FDNY MEDAL DAY 2012

Honoring the Courage, Commitment and Compassion of FDNY Fire & EMS Members — June 6, 2012 —
MEDAL DAY 2012

Salvatore J. Cassano
Fire Commissioner

Edward S. Kilduff
Chief of Department

Francis X. Griibbon
Deputy Commissioner
Office of Public Information

MEDAL DAY STAFF

PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR
Stephen Paul Antonelli

EDITOR
Janet Kimmerly

GRAPHICS/PRODUCTION
Thomas Ittycheria

WRITERS
EMS Lieutenant Joanne Albanese
Lieutenant Peter W. Blaich
Battalion Chief Christopher Boyle
Jeremy Brooks
Deputy Chief Philip Burns (retired)
Assistant Chief Edward C. Butler (retired)
Supervising Fire Marshal Andrew Di Fusco
Captain Michael Doda
Lieutenant Christopher Flatley
Captain John Flynn (retired)
Barry D. Gintel
Firefighter Nick Graziano
David Joseph Harney
Firefighter Stephen Interdonati
Maria Lambert
Firefighter Ralph Longo
Assistant Chief Fire Marshal John David Lynn
Captain Stephen Marsar
Deputy Assistant Chief Robert Maynes
Battalion Chief Frank C. Montagna
Captain Sean Newman
Lieutenant Anthony Pascocello
EMS Captain Oleg Patrikeyev
EMT Jeanette Perez
EMS Division Chief Jonathan P. Pistilli
EMS Lieutenant Michael A. Talletti
Firefighter Jack Thompson (retired)
Captain John T. Vigiano (retired)
Captain Thomas Woods

MEDAL DESK
EMT Jeanette Perez
EMT Edgar Pitre
Firefighter Robert Hart

PHOTOS BY FDNY PHOTO UNIT
Supervising Fire Marshal Ralph Bernard
Randy Barron, David Warren
Special thanks to Chief Fire Marshal Robert Byrnes and his staff for their assistance.

FDNY
Proudly Serving Since 1865

Photo Credits

Cover
Bronx Box 55-2421, 754 Manida Street/Spofford Avenue, March 9, 2011, the incident for which FF Bryon J. Appleholm, Ladder 48, is awarded the Emily Trevor/Mary B. Warren Medal and FF John J. Blake, III, Ladder 48, is awarded the Captain John J. Drennan Memorial Medal. photo by Michael O’Keefe

Opposite
Brooklyn Box 33-2637, 510 61st Street, March 13, 2011, the incident for which FF Kevin J. Hogan, Ladder 114, is awarded the James Gordon Bennett Medal and New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal; FF Joseph J. Dunn, Ladder 114, is awarded the Hugh Bonner and Honor Legion Medals; Captain Robert Rex Morris, Jr., Division 15, is awarded the Brooklyn Citizens Medal/FF Louis Valentino Award; FF Sean M. O’Mallon, Engine 201, is awarded the Thomas F. Dougherty Medal; Ladder 114 is awarded the World Trade Center Memorial Medal; and Engine 201 is awarded the Lieutenant James Curran/New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal. photo by FDNY CTU

Back Cover
Brooklyn Box 22-3650 (10-60), 2929 Brighton 5th Street/Neptune Avenue, November 8, 2011. EMS personnel stabilize one of several workers removed from a major collapse at this location in Brighton Beach. The fourth and fifth floors of a five-story, 75- by 70-foot brick structure collapsed, trapping construction workers. photo by Todd Maisel, New York Daily News

Publication of this 2012 edition of the FDNY Medal Day Book was made possible by several grants. The FDNY gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the following contributors:

The FDNY Honorary Fire Officers Association
Jack Lerch, President

Dorothy Marks
Honorary Fire Commissioner

The FDNY Foundation
Stephen L. Ruzow, Chairman
Jean O’Shea, Executive Director
MEDAL BOARD

Fire
Robert F. Sweeney
Chief of Operations
Ronald R. Spadafora
Chief of Logistics
Salvatore J. Cassano
Commissioner
Edward S. Kilduff
Chief of Department

EMS
Jerry Z. Gombo
Assistant Chief of EMS Operations
Marylou Aurrichio
Chief EMS Division 4
### Index of Medals

Dr. Harry M. Archer Medal .............................................. 11  
James Gordon Bennett Medal/NYS Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal .................................................. 13  
Brooklyn Citizens Medal/FF Louis Valentino Award .......................................................... 14  
Christopher J. Prescott Medal ........................................... 15  
Hugh Bonner Medal/Honor Legion Medal ..................................... 16  
Emily Trevor/Mary B. Warren Medal ................................... 17  
Thomas E. Crimmins Medal ................................................ 18  
Thomas A. Kenny Memorial Medal ......................................... 19  
Walter Scott Medal .......................................................... 20  
John H. Prentice Medal ..................................................... 21  
Henry D. Brookman Medal ................................................ 22  
M.J. Delehanty Medal ....................................................... 23  
Chief Ulyses Grant Leadership Medal .................................... 24  
William F. Conran Medal .................................................. 25  
Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia Medal ......................................... 26  
Chief John J. McElligott Medal/FFs Fitzpatrick and Frisby Award .................................................. 27  
Thomas F. Dougherty Medal ............................................... 28  
Albert S. Johnston Medal ................................................... 29  
Ner Tamid Society/Franklin Delano Roosevelt Medal ................. 30  
Third Alarm Association Medal ............................................. 31  
Vincent J. Kane Medal ..................................................... 32  
Tracy Allen-Lee Medal ..................................................... 33  
Brummer Medal .............................................................. 34  
Frank W. Kridel Medal ...................................................... 35  
Emerald Society Medal ..................................................... 36  
Chief Wesley Williams Medal ............................................... 37  
Holy Name Society Medal (Brooklyn/Queens) ......................... 38  
Hispanic Society Memorial Medal ......................................... 39  
Captain Denis W. Lane Memorial Medal ..................................... 40  
Uniformed Fire Officers Association Medal .................................. 41  
Chief James Scullion Medal .............................................. 42  
Dr. Albert A. Cinelli Medal ............................................... 43  
Fire Chiefs Association Memorial Medal .................................. 44  
Fire Marshals Benevolent Association Medal ......................... 45  
Community Mayors, Inc./Lt. Robert R. Dolney Medal ................ 46  
BC Frank T. Tuttlemondo Medal ........................................... 47  
Dr. John F. Connell Medal .................................................. 48  
M.J. Delehanty Medal ....................................................... 49  
Dr. Albert A. Cinelli Medal ............................................... 50  
Firefighter Kevin C. Kane Medal .......................................... 51  
Captain John J. Brennan Memorial Medal .................................. 52  
Jack Pintchik Medal ....................................................... 53  
Lt. James Curran/NYFFs Burn Center Foundation Medal/ Father Julian F. Deeken Memorial Medal ................................... 54  
Lt. James Curran/NYFFs Burn Center Foundation Medal ............ 55  
Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Medal ....................... 56  
World Trade Center Memorial Medal ..................................... 57  

