine 283, the first-arriving engine, transmitted a 10-75 signal for a fire on the fourth floor.

The fire building was a four-story, 20- by 40-foot, class 1, multiple dwelling. This was part of the Marcus Garvey Village Houses and all arriving units were familiar with the complex. While proceeding up the front stoop to the main entrance and interior stairs, Lieutenant John Stringile, Engine 283, communicated that the fire apartment door was locked.

Ladder 120 apparatus. *photo by Joe Pinto*

Arriving on the small (four- by six-foot) top-floor landing, Ladder 120 members were met with high heat and an extreme smoke condition issuing from the fire apartment. As FF Allan Goetz, Ladder 120, proceeded to force the door, Lieutenant Spadaro and FF John Drew, Ladder 120, donned their SCBA.

Simultaneously, Ladder 120's outside vent Firefighter, who made his way to the rear of the building, reported people screaming from the top floor that they were trapped. The conditions on the top-floor landing were deteriorating quickly as the door to the fire apartment was opened. Engine 283 did not have water in their hose-line yet.

Ladder 120's forcible entry team now knew that an extraordinary effort was required to reach and rescue these people. The living room to the front of the building was fully involved with fire, which was extending intro the kitchen through a half wall between the rooms. The fire quickly began rolling down the narrow, three-foot-wide interior hallway. Without hesitation, FF Drew entered this hallway and proceeded toward the rear of the apartment. Due to the high heat, FF Drew was forced to crawl as he went past the fire.

Twenty feet down this hallway, FF Drew entered the rear right bedroom, one of the rear rooms where the trapped occupants were thought to be. Five feet into the room, the rescuer came upon the unconscious form of Mary Patterson. FF Drew transmitted a 10-45 signal on his handie-talkie and then began dragging the victim out.

He entered the hallway where FF Goetz was attempting to confine the fire to the front rooms with the extinguisher. FF Drew passed the victim to other Firefighters for removal to the street for medical attention. He re-entered the apartment with a limited amount of air remaining in his SCBA in an attempt to find a reported third victim. This proved to be negative. Lieutenant Spadaro had removed the second victim.

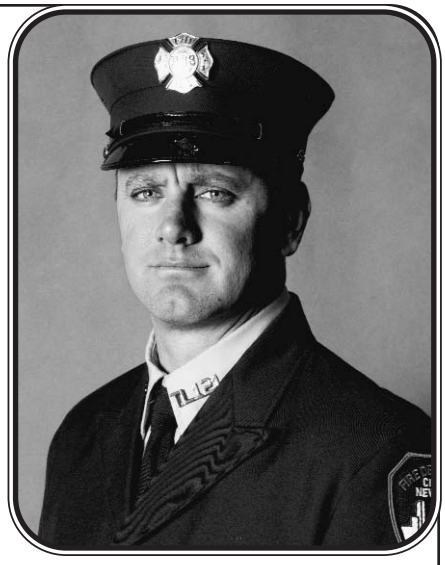
In keeping with the highest traditions of Ladder Company 120 and the New York City Fire Department, FF John Drew exhibited great courage and outstanding capability in this individual act of bravery. In essence, the building was a fireproof brownstone with no fire escape. The secondary means of egress--an interior fire stairway--was blocked by the fire. The occupants were trapped in the rear bedrooms with the option of jumping four stories into the rear yard. The elderly victim was burnt and unconscious when found by FF Drew. She was transported and admitted to Brookdale Hospital with second-degree burns and smoke inhalation. Unfortunately, the woman died on January 4, 2006.

FF Drew displayed determination and great initiative entering the fire apartment. He did this without the benefit of a charged hose-line positioned and operating on this fire. For his actions, FF John Drew is presented with the Chief Joseph B. Martin Medal.

New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal

Firefighter James T. Byrne

Ladder Company 121



January 26, 2006, 1349 hours, Box 33-1201, 40-20 Beach Channel Drive, Queens

Appointed to the FDNY on October 26, 1996. Brother-in-law, Lieutenant John O'Connor, is assigned to Engine 310 and brother-in-law, FF Christopher J. Haughie, is assigned to Engine 257. Member of the Holy Name and Emerald Societies. Attended Brooklyn College. Recipient of a Class II and two unit citations. Resides in Rockaway Beach, Queens, with his wife, Kathleen, and their sons, James, 6, Colin, 4, Brendan, 2, and Sean, 10 months.

On January 26, 2006, Ladder Company 121 responded first-due to Queens Box 1201 for a phone alarm reporting a fire in apartment 6G on the sixth floor at 40-20 Beach Channel Drive, a 13-story fireproof multiple dwelling. As units were arriving, the Queens dispatcher radioed them of a second source, also reporting fire on the sixth floor.

Arriving on the sixth floor via the "A" stairway with his inside team, Lieutenant Richard DePrima, Ladder 121, requested that Battalion Chief George Healy, Battalion 47, transmit the 10-75. The Lieutenant also informed the Chief that the public hallway was heavily charged, indicating that the apartment door was open. Lieutenant Steven Sharp, Engine 265, the first-due engine, was in the stairwell and entered the fifth floor so he could provide Ladder 121's inside team with the layout of the hallway and the direction and distance to the reported fire apartment.

Lieutenant DePrima ordered the forcible entry Firefighter, FF Richard Nash, to remain at the stairway door until the fire apartment was located. Lieutenants DePrima and Sharp, along with Probationary FF Joseph McMenamin, the extinguisher Firefighter, and FF James Byrne, the outside vent Firefighter, entered the sixth-floor hallway and crawled 12 feet to the T-shaped part of the public hallway. They turned right and went another 25 feet to the fire apartment, 6G.

A search was initiated, with FF Byrne going to the right and Lieutenant DePrima and Proby McMenamin searching to the left. Lieutenant Sharp returned to the stairway door to meet up with the nozzle team and lead the hose-line to the fire apartment. FF Nash then began crawling down the hallway to the fire apartment. Probationary FF McMenamin was using the extinguisher in an attempt to contain the fire to the open walkway leading to the rear bedroom.

Members of Ladder 121--Lieutenant Rich DePrima and FFs Vinny Vaccaro, Chris Kelly, James Byrne, Joe McMenamin and Don Hoffman.

By this time, FF Byrne had completed his search of the living room and kitchen. Lieutenant DePrima repositioned his team back to the public hallway to await the arrival of the charged hose-line, which was advancing down the long T-shaped hallway. Before leaving the fire apartment, Lieutenant DePrima directed FF Byrne to close the entrance door. He made several attempts to close it with the Halligan, but was unsuccessful.

Engine 265 was attempting to advance the line into the fire apartment as conditions began to worsen. Lieutenant DePrima directed FF Byrne to conduct a primary search of the public hallway. The Firefighter crawled 22 feet and searched the dead end of the hallway. He then secured an area of refuge in apartment 6H, which was on the same side of the hallway as the fire apartment. Apartment 6H also was isolated between the fire apartment and the end of the hallway.

Almost immediately on FF Byrne's return to the fire apartment, the windows failed and conditions rapidly deteriorated. The influx of air, driven by a 40-mph wind, created blowtorch-like conditions, with fire exploding out the apartment door. Fire filled the public hallway and continued toward the open door of the attack stairs, making conditions in the hallway untenable.

The extreme conditions separated FF Byrne and Proby McMenamin from their Officer and the other Firefighters in the public hallway. Since they were unable to cross in front of the door of the fire apartment, FF Byrne led Proby McMenamin away from the danger, to the safety of apartment 6H.

FF Byrne then heard a *mayday* transmitted by Engine 264, the second-due engine. The back-up Firefighter, Kevin McCarthy, said he was burning up. Conditions in the public hallway had deteriorated to the point where entering the hallway, even with a hose-line, was treacherous. FF Byrne opened the door to apartment 6H wide enough to yell "over here" to FF McCarthy and also banged on the floor with his Halligan. FF McCarthy could not hear him or was unable to respond.

FF Byrne left his safe area and crawled 22 feet into the public hallway, without the protection of a hose-line. Simultaneously, the members of Engine 328 were attempting to make a push from the stairwell with a charged hose-line. Conditions now were so severe that after advancing a few feet, the engine company was forced back to the safety of the stairwell. The public hallway was being burned to the floor. Many members suffered burn injuries that required medical leave.

While searching the public hallway in zero visibility for the downed Firefighter, FF Byrne discovered FF McCarthy in the prone position on the floor at the entrance to the fire apartment. FF McCarthy was in an extremely dangerous position with flames around him. FF Byrne pulled FF McCarthy by the shoulder straps of his SCBA and dragged him 22 feet back down the hallway to apartment 6H. FF Byrne made a second attempt to search the public hallway for FF Nash and any other trapped members. After a quick search, he was driven back by the extreme heat. After returning to the apartment, FF Byrne transmitted to the Incident Commander that he and the other members were safe.