### Index of Medal Recipients

Adams, FF Thomas E. (Fire Marshals Benevolent Association Medal) .................................................. 45  
Anson, EMT-P Timothy J. (Chief James Scullion Medal) .................................................. 46  
Appleholm, FF Bryon J. (Emily Trevor/Mary B. Warren Medal) .................................................. 47  
Blake, III, FF John J. (Captain John J. Drennan Memorial Medal) .................................................. 48  
Carroll, FF Peter E. (Albert S. Johnston Medal) .................................................. 49  
Daly, FF Ronald (Thomas E. Cimmins Medal) .................................................. 50  
Davis, FF Evan J. (Firefighter David J. DeFranco Medal) .................................................. 51  
Demontreux, FF Peter G. (Dr. Harry M. Archer Medal) .................................................. 52  
Dunn, FF Joseph J. (Hugh Bonner Medal/Honor Legion Medal) .................................................. 53  
Engine Company 201: McCaffrey, Lt. Michael J.; Bennici, FF Jerry; Calacanis, FF Joshua I. (Ladder 114: Corneo, FF Jorge J.; O’Malley, FF Sean M. (Lt. James Curran/NYFFs Burn Center Foundation Medal) .................................................. 54  
Engine Company 22: Delgrosso, Lt. Thomas J. (Ladder 13); Daley, FF Michael P.; Dory, FF Andrew S.; Greisch, FF David J.; Pitta, FF William C. (Lt. James Curran/NYFFs Burn Center Foundation Medal/Father Julian F. Deeken Memorial Medal) .................................................. 55  
Farrell, FF Kevin (Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia Medal) .................................................. 56  
Ferretti, FF Douglas (Dr. John F. Connell Medal) .................................................. 57  
Flynn, FF Daniel E.; Kanelopoulos, FF Constantine J. (Deputy Commissioner Christine R. Godek Medal) .................................................. 58  
Gardella, III, FF Michael J. (Fire Chiefs Association Memorial Medal) .................................................. 59  
Hay, Capt. James F. (M.J. Delehanty Medal) .................................................. 60  
Heeran, FF Sean B. (Thomas A. Kenny Memorial Medal) .................................................. 61  
Hogan, FF Kevin J. (James Gordon Bennett Medal/NYS Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal) .................................................. 62  
Iannuzzi, FF Christopher A. (Vincent J. Kane Medal) .................................................. 63  
Imperial, EMT Corey; Martin, EMT Keith G. (Jack Pintchik Medal) .................................................. 64  
Kittelberger, Lt. Robert E. (Frank W. Kridel Medal) .................................................. 65  
Lee, Lt. Robert E. (Fire Bell Club Medal) .................................................. 67  
Lopez, FF Robert (Chief John J. McElligott Medal/FFs Fitzpatrick and Frisby Award) .................................................. 68  
Madonna, Lt. Thomas V. (Dr. Albert A. Cinelli Medal) .................................................. 69  
Morris, Jr., Capt. Robert R. (Brooklyn Citizens Medal/Fire Chief’s Association Memorial Medal) .................................................. 70  
Murphy, FF Michael E. (Emerald Society Medal) .................................................. 71  
Neveor, EMT-P Samantha A.; Toomey, EMT-P Michael P. (Lt. Kirby McEllhern Memorial Medal) .................................................. 72  
O’Donnell, FF Eugene P. (Brummer Medal) .................................................. 73  
O’Malley, EMS Lt. Bryan A. (Tracy Allen-Lee Medal) .................................................. 74  
O’Malley, FF Sean M. (Thomas F. Dougherty Medal) .................................................. 75  
Pillarella, FF Christopher G. (William F. Conran Medal) .................................................. 76  
Rescue Company 1: Morris, Capt. Robert R.; Benjamin, FF Alfred; Cioffi, FF Michael J.; Cummins, FF Sean G.; Faso, FF Jason H.; Rush, III, FF Francis W. (Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Medal) .................................................. 77  
Rigoli, Lt. Jason J. (Hispanic Society Memorial Medal) .................................................. 78  
Ritchie, FF David P. (Walter Scott Medal) .................................................. 79  
Roberts, FF Matthew W. (Third Alarm Association Medal) .................................................. 80  
Simpkins, EMS Lt. Derrick C. (Chief Ulyses Grant Leadership Medal) .................................................. 81  
Simpkins, EMS Lt. Derrick C.; Hyams, EMT James S. (Christopher J. Prescott Medal) .................................................. 82  
Smith, FF James D. (Chief Wesley Williams Medal) .................................................. 83  
Stothers, FF Michael D. (Captain Denis W. Lane Memorial Medal) .................................................. 84  
Sullivan, Jr., Lt. John D. (BC Frank T. Tuttlemondo Medal) .................................................. 85  
Tierney, Capt. Edward J. (Uniformed Fire Officers Association Medal) .................................................. 86  
Traut, Lt. Peter M. (Community Mayors, Inc./Lt. Robert R. Dolney Medal) .................................................. 87  
Valerio, FF Francis A. (John H. Prentice Medal) .................................................. 88  
Vetter, Lt. Todd A. (Holy Name Society Medal (Brooklyn/Queens) .................................................. 89  
Weber, FF Ryan P. (Firefighter Kevin C. Kane Medal) .................................................. 90  
Willman, FF Michael P. (Ner Tamid Society/Franklin Delano Roosevelt Medal) .................................................. 91
It is an honor to welcome everyone as the New York City Fire Department celebrates its 2012 Medal Day.

New York City’s millions of residents and visitors owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the FDNY. Every day, the members of the FDNY put their lives on the line and every day, they save lives. Today, fire fatalities are the lowest they have been in a century, which has helped make the safest big city in the nation even safer.

This amazing progress would not be possible without the service and sacrifice of our Bravest. Among the many deserving awardees, I am honored to join the FDNY in applauding some of this year’s medal recipients: Firefighter Peter G. Demontreux, Firefighter Kevin J. Hogan, EMT James S. Hyams, EMS Lieutenant Derrick C. Simpkins, Engine Company 22, Engine Company 201, Rescue Company 1 and Ladder Company 114. Together with their friends and family, I want to thank them for their dedicated commitment to our City and for making all New Yorkers proud of the FDNY.

On behalf of a grateful City, I offer my best wishes for a terrific ceremony and continued success in your lifesaving work.
Medal Day is our most time-honored tradition, dating back to 1869 and customarily held on the steps of City Hall. This year, we celebrate in the 69th Regiment Armory, home of the Fighting 69th infantry. As with last year’s ceremony onboard the USS Intrepid (both location changes due to ongoing renovations at City Hall), we are grateful to have been able to host our annual Medal Day ceremonies at these historic military venues.

For more than a century, soldiers—including many FDNY members, such as FF Christian Engeldrum of Ladder 61, who proudly served with the US Army National Guard as a Staff Sergeant in the Fighting 69th—have been trained here in the Lexington Avenue Armory. Sergeant Engeldrum died in service to our nation fighting in Iraq on November 29, 2004. The bond between FDNY and our military forces has always existed and continues today with 918 Fire and EMS members with military service—including 315 who have served or are currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan with the National Guard (165 are currently activated). As New York City continues to be a major target, our members remain on the front lines in the war on terrorism, a partnership we share with the military and law enforcement to keep the nation and our City safe.

To succeed in this mission of protecting life and property, we must be fully prepared. The array of incidents from 2011 for which we honor our members runs far and wide in our duties as first responders to myriad life-threatening emergencies. This year’s Medal Day winners effected saves on land, in the water and underground in the subway, and at building collapses, construction accidents and vehicle extrications. And, beyond the heroics catalogued in the following narratives, our members every day are saving lives with their medical training and skills. Take a look in the back of this book and see the innumerable pre-hospital saves by our Fire and EMS personnel who last year restored a pulse to more than 2400 unconscious patients—giving each and every one of them a second chance at life.

The variety of these incidents demonstrates the changing nature of what we do and the need to continually adapt to the new demands facing us. We’re doing this with innovative procedures, such as hypothermia therapy and Smart CPR protocols to address the challenge of improving cardiac arrest survival; and with technology, such as EFAS (Electronic Firefighter Accountability System) and new operating strategies, such as our wind-impacted fire protocols to improve Firefighter safety.

Fighting fires and rescuing civilians remain at the core of what we do and Brooklyn units achieved one of the most spectacular outcomes of any fire in recent memory last March with the rescue of 31 people—eight of whom were in critical condition—trapped during an arson fire. One of the Firefighters to receive a medal for his work at this incident is Captain Robert “Rex” Morris, Jr., Division 15, who will receive the Brooklyn Citizens Medal/FF Louis Valentino Award. Later, he will be followed up to the stage by his father, 39-year veteran Captain Robert R. Morris, and the members of Rescue 1, who are receiving the Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Medal for their efforts battling a difficult fire in a historic Manhattan church.

Also of note, we are introducing a new EMS medal—the Chief Ulysses Grant Leadership Medal—honoring the veteran 30-year EMS Chief who exemplified respect, leadership, integrity, imagination, compassion and dedication. EMS Lieutenant Derrick C. Simpkins is the first recipient of this new medal for his efforts during a dramatic rescue of an injured construction worker in Brooklyn.

I am extremely proud of all our 2012 medal winners and—on behalf of all 15,000 members of our great organization—we thank you for your efforts and congratulate you for the outstanding work you’ve done on behalf of our City and its citizens.

Salvatore J. Cassano
Fire Commissioner
People join the fire service for myriad reasons: the desire to help others; the action and adrenaline rush of being a first responder; the camaraderie of working with like-minded people. Sometimes, an FDNY member gets to combine all of these factors during his/her career. Rarely, however, do they all come together at one incident.

Such was the case, though, at Brooklyn Box 33-2637, 510 61st Street, on March 13, 2011. An arson fire wreaked havoc at this location, providing Ladder 114 and Engine 201 members, as well as all first-due units, with the opportunity to perform some heroics—and, indeed, they did. During this operation, 31 civilians were rescued and aided; eight people were in critical condition. Miraculously, no one was lost through individual bravery and team effort by Fire and EMS responders. The FDNY provided immediate lifesaving rescue and medical care that clearly saved lives.

The outstanding performance by members at this major operation has resulted in Ladder 114 receiving the World Trade Center Memorial Medal; FF Kevin J. Hogan receiving the James Gordon Bennett Medal and New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal; and FF Joseph J. Dunn receiving the Hugh Bonner and Honor Legion Medals. Both are members of Ladder 114. Additionally, Captain Robert Rex Morris, Jr., detailed to Rescue 2, is awarded the Brooklyn Citizens Medal/FF Louis Valentino Award and Engine 201 is awarded the Lieutenant James Curran/New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal, with the nozzle Firefighter, FF Sean O'Mallon, individually recognized with the Thomas F. Dougherty Medal for actions at this incident.