FF McCarthy suffered second-degree burns to his neck and back and was admitted to Nassau County Medical Center before being placed on medical leave. For his actions in rescuing another Firefighter, FF James T. Byrne officially is recognized for his bravery with the New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal.--*NG*

Honor Legion Medal

Captain James W. Kitson

Ladder Company 47

May 23, 2006, 2317 hours, Box 75-3005, 5 Metropolitan Oval, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on September 5, 1981. Previously assigned to Engine 79, Ladder 44, Engine 43 and Ladder 59. Father, Jack Kitson, is retired from Ladder 37; uncle, FF James Hosford, is retired from Ladder 38; and cousin, FF Jimmy Brennan, is assigned to Engine 88. Member of the Holy Name and Emerald Societies. Recipient of the Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Medal in 1991, seven meritorious acts and the Firehouse Magazine *Heroism Award in 2007. Resides in Middletown, New York, with his wife, Diane.*

Firefighting is a debilitating and arduous activity in the best of circumstances. One type of occupancy that compounds the severity of that environment is a project fire. Housing projects are constructed with concrete, floor to ceiling. If a fire gets going in a project, it's similar to crawling into an oven. The fire and heat have nowhere to go. They are contained in the apartment and conditions deteriorate until everything in the apartment either is consumed or the FDNY comes and extinguishes it. It was just this kind of fire that awaited Captain James Kitson and the members of Ladder 47 from Castle Hill Avenue.

At 2317 hours, Ladder 47 responded to Box 3005. Almost immediately when mounting the apparatus, Captain Kitson knew he was going to work. The dispatcher relayed to responding units that they were getting multiple calls reporting smoke on several floors. Ladder 47 arrived first-due at 5 Metropolitan Oval and was directed to the third floor.

Captain Kitson and his forcible entry team--FFs Rafael Badillo with the irons, and James Maguire, Engine 64, with the extinguisher--quickly ascended the stairs and arrived at apartment 2D. Smoke was pushing under pressure from around the doorjamb, indicating that a raging fire and debilitating conditions were just behind the door.

Captain Kitson recalled his earliest proby school days and remembered the cardinal rule in forcible entry--try the doorknob first. He turned the knob and opened the door. Visibility in the hallway immediately was reduced to zero. High heat and thick, acrid smoke poured from the doorway as Captain Kitson and his forcible entry team crawled into the apartment.

At the floor level, Captain Kitson could barely make out the layout of the apartment. He told FF Badillo to search straight into the apartment into what was possibly the kitchen. The Captain would go left. Captain Kitson told FF Maguire to remain at the door to alert members to changing conditions that could trap them if the fire cut off their escape route.

As Captain Kitson made his way into the apartment, he found the main body of fire. The living room was fully involved and flames were pushing over his head. The engine company had not yet arrived with the hose-line and Captain Kitson knew that if he crawled past the fire, he might not be able to get out if he got caught up in the rear of the apartment. But he also knew if he didn't get to whoever was trapped in the rear of the apartment now, that person wouldn't get out alive. So, Captain Kitson pushed past his own apprehension and continued his search. He crawled past the living room and the next room he came to was the bathroom.

Some people have the misconception that they can hide in a tub of water to protect themselves from fire. What they don't know is that the smoke is what kills them and there's no place to hide from that. Captain Kitson made a quick search of the bathroom and found Jean Charles unconscious in the tub, which was filled with water.

Captain Kitson transmitted a 10-45 to Battalion 20 and then pulled the man from the tub and onto the floor. The rescuer grabbed the victim with both hands and dragged him back toward the front door. As Captain Kitson came to the living room, he found that the fire had grown in intensity. The Captain positioned his body between Mr. Charles and the fire and continued dragging him through the blaze raging in the living room.

Cousin, Jimmy Brennan, Engine 88; father, Jack Kitson, retired from Ladder 37, Captain James Kitson and uncle, Jimmy Hosford, retired from Ladder 38.

As Captain Kitson neared the doorway, he called to FF Badillo to help with the removal. Simultaneously, FF Maguire expended the remaining water in his extinguisher to try to hold the fire at bay while Captain Kitson and FF Badillo completed the rescue. Captain Kitson and FF Badillo then carried Mr. Charles to the stairwell and handed him off to Squad 61 members, who brought him down to the waiting ambulance. Mr. Charles was transported to Jacobi Hospital and while en route, was resuscitated. He was treated for second-degree burns and smoke inhalation and placed in the hyperbaric chamber.

Captain James Kitson performed this rescue without the protection of a hose-line. There is no doubt that without his courageous and determined efforts, Mr. Charles would have perished. Captain Kitson's actions are in the finest traditions of the New York City Fire Department and it is for these reasons that he is being honored today with the Honor Legion Medal.--*CB*

Police Honor Legion Medal

Lieutenant Gary A. Jacobson, Jr.

Battalion 49 (assigned), Ladder Company 144 (detailed)

September 20, 2006, 1547 hours, Box 4857, 21-20 Murray Street, Queens

Appointed to the FDNY on January 26, 1997. Prior assignments include Engines 24 and 96. Member of the Emerald Society. Recipient of a Service Rating A. Received an award from the American Legion Post 632, Queens County, for this incident. Resides in Putnam Valley, New York, with his wife, Melanie, and their sons, Matthew, 4, and Christopher, 2.

At 1547 hours, Engine 295 and Ladder 144 received a phone alarm for a fire in the basement of a private dwelling. The dispatcher transmitted a second source due to multiple calls. Lieutenant Gary Jacobson, detailed to Ladder 144, realized this could be a job. Battalion Chief Ciro Migliore, Battalion 52, arrived first and gave the 10-75, just as Ladder 144 turned onto Murray Street. Chief Migliore informed Lieutenant Jacobson via handie-talkie that frantic family members were reporting their father was trapped in the basement.

Opening the front door, Lieutenant Jacobson, along with his inside team of FFs Russell Dietz and Christopher Rohe, were met by heavy black smoke throughout the entire first floor. Making their way to the rear, the Officer found a narrow doorway, which he first thought to be a closet. As he opened the door, he was met by high heat, coupled with zero visibility.

Realizing this was the basement stairs, that they were the only truck company on the scene and that there was a known life hazard, Lieutenant Jacobson descended the interior stairs to the basement. Doing a sweep of the stairs, he realized the stairs were about 20 inches wide and only one person at a time could go down. Knowing his extinguisher Firefighter was a proby, he had him stay at the top of the stairs with Engine 295's Officer, Lieutenant Paul Holly. He then ordered his forcible entry Firefighter, FF Dietz, a seven-year veteran, to stay at the top of the stairs to ensure that they remained clear.

Lieutenant Jacobson now entered the stairs feet first, which would be less punishing and allow a rapid egress if needed. Reaching the bottom of the stairs, he encountered extremely high heat and zero visibility. Attempting to use the thermal imaging camera proved to be futile due to the severe conditions.

Knowing time was running out for anyone who might be in the basement, Lieutenant Jacobson--on his stomach--made one quick attempt at a search. As he crawled, he could feel that the fire was to his right and see an orange glow above him. Making one last sweep of the floor, he found 52-year-old Christopher Christodoulou, lying face-down along the exposure #4 side of the basement. Giving a 10-45, Lieutenant Jacobson was able to get his shoulder under the victim and began to make his way back to the stairs with him.

Reaching the bottom of the stairs, he made voice contact with Lieutenant Holly, whose members were advancing the line down the stairs. Lieutenant Jacobson told Lieutenant Holly to hold his members back. Near exhaustion, Lieutenant Jacobson hoisted the victim over his right shoulder and made his way up the narrow stairway, trying to keep his body between the victim and the fire to spare the man additional injury.

Getting to the top of the stairs, the rescuer was led to the rear door and passed Mr. Christodoulou to members outside. He notified Chief Migliore that the victim was out of the dwelling and in dire need of medical attention in the rear. Lieutenant Jacobson then rejoined his inside team to complete the search of the basement.

It cannot be over-emphasized how punishing the conditions were on the stairs due to the limited ventilation and the fact that this was the only entrance to the basement. Mr. Christodoulou, although badly burned with first-, second- and third-degree burns over 30 percent of his body, received a second chance at life due to the heroic actions of Lieutenant Jacobson. For these reasons, Lieutenant Gary Jacobson is recognized for his bravery with the Police Honor Legion Medal.

Members of Ladder 144--Standing are FF Duffy, Lieutenant Jacobson and FFs Dietz and Weckman. Kneeling are FFs Rohe and Ranieri.

Firefighter David J. DeFranco Medal

Firefighter Michael J. Cook

Ladder Company 6

April 8, 2006, 0854 hours, Box 207, East River, approximately 100 feet from promenade, near the west stanchion of the Manhattan Bridge, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on January 27, 2002. Member of FDNY VFW Post, Emerald and Holy Name Societies and the FDNY Rugby Team. He is also a member of the Ceremonial Unit. Recipient of a Service Rating A and a unit citation. Served in the U.S. Air Force from 1994 to 2001 and was a Reservist from 2001 to 2004. Resides in Staten Island and has a seven-year-old son, A.J.

With winter finally over, early April can be a beautiful time of year in New York City. However, even though the temperature is becoming warmer, the waters that surround this City are still extremely cold and treacherous.

Just before nine in the morning on April 8, 2006, the members of Ladder 6 were called to respond to an EMS incident for a person drowning in the East River, off Market Slip under the Manhattan Bridge. As the apparatus roared down Pike Street toward the river, FF Michael Cook, working the tiller and assigned the water rescue compartment by the company Officer several moments before, knew this was going to be a difficult assignment due to the heavy rain that was soaking the City that morning.