While I’ve highlighted just a few people and companies at one incident, as you read through this year’s Medal Day Book, it is clear that their actions reflect the excellence of all of our members. You will appreciate the herculean and compassionate efforts exhibited by all of our Medal Day winners—both Fire and EMS. We are proud of the work that every member of the Department performs daily and congratulate those who are singled out today for a job well-done.

Edward S. Kilduff
Chief of Department

FIRE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK • MEDAL DAY 2012
FIRST DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

DANIEL SHACKNAI

DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS

JOHN A. BENANTI
Technology & Support Services

FRANCIS X. GRIBBON
Public Information

DOUGLAS WHITE
Administration

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONERS

CAROLINE KRETZ
Intergovernmental Affairs

JOSE MALDONADO
Compliance

MICHAEL VECCHI
Management Initiatives

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

MARK C. ARONBERG
Fleet/Technical Services

KAY ELLIS
Fleet Services

MARGO FERRANDINO
Equal Employment Opportunity

MICHELE J. MAGLIONE
Recruitment & Diversity

JOSEPH MASTROPIETRO
Facilities

DONAY J. QUEENAN
Human Resources

STEPHEN G. RUSH
Budget and Finance

SUZANNE SEBERT
Family Assistance

DONALD STANTON
Technology Development & Systems

ROBERT WALLACE
Investigations and Trials

BUREAU OF HEALTH SERVICES

Dr. Kerry Kelly
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

SPECIAL ADVISOR FOR HEALTH POLICY

Dr. David J. Prezant
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

EMS OFFICE OF MEDICAL AFFAIRS

Dr. John Freese
CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR

FDNY CHAPLAINS

Monsignor John Delendick
Monsignor Marc Filacchione
Reverend Stephen Harding
Father Joseph Hoffman
Father Christopher Keenan
Rabbi Joseph Potasnik
FDNY STAFF CHIEFS

Robert F. Sweeney
Chief of Operations

Thomas R. Galvin
Chief of Training

Thomas M. Jensen
Chief of Fire Prevention

James J. Manahan, Jr.
Assistant Chief of Operations

Joseph W. Pfeifer
Assistant Chief, Counterterrorism & Emergency Preparedness

Richard S. Tobin
Assistant Chief of Fire Prevention

Ronald R. Spadafora
Assistant Chief, Chief of Logistics

Edward J. Baggott
Assistant Chief, Bureau of Operations

Robert J. Boyce, Jr.
Assistant Chief, Chief of Communications

William C. Seelig
Deputy Assistant Chief, Chief of Special Operations Command

Joseph M. Woznica
Deputy Assistant Chief of Fire Prevention

Robert R. Maynes
Deputy Assistant Chief, Chief of Planning

Stephen A. Raynis
Deputy Assistant Chief, Chief of Safety and Inspection Services Command

John T. Mooney
Deputy Assistant Chief, Training

Robert G. Byrnes
Chief Fire Marshal

J. David Lynn
Assistant Chief Fire Marshal

Michael F. Gala, Jr.
Battalion Chief, Chief of Personnel
FDNY STAFF CHIEFS
BOROUGH COMMANDERS

Kevin M. Butler  
Deputy Assistant Chief  
Bronx

James E. Leonard  
Deputy Assistant Chief  
Brooklyn

James E. Esposito  
Assistant Chief  
Manhattan

John Sudnik  
Deputy Assistant Chief  
Queens

Michael F. Marrone  
Deputy Assistant Chief  
Staten Island

SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

Battalion Chief  
Stephen J. Geraghty  
Rescue Operations

Battalion Chief  
James C. Dalton  
Marine Operations

Deputy Chief  
Nicholas Del Re  
Haz-Mat Operations

DIVISION COMMANDERS

Deputy Chief  
James D. Daly, Jr.  
Division 1

Deputy Chief  
Thomas E. McKavanagh  
Division 3

Deputy Chief  
Raymond M. Stanton  
Division 6

Deputy Chief  
James F. Mulrenan  
Division 7

Deputy Chief  
Richard J. Howe  
Division 8

Deputy Chief  
James E. Campbell  
Division 11

Deputy Chief  
James A. DiDomenico  
Division 13

Deputy Chief  
Mark A. Ferran  
Division 14

Deputy Chief  
Wayne T. Cartwright  
Division 15
BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

Abdo Nahmod  
Chief  
Bureau of EMS

Jerry Z. Gombo  
Assistant Chief  
EMS Operations

John J. Peruggia  
Assistant Chief  
EMS Operations

Michael J. Fitton  
Deputy Assistant Chief  
Emergency Medical Dispatch

CHIEF OFFICERS

Ann M. Fitton  
Division Chief  
BOT--EMS Division

Jonathan P. Pistilli  
Division Chief  
EMS Operations

Rosario Terranova  
Division Chief  
EMS Operations

Fredrick V. Villani  
Division Chief  
Planning & Strategy

EMS DIVISION COMMANDERS

Frances M. Pascale  
Chief EMS Division 1

James P. Booth  
Chief EMS Division 2

Robert A. Hannafey  
Chief EMS Division 3

Marylou Aurrichio  
Chief EMS Division 4

Janice Olszewski  
Chief EMS Division 5

Roger J. Ahee  
Division Chief  
EMS Operations
Special Order No. 180, which was dated October 4, 1920, reads as follows: “A medal, to be known as the ‘Harry M. Archer Medal’ has been donated by Dr. Herman L. Reis and is to be awarded every third year to such member of the uniformed force of the Fire Department as may have, during the three years preceding such award, been the recipient of one or more medals, which are now given or may hereafter be given, to the members of the uniformed force. Such award shall be made by selection from among said medal winners during the said three years preceding such award for the performance in the judgment of the Fire Commissioner and the Chief of Department of the most meritorious service or act of heroism or bravery.”

Legends in the Fire Department of New York begin with members who win medals. Theirs are the stories of danger, fear, courage, honor and the greatest degree of self-satisfaction.

Firefighters are brave, dedicated and loyal. Respect comes in many ways to those who fight fires. The highest honor that can be bestowed on a New York City Firefighter is to be awarded the Doctor Harry M. Archer Medal. It’s reserved for the truly bravest of the brave!

1921 — Firefighter 1st Grade John Walsh
   (Hook & Ladder Company 1)
1924 — Captain Edwin A.A. Quinn (Engine Company 14)
1927 — Firefighter 1st Grade William G.R. Mitchell
   (Engine Company 18)
1930 — Firefighter 1st Grade Michael McInerney
   (Hook & Ladder Company 12)
1933 — Captain Albert B. Carlson (Engine Company 66)
1936 — Firefighter 1st Grade Rudolph F. Musil
   (Hook & Ladder Company 12)
1939 — Firefighter 1st Grade James P. Nevin
   (Engine Company 201)
1942 — Firefighter 1st Grade Charles A. Merz
   (Hook & Ladder Company 168)
1945 — Acting Deputy Chief John W. Heaney
   (Headquarters Staff)
1948 — Firefighter 1st Grade Anthony L. Riccardi
   (Hook & Ladder Company 1)
1951 — Lieutenant Wilbur J. O’Donnell
   (Hook & Ladder Company 1)
1954 — Firefighter 1st Grade Victor F. Rossi
   (Ladder Company 120)
1957 — Firefighter 2nd Grade Michael J. O’Driscoll
   (Ladder Company 28)
1960 — Firefighter 3rd Grade William V. Russo
   (Ladder Company 25)
1963 — Firefighter 1st Grade Joseph E. Almon
   (Ladder Company 35)
1966 — Lieutenant David Crowley
   (37 Battalion; Formerly Firefighter in Ladder Company 14)
1969 — Firefighter 1st Grade Gene P. Dowling
   (Ladder Company 25)
1972 — Lieutenant Richard R. Hamilton (Rescue Company 2)
1975 — Firefighter 1st Grade Raymond G. McCann
   (Ladder Company 40)
1978 — Captain Frederick W. Gallagher (Rescue Company 2)
1981 — Lieutenant Howard R. Kennedy (Ladder Company 154)
1984 — Firefighter 1st Grade Kenneth Connelly
   (Ladder Company 111)
1987 — Captain James F. McDonnell (Ladder Company 42)
1990 — Lieutenant William F. Maloney (Ladder Company 34)
1993 — Firefighter Michael M. Dugan (Ladder Company 43)
1996 — Lieutenant Albert J. Gonzalez, Jr. (Ladder Company 18)
1999 — Firefighter Gerard J. Triglia (Ladder Company 132)
2003 — Battalion Chief John J. Pritchard
   (41 Battalion; Formerly Captain of Engine Company 255)
2006 — Firefighter James F. Mills (Ladder Company 176)
2009 — Firefighter James T. Byrne (Ladder Company 121)
Dr. Harry M. Archer Medal

Firefighter Peter G. Demontreux
Ladder Company 132

August 30, 2010, 0427 hours, Box 22-0963, 175 Putnam Avenue, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on January 27, 2002. Previously assigned to Engine 248. Brother, Lieutenant Louis Demontreux, is assigned to Engine 154. Recipient of the James Gordon Bennett Medal and the New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal, one Unit Citation, plus the Chief Ray Downey Courage and Valor Award from Fire Engineering Magazine, Daily News Hero of the Month and NY Rotary Club Service award. Holds a BS degree in Business Management from the College of Staten Island. Resides on Staten Island with his wife, Gina, and their children, Peter, Jr., Allison, Evelyn and Gwyneth.

G enerally, brownstones are considered to be well-con- structed and capable of withstanding the ravages of fire. This is possible since they are made of brick and stone, giving them their strength, but brownstones also contain fire and heat as do non-fireproof buildings. These factors offer the occupants security, but also make it challenging for Firefighters initiating searches and rescues.

As strong as the exterior of these buildings is, the interior is nearly all wood, with open stairs that allow fire to travel quickly. This is further complicated by the lack of fire escapes (front and rear), since these are considered private dwellings. In reality, very few are private dwellings. The brownstone at 175 Putnam Avenue is a classic example—four stories, with limited access to the upper floors and rear of the building.

When the phone alarm came in for this Box, it was followed with numerous reports of people trapped inside the building. Engine 235 arrived first and gave the 10-75. Ladder 132 arrived a minute later and members immediately covered their positions.

Ladder 132 is a unit that has responded to numerous brownstone fires and, normally, their skills and training would make this a routine job. However, this was not a routine job.

At the third-floor window was a trapped victim; 60-year-old Henri Howell, who was in a very tenuous position with high heat and dense smoke pushing all around him. FF Peter Demontreux, the outside vent Firefighter, climbed the aerial to the third floor and pulled Mr. Howell onto the aerial.

Once he had the victim safely on the aerial, Mr. Howell told his rescuer that his friend was still inside the burning apartment. Time was a critical factor; the inside team was still a floor below due to the amount of fire on the stairs and in the hall. FF Demontreux entered the third-floor window and began his search. Even with all the modern personal protective equipment (PPE), the heat and smoke drove FF Demontreux back to the window.

Meanwhile, FF Richard Myers, Rescue 2, had climbed the aerial and began venting the adjacent window to allow some of the blistering heat and dense smoke to escape. Without hesitation, FF Demontreux turned back into the apartment to continue his search. Crawling on his hands and knees, as quickly as possible, he was able to reach the rear room where he found the other victim, 51-year-old Clyde Mantany, who was at the window, trying to get some relief from the smoke and heat.