Arriving on-scene, FF Cook, from his vantage point on the tiller, could see a body approximately 100 feet off-shore in the East River. The person was struggling in the heavy chop and soaking rain, waving for help. These conditions reinforced for FF Cook that this would be a difficult rescue, not simply a recovery operation.

FF Michael Cook takes up after a job.

Because of traffic and the design of the East River Promenade, Ladder 6 could not get to the water's edge. FF Cook realized he would need to hurry if there was any chance to save this victim. Moving quickly, the Firefighter donned the safety vest over his work duty uniform and moved toward the river. After the back-up team--led by Captain Thomas Cegielski (covering in Ladder 6)--secured him with the lifesaving rope, FF Cook entered the water and made a determined effort to swim to the victim.

This task proved very difficult, both mentally and physically, due to the water temperature, tidal current, chop and the heavy rain. With fatigue and hypothermia already taking its toll on the rescuer, FF Cook finally reached the victim, who seemed to take his last breath just as he was grabbed.

Because the victim was slightly larger than he, FF Cook had a difficult time turning the victim over in an attempt to keep his head above the choppy water. Once accomplished, FF Cook secured the man's body by locking his arms around the victim's upper chest. Then, the Ladder 6 members quickly pulled both victim and rescuer to the bulkhead.

The Firefighters on shore already had placed the 20-foot hook ladder. The safety Firefighter--donned in a wet suit and in the water--helped secure the victim with an atlas life belt and the other end of the lifesaving rope. FF Cook, along with the rest of the team, pulled the victim out of the frigid water and then brought him to a waiting ambulance. EMS personnel transported the victim to Bellevue Hospital.

FF Cook was treated for hypothermia and placed on medical leave after this incident. Battalion Chief John Rail, Battalion 4, in his report of the incident noted, "Firefighter Cook displayed tremendous courage, initiative and capability during this rescue."

For these reasons and in keeping with the finest traditions of this Department, FF Michael Cook is honored for his bravery today with the Firefighter David J. DeFranco Medal.--*DJH*

Lieutenant James E. Zahn/ Lieutenant Peter L. Troiano Memorial Medal

LIEUTENANT RICHARD M. GALEAZZI

Engine Company 324

April 23, 2006, 1120 hours, Box 9197, 97-10 62nd Drive, Queens

Appointed to the FDNY on May 9, 1993. Previously assigned to Engine 225. Member of the Columbia Association. Holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical technology from the New York Institute of Technology. Recipient of a unit citation in 2002. Resides in Bohemia, Long Island, with his wife, Joan, and their children, Matt, 13, Brian, 12, and Gabby, 10.

The members of Engine 324 were called out to Queens Box 9197, 97-10 62nd Drive at 1120 hours on April 23, 2006. The building was a class 1, fireproof, multiple dwelling, measuring approximately 100 by 200 feet.

Summoned to the seventh floor, Lieutenant Richard Galeazzi, Engine 324, was supervising the hose stretch from the standpipe to the fire apartment. While the Lieutenant was climbing up the enclosed stairway, he received a handie-talkie transmission from Lieutenant Edward Ireland, Ladder 138 (covering), that he had observed heavy smoke from the seventh floor and would transmit a 10-75 signal.

When Lieutenant Galeazzi reached the seventh-floor hallway, he was met by heavy, black, acrid smoke. He quickly donned his facepiece and crawled down the hallway to locate the fire. After crawling approximately 30 feet, he heard a faint moan, which helped him locate the slightly ajar fire apartment door.

Lieutenant Galeazzi assessed the situation and instinctively, without hesitation, entered the apartment on his hands and knees. The thick black smoke and intense heat forced him to maintain a very low profile on the floor. Using his sense of touch to feel his way, the Lieutenant tenaciously worked his way into the apartment.

He was beginning to doubt that he would find the victim, when he heard a second low groaning sound, which aided him in pinpointing the victim's location. Reaching the elderly woman, who was face-down and semi-conscious, Lieutenant Galeazzi felt a rush of adrenaline. He knew he had to remove the victim expediently in order to save her life.

Lieutenant Galeazzi dragged the woman outside the fire apartment and left her in the care of a member of Ladder 138. This Firefighter brought Devika Mansukani to the floor below where she was taken to St. John's Hospital by EMS personnel. Lieutenant Galeazzi's nozzle team now was in position to extinguish the fire, so he called for water and directed the nozzle team in extinguishment.

Lieutenant Galeazzi had been operating alone and without the benefit of a hand-line. His thoughts were not for his own safety, but for the person trapped inside the fire apartment. His courage and tenacity during this adverse situation merit recognition. According to Battalion Chief Robert Turner, Battalion 46, the Lieutenant showed initiative, capability and bravery. In his endorsement, Deputy Chief Jon Malkin, Division 14, painted a bleak picture for rescuer and victim had the window failed. Fire would have flashed over with disastrous consequences for Lieutenant Galeazzi and the victim.

For these reasons, Lieutenant Richard Galeazzi is presented with the Lieutenant James E. Zahn/Lieutenant Peter L. Troiano Memorial Medal.

Members of Engine 324--FFs Mike Sabatello, Marty Sullivan, Joe Napoli and Gary Kresse and Lieutenant Richard Galeazzi.

Lieutenant James Curran/New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal

Engine Company 44

October 11, 2006, 1443 hours, Box 44-1031, 524 East 72nd Street, Manhattan

Lieutenant Edward E. Ryan
FF Daniel D. Halvey
FF William Cupo
FF Thomas M. Accardo
FF Edward Bohan
FF Bryan E. Doyle

A little before three p.m. on October 11, 2006, a small, privately owned plane, flown by New York Yankees pitcher Cory Lidle and his instructor, crashed into a 40-story apartment building on East 72nd Street. When reports of this incident began to come in, thoughts instantly turned to a possible terrorist attack, reminiscent of 9/11. Engine 44, with Lieutenant Edward E. Ryan and FFs Daniel D. Halvey, William Cupo, Thomas M. Accardo, Edward Bohan and Bryan E. Doyle, responded first-due.

Arriving on-scene, the company confronted an extremely heavy smoke condition and burning debris at the street level. With the wind shifting the smoke cloud, the Lieutenant saw black smoke pouring from an upper floor of the building. He transmitted a 10-77 for a fire on an upper floor of a high-rise multiple dwelling.

Engine 44 overcame several obstacles just to get to the building. Ten floors were skipped in the numbering system, causing some initial confusion. The nominal number of floors did not conform to the actual number of stories. Due to heavy smoke and falling debris, members had to search for the front door of the building on their hands and knees. Once inside, the building superintendent said the fire was on the 40th floor. As a precaution, the members proceeded via the elevator to the 30th floor and climbed the stairs from there. Reaching the 40th floor, members identified the fire apartment as 40F. Fire was showing through the peep hole and the door was beginning to buckle.

The members of Engine 44 quickly connected four lengths of $2^1/_2$-inch hose to the standpipe on the 39th floor and then stretched and flaked out $1^1/_2$-inch lengths on the fire floor. With the arrival of Ladder 13, the door was forced and the members could see what the truck Officer described as simply "a ball of fire."

All rooms in the apartment were in a free-burning stage and Engine 44 members quickly attacked and extinguished all visible fire. With the fire knocked down in this apartment, Lieutenant Ryan notified the Incident Commander, who radioed back there were still two floors of fire. Lieutenant Ryan looked out the apartment window and could see substantial fire toward exposure #2.

Lieutenant Ryan used his flashlight to make a hole in the wall between apartment 40F and 40ABG. Finding only sheetrock separating the two apartments, he told Lieutenant Landau, Ladder 13, to make a few small holes in the wall, so Engine 44 could operate their hose to knock down the fire, using the remaining wall as protection. Once the fire was knocked down, the breach in the wall was made wider and Engine 44 moved in and knocked down the remaining pockets of fire.

While all visible pockets of fire had been knocked down, the members of Engine 44 continued to operate, alternating the line between hot spots and venting out the window. Meanwhile, 40 floors below, Engine 44's chauffeur, FF Halvey, used the rig's deck gun to extinguish the burning debris at the street level. He ensured adequate water supply was ready to combat any additional fire due to the falling debris. At this point, FF Halvey found the body of Mr. Lidle and transmitted a 10-45 code one message. Finally, additional pockets of fire were spotted on the third-floor setback. Again, using the deck gun, FF Halvey knocked down this fire.

In his report of the incident, Deputy Chief John Sudnik, Division 3 Commander stated, "The aggressiveness of the initial attack on this fire was quite evident as the members of this unit extinguished four rooms of fire in apartment 40F. Engine 44 then advanced its hose-line through a breached wall of apartment 40ABG and extinguished the fire in this large occupancy. Not only were the fire conditions severe, but the integrity of the façade wall was suspect as well. The actions taken by the engine company exemplified outstanding teamwork and can be attributed only to a well-trained, professional unit. The members of Engine 44 were able to overcome such dangerous obstacles safely and efficiently and put the entire 40th floor under control in relatively short order."

FDNY is proud to honor Engine 44 with the Lieutenant James Curran/New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal.--*DJH*

Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Medal

LADDER COMPANY 105

December 17, 2005, 2247 hours, Box 990, 683 Dean Street, Brooklyn

LIEUTENANT RICHARD OBERMAYER (BATTALION 32)
FF PATRICK F. MITCHELL
FF KEITH J. MCTARSNEY
FF MICHAEL D. LOURINE
FF MICHAEL S. KEHOE
FF VINCENT P. CAVALIERI

As everyone knows, there is no "I" in the word team and when the team wins, everyone wins. In the fire service, when a fire company pulls together as a team and acts with a singularity of purpose, the winners are the people they save. So was the case on a cold winter's night one week before Christmas when a fire erupted in a three-story building at 683 Dean Street in Brooklyn.

Responding that night was the team of Ladder 105--Lieutenant Richard Obermayer (assigned to Battalion 32) and FFs Patrick F. Mitchell, Keith J. McTarsney, Michael D. Lourine, Michael S. Kehoe and Vincent P. Cavalieri. When the call came in shortly before 2300 hours, Ladder 105 quickly responded and made its way down the two blocks from their firehouse to Box 990. Arriving on-scene, the company found a three-story, 150- by 65-foot, class one building with thick black smoke billowing from windows on the first floor.

Several factors made this a complicated job: First, the former Catholic school had been converted into a home for mentally disabled adults and at this time of night, it was assumed some of the residents would be asleep. Second, the fire was at the far side of exposure #4, while the entrance was on exposure #2. All search and rescue, as well as fire extinguishment, had to go more than 120 feet through the building. Next, many occupants were fleeing the building from the exposure #2 exit, which could impede quick action by the Firefighters. Fourth, because the fire was fueled by foam couches and chairs and the building was fireproof with steel doors to each room, the fire had only one place to vent--via the way the Firefighters entered the building.

As the members of Ladder 105 stepped off the rig, they encountered their first 10-45 of the night as a 58-year-old woman was threatening to jump from a first-floor window. Lieutenant Obermayer ordered FFs Mitchell and Kehoe to raise a portable ladder over a five-foot, wrought-iron fence and rescue her. Both Firefighters calmed the woman and aided her down the ladder and out of harm's way.

FF Cavalieri, working the roof position, raced to the top of the building, via a protected stairway, and began vertical ventilation to assist the inside team with search and rescue. As FF Cavalieri was climbing, the inside team--Lieutenant Obermayer and FFs McTarsney, with the extinguisher, and Lourine, with the irons, made their way to the building entrance, where they encountered dozens of residents fleeing the building. Fighting their way through this throng of panic-stricken residents, the team encountered a long hallway filled with heavy black smoke and an extremely high heat condition. With zero visibility and without the protection of a charged hose-line, the team began to crawl down this hallway, while hearing numerous victims banging on doors and calling for help.

Lieutenant Obermayer reported multiple 10-45s to Battalion Chief John Rozas, Battalion 57, and then started assisting terrified victims toward the main exit. Within moments of this transmission, FF McTarsney found another 10-45--a 61-year-old man, unconscious in the middle of the hallway. Unassisted, FF McTarsney dragged this man outside to safety. It was then FF Lourine's turn as he found a 69-year-old unconscious man and dragged him out of danger.

With these two rescues completed and many other residents already outside, the team regrouped and proceeded back into the building to continue their search down the long, hot, smoke-filled hallway. Probing down to the end of the hallway, the team found the source of the fire. Lieutenant Obermayer ordered FF McTarsney to hold back the fire with the extinguisher as he and FF Lourine moved past the blaze. They found their final 10-45 of the night--a 70-year-old male, who they dragged past the fire and out to the safety of the street.

In reporting on the actions of Ladder 105 this night, a Chief Officer wrote, "The members of Ladder 105 showed tenacity and diligence and ignored their personal safety to save the lives of these four people." Demonstrating true professionalism under extreme conditions, Ladder 105's teamwork is recognized today with the Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Medal.--*DJH*

Deputy Commissioner Christine R. Godek Medal

FIRE MARSHAL DANIEL J. CARUSO

BFI--Special Investigations Unit

May 25, 2004, 0529 hours, Box 0659, 408 Greene Avenue, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on October 31, 1993. Previously assigned to Engine 7. Cited five times for bravery and is the recipient of the Commissioner Martin Scott Medal. Resides on Staten Island with his wife, Sandra, and daughters, Cristina, Amanda and Hailey, and son, Daniel.

Fire Marshal Daniel Caruso was assigned to lead an investigation into a series of incendiary fires that occurred at 408 Greene Avenue in the Fort Greene section of Brooklyn. The first fire occurred in the public stairway of this fully occupied building as a result of a flammable liquid being intentionally poured. This fire made the public stairway impassable for its unsuspecting occupants.

Days later, the arsonist--unsatisfied with his results--started a second fire by propelling a Molotov cocktail through the window of the still fully occupied multiple dwelling. The apartment exploded with fire. Awakened from sleep, a quick-thinking tenant, who barely escaped with her life, was able to alert others and call the FDNY.

Marshal Caruso showed initiative and began a multi-layered investigation, which was centered on motive, with a focus toward the less conventional, more creative methods of developing leads and sources of information. His pro-active and unconventional approach uncovered a possible "torch for hire." Marshal Caruso identified, targeted and eventually arrested this individual, known as "Tony the Torch." With skill and precision, Marshal Caruso was able to convince the arsonist to work against his co-conspirators.

FM Daniel Caruso at the site of the initial arson fire, which set in motion a major investigation and successful conviction. *photo by FDNY Photo Unit*

"Tony the Torch" agreed to wear a wire and soon was put to work on the street. Meanwhile, Marshal Caruso also had identified Sherman Rivers, a career criminal active in the area, as a subject of interest. The Marshal launched a series of electronic surveillance operations, including a "reverse sting" that targeted Mr. Rivers, a self-proclaimed real estate mogul and head of a ruthless criminal enterprise. Working in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Kings County District Attorney's office and the NYPD, Marshal Caruso continued to develop aspects of the Sherman Rivers arson-for-profit enterprise.

Marshal Caruso determined that Mr. Rivers was linked to at least four other fires that targeted multiple dwellings in the same Fort Greene section of Brooklyn, a rapidly developing real estate hot spot. The Fire Marshal pinpointed the motive in each fire to be financial gain by forcing tenants from their apartments and the buildings, which could be purchased by more affluent residents.

In continued acts of depraved indifference, Mr. Rivers used a hired "torch" in conjunction with Molotov cocktails and the cover of darkness to achieve his goals. Marshal Caruso identified numerous individuals involved in this multi-layered criminal enterprise. In addition to arson, he uncovered schemes that involved murder-for-hire, strong-arm tactics, forged documents, fraudulently obtained power-of-attorney and real estate links to an attorney representing an out-of-town corporation.

The overall investigation resulted in six arrests. The successful prosecution of this case went on to involve more than a year-long process of case enhancement, evidentiary organization, witness management and development, as well as numerous safety issues that included homicidal threats toward a critical, confidential informant. Marshal Caruso, a key member of the prosecution team, successfully testified before a grand jury, pre-trial hearings and finally at three jury trials in Brooklyn Supreme Court. The complex prosecution proved Mr. Rivers guilty of four counts of arson--first degree. He faces 60 years in prison.

This is a highly significant investigation and prosecution that took place during the course of almost three years, brought to a successful conclusion by a valued member of this Department. Marshal Caruso, committed to excellence, has demonstrated the tenacity and resourcefulness found only in the most dedicated law enforcement professionals. His actions in this investigation represent the highest traditions of the Bureau of Fire Investigation and exemplify BFI's motto, *Veritas ex Cineribus*, Latin for Truth from the Ashes.

The results of this investigation send forth a powerful message to those whose greed and depraved indifference for life bring great danger and peril to the citizens of New York, as well as the members of the FDNY. It is with this in mind that Fire Marshal Daniel Caruso is awarded the Christine R. Godek Medal.--*RB*, *JDL* and *JM*

Probationary Firefighter Thomas A. Wylie Medal

FIREFIGHTER RONALD E. DEASO, JR.

Engine Company 79

February 26, 2006, 1604 hours, Box 33-3553, 20 West Mosholu Parkway South, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on September 25, 2005. Member of the Emerald Society. Recipient of a Service Rating A and a unit citation. Resides in the Bronx.

With only two months on the job, Probationary FF Ronald Deaso experienced a defining moment as an FDNY Firefighter on February 26, 2006. At 1604 hours, after operating at an EMS run, Engine 79 was assigned to respond to a phone alarm, Box 3553, reporting a fire on the 24th floor. Engine 79 arrived first-due at 20 West Mosholu Parkway South, a 41-story, fireproof multiple dwelling.

Once on the fire floor, the members of Engine 79 encountered a heavy smoke and heat condition in the public hallway. Captain Peter Melly (detailed to Engine 79) ordered a 2$^1/_2$-inch hose-line stretched from the standpipe on the 22nd floor as he made his way to the fire apartment. He was informed by Ladder 37 members that the fire had possession of two rear bedrooms and was extending. Ladder 37 Firefighters made a quick search and gained control of the fire apartment door until the arrival of the hose-line. Once it was charged, Captain Melly ordered the advance into the fire apartment.

View of the wind-blown fire apartment where FF Deaso manned the nozzle.