Knowing there was no fire escape and it would take time for a portable ladder to be brought to the rear or initiate a rope rescue from above, FF Demontreux determined the only way out was the window through which he came. Shielding Mr. Mantany as best he could, the Firefighter led him back through the searing heat to the front of the building. As they entered the front room, the heat ignited into flame and engulfed both men, setting their clothes on fire. FF Myers, still at the aerial, immediately transmitted a mayday.

FF Demontreux, now on fire, with survival instincts telling him to get out, decided not to leave Mr. Mantany behind. Through this fully involved room and at extreme personal risk, he pulled the burning victim toward the window.

FF Demontreux, while being burned from the flames all around him, exhibited courage and tenacity by assisting the victim out the window to FF Myers, who was on the aerial. Once the victim cleared the window, FF Demontreux dove onto the aerial and both victim and rescuer were extinguished by members operating Engine 219’s hand-line, which was positioned in front of the building.

Both victim and rescuer suffered extensive burns; Mr. Mantany received burns over 50 percent of his body, but is alive. Although it was destroyed, his protective gear saved FF Demontreux.

Words are inadequate to describe FF Peter G. Demontreux’ heroic actions. He put his life on the line for another human being. His courage and professionalism reinforce the traditions of the fire service and FDNY and always will be remembered by those who witnessed this act of bravery. For these reasons, he is honored with the Dr. Harry M. Archer Medal.

JTV
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-1)
  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-1)
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 Ryder (L-15)
1895--Lieutenant 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--Lieutenant Minthorne D. Tompkins (L-1)
1901--Firefighter Thomas J. MacArthur (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-1)
1931--Lieutenant Albert B. Carlson (E-66)
1932--Firefighter Vincent J. Hyde (R-3)
1933--Captain Cornell M. Garety (R-4)
1934--Firefighter Rudolph F. Musil (L-12)
1935--Firefighter George J. Wollen (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 E. 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 (E-40)
1974--Firefighter Gilbert J. Murtha (L-108)
1975--Firefighter Thomas J. Neary (L-31)
1976--Firefighter Martin McGovern (L-144)
1977--Captain Frederick W. Gallagher (R-2)
1978--Firefighter James H. Battilo (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. Degan (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)
2002--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)
2007--Firefighter James T. Byrne (L-121)
2008--Lieutenant James F. Congema (Bn-19)
2009--Firefighter Anthony M. Romano (L-142)
2010--Firefighter Michael A. Czeh, Jr. (L-142)
2011--Firefighter Peter G. Demontreux (L-132)
Being in the right place at the right time is crucial to effecting a rescue. An outstanding Firefighter can go through an entire career without making a single rescue. When a Firefighter plays a leading role in making double-digit rescues, that is an extraordinary act. FF Kevin J. Hogan, Ladder 114, played this part at Brooklyn Box 33-2637.

An arson fire in the stairway of a multiple dwelling is an extremely dangerous and potentially deadly event. The impact on firefighting operations is dramatic. The main avenue for escaping occupants and attacking the fire is compromised, conditions deteriorate rapidly and force decisions to be made under the worst of conditions. FF Hogan and the other members of Tower Ladder 114 faced just these conditions on the morning of March 13, 2011.

Ladder 114 was assigned to Box 2637 for a report of fire at 510 61st Street and, while responding, additional information reported numerous people trapped throughout the building. This information proved to be accurate and a second alarm was transmitted on arrival. The entire run of the interior stairs was consumed in fire with fire already blowing out of the bulkhead on the top floor of the four-story, old law tenement-type building.

The fire escapes were filled with people self-evacuating and victims were appearing at numerous windows. Lieutenant Daniel Keane, Ladder 114, directed his irons Firefighter, Kevin Hogan, to address the daunting number of people desperately in need of help. FF Hogan immediately ascended the fire escape and before the first line was stretched, he already was bringing a small boy and a woman out of a window onto the third-floor fire escape. But the Firefighter wasn’t done yet.

Conditions were deteriorating rapidly. Fire was entering the apartments on numerous floors and the heat permeating the structure was severe. FF Hogan re-entered the window and crawled deep into the apartment. He opened the bedroom door to cross the hall to the other rooms as the heat in the hallway pushed him onto his belly. At that moment, a mayday was transmitted for the collapse of the interior stairs, but FF Hogan pressed on with his search.

FF Hogan’s instincts and experience told him that others were trapped in the other room across the hall. When he entered the room, he found two unconscious toddlers (Cindy and Wendy Ni, both two years old). One at a time, in zero visibility, the Firefighter carried them out of the room, across the hall, into the first room and then out onto the fire escape.

FF Hogan now entered the apartment for the fourth time and continued his methodical search. His grit and persistence paid off; he found another unconscious victim, a 27-year-old woman. FF Hogan learned later that he actually saved two people; Huimin Chen gave birth less than a month later, while still in the burn unit.

FF Hogan went back in and past the fire for a fifth time and found Kong Chen Ni, a 52-year-old male, slumped under the window. Although his efforts thus far were herculean, there was no time to rest. FF Hogan then worked with FF Dunn, Ladder 114, in the tower ladder bucket to assist him in removing six more victims from the top floor.

Deputy Chief Richard Howe, Division 8, stated, “FF Hogan...demonstrated remarkable initiative and capability despite the danger.” This historic operation, with 31 civilians rescued and aided, taxed all of the on-scene units to the limit. FF Hogan went past the fire many times to save others, undaunted by the fact that the building was crumbling around him. For his acts of bravery, FF Kevin Hogan is awarded the James Gordon Bennett Medal and New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal.
Early-morning fires typically produce the best chance for fatalities. The fire at Box 33-2637 on March 13, 2011, did not deviate from this truism. The structure at 510 61st Street is a four-story, old law tenement. There was fire on all floors and many occupants on the fire escape, attempting to evade the raging inferno inside the building. The blaze started in the stairway lobby and rapidly extended up and through the roof. Fueled by the wooden stairs, the fire burned through many of the wooden apartment doors and transom windows at each floor. The occupants had no escape option other than the windows of their apartments.