Entering the fire apartment, Engine 79 members were met with very severe conditions. FF Deaso had the nozzle position and was facing his first fire. He advanced the hose-line some 20 feet under heavy heat and smoke conditions and was attacking the fire when the windows failed. The 50 mile-per-hour winds whipped and fed the fire and drove the rapidly extending flames and heat toward the nozzle team. Unfortunately, Engine 79 could not employ the reach of the stream because the rear two bedrooms were located down a hallway, which made a right angle to the living room. FF Deaso aggressively fought to press the attack with the hose-line as conditions deteriorated.

At this time, members of Ladder 37 were pinned down behind the hose-line and unable to move. The fire now was forcing Engine 79 to back up toward the entrance doorway. FF Deaso kept the line in operation during this time, allowing members of Ladder 37 to get back into the public hallway. At the fire apartment entrance door, the nozzle team of Engine 79 held their ground.

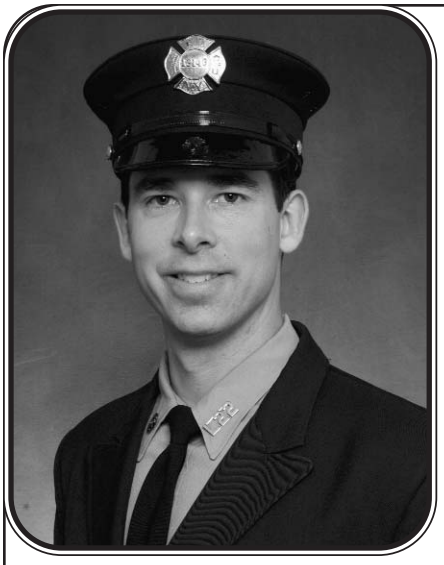
Conditions had turned extreme as the fire reached blowtorch conditions. Battalion Chief Michael Puzziferri, Battalion 27, was on the fire floor and saw that the second-due engine could not advance to assist Engine 79. Ladders 56 and 37 were trying to make it back to the safety of the stairway. The Chief ordered the apartment door shut and the second line put in operation.

Captain Melly, realizing that the members of Engine 79 were getting burned, ordered his back-up and door Firefighters to back out of the stairwell. He remained with FF Deaso and together, they fought valiantly to hold the wind-fed flames. Simultaneously, they attempted to close the fire apartment door, which proved very difficult. Both FF Deaso and Captain Melly received burns from this attempt. The fire apartment was fully involved at this point with auto-extension to the 25th and 26th floors.

The public hallway was untenable, but FF Deaso and Captain Melly remained at the nozzle, shielding the members who were attempting to make it to the stairway. Together, these two members began to back the hose-line toward the stairwell as they continued to operate the nozzle. The intense fire, heat and smoke now were being pushed into the public hall and with both members already burned, they still refused to shut down the line as they continued to get burned in their retreat.

At a point close to the stairwell, Captain Melly was informed that all the other members had made it to safety. He then ordered the line shut down as he and FF Deaso made their escape to the safety of the stairwell. FF Deaso received first-degree burns and suffered from heat exhaustion. He was transported to NY Weill Cornell Medical Center, admitted and released the next day.

FF Deaso performed as well as any veteran Firefighter and displayed great courage, tenacity and determination. He aggressively attacked the fire under extreme conditions. He then refused to give up as the fire overtook the company's position. He maintained his ground and kept his line in operation, which allowed several fire companies to back out to the safety of the public stairwell. For these reasons, FF Ronald Deaso is presented with the Probationary Firefighter Thomas A. Wylie Medal.



William Friedberg Medal

Firefighter Kevin S. Gorman

Ladder Company 22

December 21, 2005, 1333 hours, Box 22-1167, 302 West 86th Street, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on July 9, 1995. Previously assigned to Engine 76. Father, FF Patrick F. Gorman, is retired from Engine 306. Member of the Emerald Society. Resides in Malverne, Long Island, with his wife, Diana, and their two children, Brendan and John.

On December 21, 2005, Ladder 22 received a phone alarm at 1333 hours for 302 West 86th Street. The company made good time into the Box, even though the City was in the throws of a transit strike.

On arrival, Ladder 22 members were met with an advanced body of fire that had self-vented from two windows on the third floor. Additionally, with the apartment door slightly ajar, the third-floor public hall had filled with smoke and heat before the windows self-vented.

Ladder 22's forcible entry team had to search for the apartment door. Despite the heat and smoke, the members found it in short order. While Ladder 22's Officer, Lieutenant Edward Meehan directed Engine 74 to the apartment door, the balance of the forcible entry team began its search of the fire apartment.

Due to the extreme heat of the advanced fire, Ladder 22's extinguisher Firefighter, FF Kevin Gorman, was forced to conduct his search on his stomach. He quickly found the occupant on the floor, approximately 15 feet from the front door.

With fire now extending over his head toward the open apartment door and with no charged line yet in place, FF Gorman had to remove the occupant as quickly as possible. Shielding the frail woman's body with his own, FF Gorman dragged the unconscious woman to the relative safety of the public hall.

At this point, FF Michael Tracey, Engine 47, carried her downstairs. He handed the victim over to the care of Engine 40, a CFR-D engine company. The Firefighter then promptly rejoined his company to complete the primary search of the fire apartment.

In his endorsement, then-Deputy Chief Thomas Jensen said, "FF Gorman initiated a search of the victim's apartment before a charged hose-line was in place and under extreme conditions. The room adjoining the location of the victim was heavily involved in fire, which was extending across the ceiling above the victim."

His actions exemplify the best traditions of this Department and are worthy of recognition. For these reasons, FF Kevin Gorman is presented with the William Friedberg Medal.

Ladder 22 apparatus. *photo by Joe Pinto*

Shelly Rothman Memorial Medal

Firefighter John J. Maguire

Ladder Company 172

December 27, 2005, 1256 hours, Box 75-3424, 2462 84th Street, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on April 17, 1994. Father, John J. Maguire (deceased), was retired from Ladder 161 and brother, James Maguire, is retired from Ladder 108. Member of the Emerald Society. Recipient of a Service Rating A and a Service Rating B. Resides in Bellmore, Long Island, with his wife, Catherine, and their son, Sean, 8.

In the excitement and tension of a fire, Firefighters know that most people become nervous and upset. Critical information can become confused, garbled or misleading. Fortunately for one victim, FF John Maguire, Ladder 172, followed his instincts instead of listening to civilian reports on this December day in 2005.

The members of Ladder 172 were called out to respond to a fire in a three-story, non-fireproof multiple dwelling that held five apartments. Measuring 25 by 60 feet, the residential occupancy is located at 2462 84th Street in Brooklyn.

While entering the structure, members were met with heavy smoke and zero visibility at the floor level. The Ladder 172 forcible entry team members searched the open kitchen/living room fire area, approximately 20 by 25 feet. Simultaneously, Engine 253 members advanced a hand-line on the fire. The forcible entry team then advanced past the hand-line to search the bedroom.

Members of Ladder 172--FFs Keith Thomasevich, Mark Connelly, Joe Ehrebli and Joe Manto, Captain John Gormley (covering) and FF John Maguire.

While searching the bedroom, reports came over the handie-talkies, indicating that all occupants were accounted for, according to information received from civilians. However, FF Maguire continued searching the bedroom.

While searching the narrow closet, he discovered that it was five feet deep with a second door on the rear wall that led to another room, which measured seven by 25 feet. This is where FF Maguire found a victim, a 41-year-old male. This room was located two rooms or approximately 17 feet past the fire area.

FF Maguire transmitted a 10-45 to Battalion Chief Martin Ford, Battalion 42, and advised the forcible entry team of the victim's location. FF Joseph Manto, Ladder 172, assisted with removal of the victim, John Cerullo, from the building. Mr. Cerullo was found within four minutes of Ladder 172's arrival. FF Maguire then continued to search the remainder of the fire floor.

Mr. Cerullo was unconscious and exhibited shallow breathing. He was not making any noise. The man was given oxygen at the scene by Engine 330 members and then transported to the hyperbaric chamber at Jacoby Hospital due to CO poisoning.

Mr. Cerullo surely would have expired if not for FF Maguire's rapid and aggressive effort to search a closet. He gave the closet the same importance he would bestow on a bedroom, even after receiving reports that all civilians had been accounted for. This room easily could have been overlooked by less-experienced members who might have considered this just another 20-inch-wide closet with no life hazard.

FF Maguire risked his safety by searching two rooms past the fire area. At this time, the hand-line was still advancing on the fire, with no back-up line in place. Additionally, there was no FAST unit on-scene. Furthermore, if while searching this unusual layout FF Maguire had become trapped and required FAST unit assistance, there would be a delay in reaching him since even the other members of the forcible entry team initially were unaware that this additional room existed.

FF John Maguire showed superb initiative, acting quickly and aggressively, but with great focus. For these reasons, he is honored with the Shelly Rothman Memorial Medal.

Service Rating A

Lt. David C. Bengyak, L-127
FF Dominic Bertucci, E-50
Lt. Daniel J. Bowman, E-281
Lt. George Brennan, E-53
FF Scott J. Breslin, L-133
FF Donald K. Casey, L-9
FF Michael J. Cook, L-6
FF Thomas Cosgrove, Jr., L-28
FF Ronald E. Deaso, Jr., E-79
FF Steven F. Devaney, E-46
FF John P. Drew, L-120
FF Daryl Fordham, L-25
FF Christopher T. Gaby, L-113
Lt. Richard M. Galeazzi, E-324
FF John M. Gorman, L-166
FF Kevin S. Gorman, L-22
FF Brian A. Hagan, L-44
FF Michael Harnett, L-82
Lt. Michael J. Higgins (2), L-19
Lt. Gary A. Jacobson, Jr., Bn-49
FF Kevin R. Jensen, L-58
FF Joseph B. Jurgens, L-1
FF Michael P. Krol, M-1
FF James T. Lunny, L-147
FF John J. Maguire, L-172
FF Craig H. McDonald, L-147
Lt. Stephen E. McNally, L-35
Capt. Peter J. Melly, Div. 7
Lt. Jeffrey F. Monsen, Sr., E-23
FF Terence J. Osborn, L-163*
FF Brian J. O'Sullivan, L-25
FF Brian E. Pascasio, E-318
FF Walter D. Powers, L-58
FF Robert R. Rufh (3), L-32
FF Larry D. Schneckenburger, L-120
FF Frederick M. Schwarzrock, L-41
FF William H. Smith, L-58
Lt. Victor Spadaro, Bn-38
FF Robert M. Treiland, L-166
FF Augie Tufano, M-1
FF Charles E. Wiemann, R-4

** Recipient of two Service Rating As.*

Service Rating B

FF Kevin R. Aglietti, E-326
FF Daniel J. Beyrer, L-4
BC Barry W. Brandes, Bn-41
Lt. Alfonse J. Calato, E-241
FF Patrick J. Carr, L-128
FF Joseph Coughlan, L-3
Lt. Stephen W. Cristello, L-128
FF Michael A. Doda, L-163
FF Michael P. Egan, L-169
FF William L. Hansen III, L-113
FF William M. Hickey, L-120
FF Kenneth E. Kazokas, SQ-252
Capt. Michael J. Kendall, Div. 11
Lt. Richard Kobbe, L-133
FF Charles V. Masterson, L-120
FF Phillip S. Mazzella, L-128
FF Thomas J. McDonald, L-166
FF Brian K. Mooney, L-168
FF Thomas Morgan, L-18
Capt. Robert R. Morris, R-1
FF Daniel O'Keefe, L-43
FF Vincent Priolo, L-78
FF Christopher J. Raguso, L-113
FF Timothy M. Rail, E-249
FF Matthew G. Reno, E-318
FF Jose E. Saenz, R-5
FF John L. Scarangello, E-153
Lt. Stephen J. Sharp, E-265
FF John M. Sullivan, E-53
FF Michael P. Sullivan, L-38
FF Eric C. Szillus, E-227
FF Patrick A. Wall, M-6
FF Michael R. Wilson, E-318

UNIT CITATIONS

Ladder Company 109
June 19, 2005 Box 1102

Ladder Company 49
October 20, 2005 Box 66-2722

Engine Company 93
October 20, 2005 Box 66-2722

Engine Company 214
November 27, 2005 Box 884

Ladder Company 111
November 27, 2005 Box 884

Ladder Company 105
December 17, 2005 Box 990

Ladder Company 102
December 17, 2005 Box 990

Engine Company 219
December 17, 2005 Box 990

Engine Company 42
December 18, 2005 Box 2794

Engine Company 280
January 7, 2006 Box 3951

Engine Company 235
January 7, 2006 Box 3951

Ladder Company 2
January 9, 2006 Box 861

Squad Company 41
January 13, 2006 Box 2937

Rescue Company 3
January 13, 2006 Box 2937

Engine Company 23
January 20, 2006 Box 22-0918

Engine Company 298
January 23, 2006 Box 6625

Engine Company 265
January 26, 2006 Box 33-1201

Ladder Company 121
January 26, 2006 Box 33-1201

Ladder Company 47
January 27, 2006 Box 4601

Ladder Company 129
January 28, 2006 Box 6999

Ladder Company 111
February 19, 2006 Box 911

Ladder Company 37
February 26, 2006 Box 33-3553

Engine Company 79
February 26, 2006 Box 33-3553

Engine Company 81
February 26, 2006 Box 33-3553

Rescue Company 3
February 26, 2006 Box 33-3553

Engine Company 233
March 4, 2006 Box 22-845

Engine Company 255
March 11, 2006 Box 33-2439

Ladder Company 31
March 22, 2006 Box 2374

Ladder Company 6
April 8, 2006 Box 207

Ladder Company 43
April 26, 2006 Box 1279

Rescue Company 3
May 21, 2006 Box 22-3096

Ladder Company 58
May 21, 2006 Box 22-3096

Ladder Company 41
May 21, 2006 Box 22-3096

Engine Company 324
June 20, 2006 Box 22-9332

Ladder Company 163
June 20, 2006 Box 7249

Ladder Company 78
July 3, 2006 Box 0123

Engine Company 8
July 10, 2006 Box 66-0947

Engine Company 39
July 10, 2006 Box 66-0947

Ladder Company 35
July 10, 2006 Box 66-0947

Rescue Company 4
July 10, 2006 Box 66-0947

Engine Company 1
July 18, 2006 Box 960

Ladder Company 126
July 28, 2006 Box 22-9808

Squad Company 270
July 28, 2006 Box 22-9808

Ladder Company 101
October 10, 2006 Box 1365

Ladder Company 2
October 11, 2006 Box 44-1031

Engine Company 44
October 11, 2006 Box 44-1031

Ladder Company 13
October 11, 2006 Box 44-1031

Rescue Company 1
October 11, 2006 Box 44-1031

Engine Company 23
October 11, 2006 Box 44-1031

Engine Company 260
November 1, 2006 Box 22-7508

Engine Company 53
November 6, 2006 Box 75-1274

Engine Company 253
November 16, 2006 Box 3447

Engine Company 248
November 26, 2006 Box 22-2416

Engine Company 255
November 26, 2006 Box 22-2416

Engine Company 310
November 26, 2006 Box 22-2416

Marine Company 1
December 4, 2006 Box 708

Ladder Company 170
December 4, 2006 Box 4150

Ladder Company 120
December 11, 2006 Box 75-845

Engine Company 258
December 13, 2006 Box 7131

Engine Company 43
December 16, 2006 Box 2998

Ladder Company 26
December 26, 2006 Box 75-1358

Rescue Company 1
December 26, 2006 Box 75-1358

MEDAL AND AWARD DONORS

James Gordon Bennett Medal

In addition to the Bennett Medal, first awarded in 1869, the Commissioner Robert O. Lowery Award of $600 is provided by the late Honorary Deputy Chief Bertram Brummer and his wife, Susie. The recipient also is awarded $1000, donated by The Kenneth H. Straus Fund of the Fire Foundation of New York. The organization was established in 1968 by a group of prominent New York City businessmen, friends of the FDNY, in the interest of rewarding Fire Department members who perform acts above and beyond the call of duty. *(Page 11)*

Brooklyn Citizens Medal/ FF Louis Valentino Award

In 1896, a committee of Brooklynites endowed this medal "to be given to the most deserving Fireman in the Brooklyn Fire Department, as he shall be selected by the Fire Department of the City of New York." An award of $500 is donated by The Kenneth H. Straus Fund of the Fire Foundation of New York. This organization was established in 1968 by a group of prominent New York City businessmen, friends of the FDNY, in the interest of rewarding Fire Department members who perform acts above and beyond the call of duty. The recipient also is awarded the Firefighter Louis Valentino Award, a medal endowed in 1998 by Diane Valentino and the Valentino family. The recipient also will receive a gift of $300. *(Page 12)*

Hugh Bonner Medal

Endowed by the Reverend James Johnson, Fire Chaplain assigned to Grace Church, and named in honor of Chief Hugh Bonner, "a stalwart Chief of Department who preferred to rule by example." The medal first was awarded in 1897. In addition, an award of $250 is made by the Joseph Reich Memorial Fund, a trust fund recognizing "outstanding heroic service rendered by members of the Department." This organization was established in 1968 by a group of prominent New York City businessmen, friends of the FDNY, in the interest of rewarding Fire Department members who perform acts above and beyond the call of duty. *(Page 13)*

Emily Trevor/Mary B. Warren Medal

These sisters, in their deed of gift, wrote "...for the purpose of encouraging the members of the force in the exercise...of heroic endeavor under circumstances of special danger." Awarded for the first time in 1899. In addition, an award of $250 is made by the Joseph Reich Memorial Fund, recognizing "outstanding heroic service, rendered by members of the Department." This organization was established in 1968 by a group of prominent businessmen, friends of the FDNY, in the interest of rewarding Fire Department members who perform acts above and beyond the call of duty. *(Page 14)*

Thomas E. Crimmins Medal

Mrs. May M. Burke provided in her will for the endowment of this medal in memory of her father, a contractor, builder, loyal New Yorker and the son of a volunteer firefighter. First awarded in 1912. Also awarded $500, donated by The Kenneth H. Straus Fund of the Fire Foundation of New York. This organization was established in 1968 by a group of prominent New York City businessmen, friends of the FDNY, in the interest of rewarding Fire Department members who perform acts above and beyond the call of duty. Also awarded $200 by Honorary Deputy Commissioner Dorothy Marks, in memory of the late Jeffrey S. Childs, great-great-grandson of Thomas E. Crimmins. *(Page 15)*