Rescue 2 was dispatched based on the number of calls received. While responding, members monitored the radio and heard the first-responding units describe the challenging conditions they had to confront: multiple victims at the windows and fire escapes.

When Rescue 2 arrived, the stairway collapsed between the first and second floors. A mayday was transmitted and Battalion Chief John Patten, Battalion 40, ordered Rescue 2 to the top floor. Undaunted by this turn of events, Captain Robert (Rex) Morris, Jr., and FF Vincent Tavella used a 16-foot straight portable ladder to replace the missing stairs. The Captain made his way up to the third floor.

Reaching the third floor, Captain Morris caught up with Engine 201 members who were advancing their hand-line to the fourth floor. Between the half-landing and the fourth floor, a second collapse of the staircase occurred, dropping the nozzle Firefighter from Engine 201 through the collapse, up to his armpits. A second mayday was transmitted by the Officer of Ladder 114.

The actions of Engine 201’s back-up Firefighter and the extinguisher Firefighter from Ladder 114 prevented the stricken member from falling all the way through the collapsed stairway. Captain Morris assisted these men in pulling the Firefighter up and out of the burnt-out staircase. Captain Morris canceled the mayday and called for another portable ladder to replace this partially collapsed wooden stairway.

Captain Morris was assigned to cover the top floor. He knew there were still people trapped there. Using the stringer close to the wall, the Officer climbed the partially collapsed stairway to make his way to the fourth floor where he was met with high heat and a dense smoke condition. Fire had control of the top floor, burned through the wooden doors and extended into the apartments.

Without the protection of a charged line, Captain Morris forced the apartment 4L door, which had been burned through at the top, and began his search. Relying on years of experience, Captain Morris moved as quickly as he could to the bedrooms under these extremely hazardous conditions. He realized this would be the most likely spot to find any victims at this early hour. His instincts paid off: Captain Morris found Huogin Lin, a 55-year-old female, in a rear bedroom. She was burnt, unconscious and barely breathing.

After transmitting the 10-45 signal, Captain Morris knew there was no way Firefighters could bring this woman down through the interior, so he called for a tower ladder bucket to the top-floor front fire escape. He dragged Ms. Lin across the hall and into the front bedroom, toward the fire escape.

Completely exhausted at this point, Captain Morris gathered his last bit of strength and lifted Ms. Lin to the windowsill. Fortunately, FF Edward Morrison, Rescue 2, was on the fire escape and assisted with pulling Ms. Lin to the safety of the fire escape. Once Captain Morris climbed out onto the fire escape, both rescuers lifted the woman over the fire escape railing and into the tower ladder bucket. She then was brought down to the street.

This operation was performed while addressing numerous obstacles. However, the members who responded overcame all of these factors to save more than 30 people who were trapped by this fast-moving, early-morning fire.

Captain Morris’ actions highlight the courage, tenacity and professionalism of the fire service. This woman is alive today because Captain Robert Rex Morris, Jr., did not shy from his mission. For these reasons, he is honored with the Brooklyn Citizens Medal/FF Louis Valentino Award.
New York City is well-known for its landmarks, as well as ongoing construction. Citizens and visitors alike of this great City often walk past construction sites, never really comprehending the plight of workers who brave the heights and elements way above the City. Should these workers become sick or injured, members of the New York City Fire Department’s Emergency Medical Service must be prepared to assist these patients from the depths of collapse zones or the heights of new or renovated buildings.

Such an incident occurred on the morning of July 25, 2011. The day brought windy conditions, which makes work challenging for outdoor construction workers, as well as the emergency crews who may be called to rescue and treat them. EMS Lieutenant Derrick Simpkins and EMT James Hyams were called to this incident at a construction site in Brooklyn.

On arrival, Lieutenant Simpkins and EMT Hyams were met by construction workers who directed them to the patient. A construction worker had been struck by a beam and fallen to the third floor. The patient was located in the rear of the building on narrow slats that hung over water.

Both EMS members grabbed their equipment and began to ascend three unstable, long ladders, which were being held by NYPD officers. When the rescuers arrived at the third floor, they were presented with yet another challenge. The only access to the patient was the narrow slats that hung over water. This scenario was coupled with a dangerous wind condition.

Both Lieutenant Simpkins and EMT Hyams crawled on their knees, successfully reaching the patient, who had sustained head and leg injuries. During this time, the Firefighters on-scene advised the EMS members that the slats were beginning to buckle. With the assistance of Fire and NYPD members, Lieutenant Simpkins and EMT Hyams removed the patient from immediate danger.

The patient now was away from the edge of the building and on metal slats, preventing him from falling over. Lieutenant Simpkins and EMT Hyams assessed the construction worker’s injuries and then immobilized and prepared him for removal from the scene. As medical professionals, EMS personnel are taught to always “do no harm.” Although the patient no longer was in immediate danger, the remaining obstacle was how to remove the patient from the scene safely, without causing additional injury, while moving throughout the three stories in the unfinished building.

The EMS members placed the patient in a stokes basket and ladder company members successfully transported the patient to ground level. The patient then was transported in stable condition to a trauma center for additional evaluation.

EMT Hyams, a five-year veteran of the Department, acknowledged Lieutenant Simpkins, an 18-year veteran, for his leadership abilities. The EMT credits the Lieutenant’s guidance and direction for bolstering his own confidence while operating at this incident.

For their bravery, as well as exceptionally competent patient treatment in a dangerous and unstable environment, Lieutenant Derrick Simpkins and EMT James Hyams are presented with the Christopher J. Prescott Medal, the most prestigious of the Emergency Medical Service medals bestowed on deserving members.—JP
Tower Ladder 114 has a long and storied history of bravery, with 15 individual medals of valor awarded to members, as well as 16 Unit Citations for meritorious acts. A long-standing Ladder 114 tradition of community service during the Christmas season is to rescue Santa from the roof of a neighborhood four-story apartment building. In 2011, Christmas came on March 13 for the occupants of 510 61st Street, as the members of Ladder 114 miraculously rescued numerous people from a fast-moving, well-advanced fire in their multiple dwelling tenement, bringing the company’s history of bravery to the forefront.