Thomas A. Kenny Memorial Medal

Honorary Deputy Chief William F. Kenny endowed this medal in memory of his father, a Battalion Chief who served in the Department, faithfully and conspicuously, from 1876 until 1903. It is given as a "perpetual token of zeal and enduring interest." First awarded in 1918. Recipient also is awarded $500 by the Honorary Fire Officers Association, a line organization of the FDNY. *(Page 16)*

Walter Scott Medal

Colonel Walter Scott, a successful New York merchant, was intensely interested in the city's protective forces. In 1920, he endowed a medal for valor bearing his name, to be awarded annually to a member of the FDNY. Recipient also is awarded $500, donated by The Kenneth H. Straus Fund of the Fire Foundation of New York. This organization was established in 1968 by a group of prominent New York City businessmen, friends of the FDNY, in the interest of rewarding Fire Department members who perform acts above and beyond the call of duty. *(Page 17)*

John H. Prentice Medal

This medal is the gift of Mrs. Marion Prentice Brookman in memory of her father. The medal is for "an act of intelligent bravery." First awarded in 1921. Recipient also is awarded $1000. *(Page 18)*

Henry D. Brookman Medal

Mrs. Marion Prentice Brookman, in making this award possible, wrote, "...to help the authorities in installing into the Department the fact that the service rendered by the firefighters is of a character held in high esteem by the people and to perpetuate the old fealty and admiration held by the late Henry D. Brookman for the FDNY." First awarded in 1921. Recipient also is awarded $1000. *(Page 19)*

M.J. Delehanty Medal

The founder and dean of civil service schools bearing his name endowed this medal in 1937, "to be awarded annually to a member of the Department whose distinguished service in the line of duty receives recognition by the Board of Merit of the Fire Department." Recipient also is awarded a $200 savings bond by Honorary Assistant Chief Harvey Ball. An additional $200 savings bond is donated by Honorary Battalion Chief James Palozzolo. *(Page 20)*

William F. Conran Medal

Honorary Chief Conran endowed this medal in 1937. His profession of fire protection engineer enabled him to improve the efficiency of firefighting appliances. Recipient also is awarded a $500 savings bond, donated by Paul and Dennis Sanner, in memory of Frank Muller, FDNY. *(Page 21)*

Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia Medal

The Honorable Fiorello H. LaGuardia, while Mayor, frequently "turned out" at large fires. He had a keen interest in the problems of fire prevention and extinguishment. First awarded in 1937. Recipient also is awarded $400 cash, donated by the Uniformed Firefighters Association (UFA). *(Page 22)*

Chief John J. McElligott Medal/ FFs Fitzpatrick and Frisby Award

Named in honor of the late Chief and Fire Commissioner, Chief McElligott. He joined the Department in 1905 and retired in 1941 after a long and fruitful career. This medal was endowed by William F. Conran and first was awarded in 1937. Recipient is awarded $200 cash, donated by Honorary First Deputy Fire Commissioner Brian Mulheren, in memory of his father, Joseph A. Mulheren, a friend of the FDNY. Recipient also is awarded the Fitzpatrick and Frisby Award, a medallion endowed by the Fitzpatrick and Frisby Foundation, in memory of these two firefighters who made the Supreme Sacrifice. Also awarded $250 cash by the Fitzpatrick and Frisby Foundation. *(Page 23)*

Thomas F. Dougherty Medal

Chief Dougherty served with the Department from 1888 to 1933 with distinction and honor. In addition to inventing the nozzle that bears his name, he was a colorful member of the Fire College faculty, where he specialized in teaching the technique and efficacy of ventilation. First awarded in 1937. Recipient also is awarded $100 cash, donated by Honorary Deputy Chief Sidney D. Rosoff. *(Page 24)*

Albert S. Johnston Medal

Albert S. Johnston was a Captain in the New York Fire Patrol with a record of 50 years of faithful service. Ten years after his retirement in 1927, this medal was endowed by William F. Conran and may be awarded to a member of Fire Patrol. $100 is awarded in memory of the officers and members of the NYC Fire Patrol who died in the line of duty, donated by Honorary Deputy Chief Edward Pospisil. An additional $100 cash award is donated by Honorary Deputy Chief Stuart A. Foreman. *(Page 25)*

Bella Stiefel Medal

In Mrs. Stiefel's 90 years, she came to admire the bravery displayed by firefighters. Her last will and testament provided for this medal, which first was awarded in 1947. Recipient also is awarded $400, donated by the Uniformed Firefighters Association. *(Page 26)*

Vincent J. Kane Medal

This medal is named in honor of the late Vincent J. Kane, labor leader and longtime President of the Uniformed Firefighters Association. It was endowed by the UFA before World War II. Also awarded $400, donated by the UFA. *(Page 27)*

Pulaski Association Medal

First awarded in 1962 and endowed by the Fire Department Pulaski Association in memory of Casimir Pulaski. General Pulaski organized American cavalry forces during the Revolutionary War. He died as a result of wounds received leading the charge at the Battle of Savannah. Presented to the recipient in recognition for upholding the Fire Department's tradition of valor and service to the citizens of the City of New York. Accompanied by a cash award of $200. *(Page 28)*

Commissioner Edward Thompson Medal

This medal, in honor of Commissioner Edward Thompson, was endowed in 1964 by the late Bertram Brummer and his wife, Susie. It is to be awarded to a member exhibiting outstanding courage and fidelity. By endowing this, a second medal, they illustrate their high regard and affection for the Department. A $100 award also is given. *(Page 29)*

Columbia Association Medal

Endowed by the Columbia Association since 1966. Also awarded $1000. Endowed by NY Presbyterian Hospital in memory of Battalion Chief Anthony Mendez. Recipient also is awarded $500 from Fire Marshal Thomas Russo, Senior. (retired) *(Page 30)*

Susan Wagner Medal

Endowed by the UFA to honor the memory of Mrs. Susan Wagner, wife of the former Mayor of the City of New York, and to perpetuate the high esteem in which she held the firefighters of the City of New York. This Medal is awarded to a member of the Department who has performed an outstanding act of valor. First awarded in 1966. Also awarded $400, donated by the UFA in memory of the late assemblywoman Eileen Dugan, a prime sponsor of the Cancer Bill. *(Page 31)*

Steuben Association Medal

Endowed by the Steuben Association in honor of General Frederick Wilhelm Von Steuben. First awarded in 1967. $500 savings bond donated by the Fire Department Steuben Association Charities, Inc. *(Page 32)*

Dr. J.W. Goldenkranz Medal

Endowed in 1975 by the late Dr. J.W. Goldenkranz, Honorary Assistant Chief, to honor "the heroic efforts of the officers and firemen, all of whom perform their duties at extreme personal risk." Dr. Goldenkranz was affiliated with the FDNY since 1913 and was president of the New York Firemen's Cycle Club. Also awarded a $200 savings bond, donated by the late Dr. Goldenkranz, and $100, donated by Sandy and Terry Sansevero. *(Page 33)*

Uniformed Fire Officers Association Medal

Endowed in 1977 by the Uniformed Fire Officers Association "for an act of heroism and bravery performed by a fire officer at a fire." Accompanying the medal is a $500 cash award, donated by the UFOA. *(Page 34)*

Edith B. Goldman Medal

Endowed by the many friends of the late Honorary Deputy Chief Barney Goldman to honor the memory of both his wife, Edith, and him and to illustrate the high regard and affection he held for FDNY members. First awarded in 1978. Also awarded $250. *(Page 35)*

American Legion Fire Department Post 930/ Mark M. Wohlfeld Memorial Medal

Endowed by American Legion Post 930, this medal is in memory of Mark M. Wohlfeld, a lifelong member of the Fire Department Post, a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves and a retired FDNY firefighter. The history of this intrepid warrior's exploits is related graphically in the second and third issues of *WNYF* (1945). After his retirement from the FDNY, he continued to serve his country and his fellow man by working for the Veterans Administration. He died on May 24, 1978, and is interred in Arlington National Cemetery. First awarded in 1979. Recipient also is awarded a $300 bond, donated in memory of firefighter Eugene "Butch" O'Kane by his family. *(Page 36)*

Arthur J. Laufer Memorial Medal

The Laufer Medal, presented for the first time in 1980, is named in honor and memory of the late Deputy Chief Arthur J. "Artie" Laufer, who continually showed his love for firefighters and his fellow man through his actions. The recipient of this medal will receive $400, donated by the UFA, and $250, donated by the family of Deputy Director of Dispatch Operations, Joseph E. Higgins, Jr. *(Page 37)*

Emerald Society Pipes and Drums Medal

This medal, endowed by the members of the Pipes and Drums of the FDNY Emerald Society Bagpipe Band, is awarded to a member of the Department who performs an outstanding act of heroism in keeping with the FDNY's highest traditions. First awarded in 1981. Recipient also is awarded a $200 savings bond, donated by Matthew and Susan Daly, and $100 is donated by Sandy and Terry Sansevero. An additional $200 savings bond is donated by retired FM Jim McSwigin. *(Page 38)*

Company Officers Association Medal

Endowed by the Company Officers Association in memory of Company Officers in the FDNY who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. Medal awarded for the first time in 1982. It is donated in memory of retired Captain Sy Berkowitz. Included is a $300 cash award from the Company Officers Association and an additional $300, donated by Honorary Chief James Martin, in memory of Firefighter Francis Esposito and Captain Martin Egan of Ladder Company 79. *(Page 39)*

Chief Joseph B. Martin Medal

The Martin Medal is endowed in honor of the legendary Assistant Chief Joseph B. "Smokey Joe" Martin, who served the FDNY with "fidelity and devotion" for 47 years. Awarded for the first time in 1984. $100 is awarded in the memory of Firefighter Anthony D. Buccieri, Engine 75. Also, $100 is awarded in memory of Firefighter Mike Donnelly of Ladder 33, who died in 1983 after an heroic battle with cancer. A $1000 donation is made by the Martin Family in memory of Frances B. Martin (1905-1996), daughter of "Smokey Joe" Martin. Also awarded $200 bond in memory of Battalion Chief William C. Rinsdale, 19th Battalion, who died in the line of duty in 1971. Donated by Richard Kirrstetter, Ladder 33, and all his Brothers in Ladder 33, Engine 75, Battalion 19. *(Page 40)*

New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal

The New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association, Inc., founded in 1950, is an independent, non-profit and tax-exempt organization, dedicated to promoting the interests of the firefighters of the State of New York. The active Association is affiliated with the New York State Professional Fire Fighters Association and is celebrating 50 years of volunteer service to the Firefighters of New York and their families. The medal, which first was awarded in 1984, is presented every year to a firefighter who has performed with valor. This medal is dedicated to honoring all firefighters who have performed with valor. With this medal, a check for $1000 also is awarded and donated by the members of the New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. *(Page 41)*

Honor Legion Medal

The Honor Legion is open only to "the bravest of the Bravest," both active and retired. Prerequisites for membership are confined to firefighters of all ranks who have received Department recognition and been granted a Class I, II or III award for deeds of valor performed at imminent risk to their lives. First awarded in 1984. Also, a $100 savings bond is donated by Joseph Rodriquez, Founding President, Honor Legion, Ladder 54, retired. Recipient receives a $200 savings bond, donated by retired FM Jim McSwigin. An award of $500 is donated by the Grand Lodge of the State of New York Free and Accepted Masons. Retired Fire Marshal Thomas J. Russo, Sr., a member of the Honor Legion, donates a cash award of $500. *(Page 42)*

Police Honor Legion Medal

The Police Honor Legion Medal is endowed by the New York City Police Department Honor Legion. It was first awarded in 1984. Awarded with the medal is a $100 savings bond, donated by FM Arthur J. Crawford, a $100 savings bond, donated by FM Dennis H. Fink, and a $250 savings bond, donated by retired Detective James K. Burke. *(Page 43)*

Firefighter David J. DeFranco Medal

In honor of the memory of Firefighter David J. DeFranco for his dedicated efforts on behalf of the Department. This medal, awarded for a water-related rescue, is presented, along with a $200 cash award, by the David J. DeFranco Memorial Scholarship Fund. *(Page 44)*

Lieutenant James E. Zahn/ Lieutenant Peter L. Troiano Memorial Medal

The Lieutenant James E. Zahn/Lieutenant Peter L. Troiano Memorial Medal has been established in honor of these two beloved "Brothers," who laid down their lives for the people of the City of New York. This medal is awarded to a member of the Department who has performed an act of bravery in the protection of life and/or property, either while on- or off-duty. Also awarded is a $200 savings bond, donated by the members of Engine 277 and Ladder 112. *(Page 45)*

Lieutenant James Curran/ New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal

The New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation is an organization committed to the goals of quality burn care and fund-raising endeavors. Similarly, the FDNY is engaged in safeguarding and improving the quality of life for city residents. It is this semblance of purpose and collaborative spirit that is deserving of recognition. With this in mind, the New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation awards a medal to the most worthy of units in appreciation of "a concentrated super effort based on teamwork." Proceeds for this endowment, as well as a $100 savings bond for each recipient, are provided solely through the generosity of Honorary Deputy Chief Peter Horowitz, in memory of his father, Samuel Horowitz. *(Page 46)*

Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Medal

Endowed by the Uniformed Firefighters Association, this medal is named in honor of Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser, a 20-year veteran of the FDNY, whose firefighting career was cut short in 1990 by his untimely death. Firefighter Elsasser was a major contributor to UFA charity sporting events. In addition to the medal awarded to the unit, each member receives a medal and $100, donated by the Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Fund. *(Page 47)*

Deputy Commissioner Christine R. Godek Medal

Established and presented by Honorary Deputy Commissioner Dorothy W. Marks and (now-deceased) Honorary First Deputy Commissioner Shelly Rothman in honor of Christine R. Godek, the first female Deputy Fire Commissioner of the FDNY. Presented annually to an outstanding New York City Fire Marshal for unusual display of initiative, improving techniques, resourcefulness and capability in the investigation of arson. Also awarded $100 by Dr. Jean D. Pratt, in honor of the Juvenile Firesetters Program. A $350 cash award also is donated. *(Page 48)*

Probationary Firefighter Thomas A. Wylie Medal

This medal is endowed by the members of Ladder Company 18 in honor of their fallen Brother, Probationary Firefighter Thomas A. Wylie, who gave his life assisting in the rescue of more than 20 civilians at a fire in Chinatown. The medal is awarded annually to a Probationary Firefighter who distinguishes himself as Tom did in his brief career. The medal depicts his caricature of a "Can Man," the traditional position of a "Proby." Also awarded $200, donated by the members of Ladder 18 and Battalion 4, in memory of Dan Franco, Engine 17/Ladder 18. *(Page 49)*

William Friedberg Medal

The William Friedberg Medal, presented for the first time in 1996, is named in honor and memory of the late William Friedberg. Bill was a respected and beloved elementary school principal, who spent 33 years working with the children of New York City and six years as a member of the New York State Industrial Board of Appeals. He believed that early education and instruction were key to fire prevention. The recipient of this award will receive $318, donated by Mr. Friedberg's widow and family. *(Page 50)*

Shelly Rothman Memorial Medal

This medal is dedicated to honoring all Firefighters who have performed with valor. Awarded for the first time in 2005. With this medal, a check for $500 is awarded and donated by the members of the New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. Additionally, a $300 cash award is donated by the Fire Bell Club of New York in memory of Shelly Rothman, a long-time member and Chairman of the Board of Directors. *(Page 51)*

FDNY Members Called Up for *Operation Enduring Freedom & Operation Iraqi Freedom*

FDNY salutes those members who served and continue to serve in the military.

FF Eugene D. Abramshe, Ladder 146--Army
FF David R. Abreu, Squad 288--Army
FF Willfred Acevedo, Engine 254--Marine Corps
Lieutenant Aldo J. Adissi, Squad 61--Air National Guard
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FF Richard Batista, Engine 76--Marine Corps
FF John Bauer, Engine 91--Marine Corps
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FF Glen S. Berg, Ladder 161--Army
FF Edward Bergin, Engine 80--Marine Corps
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FF Jason G. Braadt, Ladder 122--Marine Corps
FF Vincent R. Brennan, III, Engine 62--Marine Corps
FF Jason C. Brezler, Ladder 58--Army
FF Daniel T. Bright, Ladder 46--Air National Guard
FF Richard R. Brugman, Ladder 13--Air Force
FF Ismael Bruno, Ladder 51--Marine Corps
Lieutenant Thomas A. Butler, Engine 303--Air National Guard
Lieutenant John F. Byrne, Engine 293--Coast Guard
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FF Christopher Campuzano, Ladder 177--Army
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FF Edward F. Cassidy, Engine 219--Air Force
FF Michael Cassidy, Engine 255--Army
FF Brian Cavanaugh, Engine 225--Air National Guard
FF Nicholas Cavarretta, Engine 250--Air Force
FF Nicholas Cea, Squad 288--Coast Guard
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FF Bashkim Cira, Engine 250--Marine Corps
Lieutenant Shawn P. Cody, Engine 266--Air National Guard
FF Gregory Coleman, Engine 308--Coast Guard
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Lieutenant John P. Cullen, Engine 235--Coast Guard
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FF William Garcia, Ladder 124--Navy
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FF Matthew Kempton, Engine 268--Air National Guard
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FF Ellery Liburd, Engine 60--Army
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FF Douglas Zimmardi, Ladder 24--Navy

† Killed in the line of duty in Iraq.
†† Killed in the line of duty, FDNY.
* Since retired.

MEDAL DAY 2007

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Front Cover Photo
Brooklyn Box 10-10-0036, West/Quay Streets, Greenpoint, May 2, 2006. The worst fire since 9/11, more than 400 Firefighters, Officers and medical personnel, plus more than 80 pieces of equipment, responded to the 10 buildings that were ablaze with flames that shot 100 feet into the air.
Photo by Steve Spak

Back Cover Photo
Bronx Box 33-3553, 20 Mosholu Parkway South, the Tracy Towers, February 26, 2006. This is a scene from the incident for which Captain Peter J. Melly, Division 7 (assigned), Engine Company 79 (detailed), received the Uniformed Fire Officers Association Medal and Ronald E. Deaso, Jr., Engine Company 79, received the Probationary Firefighter Thomas A. Wylie Medal.
Photo by Matthew P. Daly