On arrival, units were presented with a corner, four-story, old law tenement with an advanced fire and flames venting out the front door of this building. Additionally, the initial size-up revealed fire showing at the second-, third- and fourth-floor stairwell windows, as well as through the roof bulkhead. It was obvious that the entire run of the interior stairway was consumed with fire and cutting off the primary means of egress for the building occupants. This serious fire condition drove the occupants to the front windows of the building and jammed the fire escape balconies.

With fire completely in possession of the interior stairway and interior rescue delayed until hose-line advancement was possible, Ladder 114’s Officer directed his iron Firefighter to operate in conjunction with the company’s outside team. FF Joseph Dunn, a senior chauffeur, knew that apparatus positioning would dictate the outcome of these rescues. He deliberately positioned the apparatus to maximize the tower ladder scrub area to facilitate reaching as many windows as possible. After accomplishing this vital task, FF Dunn entered the bucket as Ladder 149’s chauffeur covered the apparatus pedestal.

Immediately, FF Dunn maneuvered the bucket to assist Ladder 114’s iron Firefighter with a rescue of two people from a third-floor window. Placing the fire victims safely at the street, the pair again maneuvered the bucket; this time, to the top floor and rescued a man perched on the top-floor window ledge. Subsequently, this man informed the members that there were three people still trapped in the apartment.

Faced with this confirmed life hazard, FF Dunn immediately entered the top floor and was driven to the floorboards by intense heat. Enduring discomfort through his turnout gear, FF Dunn pressed on with his lifesaving mission, making his way to the bedroom door. He observed fire entering the apartment through the open entrance door.

Without the benefit of a protective hose-line in the apartment and an evolving, free-burning fire, FF Dunn crawled his way to shut the front apartment door to block the fire’s path. This action enabled him to search the apartment and find an 11-year-old boy and a six-year-old girl, both of whom were unconscious. After removing them from the blazing apartment and into the tower ladder bucket, FF Dunn re-entered the apartment to search for the remaining missing person. Ultimately, pressing on once again through discomforting heat and blinding smoke, he located and removed an unconscious, 33-year-old woman.

Relentlessly, after completing these rescues and removing these victims to the street, FF Dunn returned to a top-floor window by way of the bucket. Once more, he removed yet another victim—an unconscious female, who could not be removed via the interior due to collapse of the interior staircase.

No lives were lost in this inferno and one was gained; weeks later, as she lay critically injured in the Staten Island University Hospital Burn Unit, the woman (whom FF Dunn saved) delivered a baby boy. New York City Firefighters have the ability to touch people’s lives throughout the course of their careers. Because of FF Dunn’s actions, the course of 11 people’s lives were changed and the life of one unborn child was realized. Because he endangered his own life to save others, FF Joseph Dunn is honored with the Hugh Bonner Medal/Honor Legion Medal. --PWB
Fires that occur in occupied multiple dwellings frequently result in people being trapped and in need of assistance. Such was the case for two people who were in mortal danger on March 9, 2011, at 754 Manida Street in the Bronx. The involved building—a six-story, 100-by-75-foot, non-fireproof, H-type, multiple dwelling—features six apartments on each floor.

At 1407 hours, a phone alarm was received at the Bronx Fire Communications Office for fire and smoke in apartment #5 at the Manida Street address. This information was transmitted to the local firehouses, including the first-due unit, Ladder 48. Combining a fast turnout, quick response and heroic action would be necessary to lessen the severity of injuries, if any of the occupants of this building were trapped. Through training and experience, the members of Ladder 48 were up to this challenge.

On arrival, members were confronted with heavy fire on the second-floor, front corner apartment. The fire was blowing out of an exposure #4 window. The Officer of Ladder 48 transmitted a 10-75, notifying incoming units that they had a working fire at this location. The members of Ladder 48 sized up the situation and realized the arduous task ahead of them, knowing that it would be difficult to rescue any trapped civilians in the apartments on the upper floors.

Thick, black smoke was banking down in the street, obscuring the B-wing, as FF Bryon Appleholm, Ladder 48, ascended the front fire escape to begin his outside vent duties. Reaching the second-floor level of the fire escape, he observed the fire inside the apartment. The front windows were still intact. More importantly, he realized the first hose-line was not yet charged and in place. Thus, he knew he should not attempt to vent these windows at this time for fear of creating auto-exposure, which might prevent occupants above the fire from escaping down the front fire escape.

At this time, a female occupant appeared at a fourth-floor fire escape window, directly above the fire apartment, in a severely exposed location. It was FF Appleholm’s task to ascend to this dangerous location and rescue the panicked victim, even though he realized that the fire apartment windows were on the brink of failure. If this occurred, he would seriously expose himself to the effects of fire and cut off his only escape route.

When he arrived at the fourth-floor window, the female victim informed him of an unconscious, paralyzed male inside her apartment. Ladder 48’s aerial ladder was raised to the fire escape balcony. FF Appleholm helped the woman onto the ladder. When assured that the chauffeur, FF John Blake, had the first victim in hand and was descending the aerial with her, FF Appleholm entered the fourth-floor apartment in search of the male victim.

The apartment was enveloped in hot, thick, black smoke, making it impossible to observe any occupant. The rescuer was searching by feel only and in the bedroom, he found an unconscious, 73-year-old male, wedged between a couch and the wall. Under hazardous conditions, FF Appleholm managed to free Herbert Belcher and remove him to the fire escape. From this position and with the assistance of FF Craig Frey, Ladder 48, he carried the victim down to the third-floor fire escape and lifted him onto the aerial ladder, which had been repositioned to the exposure #2 side of the third-floor fire escape.

During their descent on the ladder, the fire apartment window failed, sending a fireball up the side of the building. To lessen the severity of the victim’s injuries, FF Appleholm shielded him from the intense heat. Mr. Belcher sustained burns to 60 percent of his body, but was successfully transferred to awaiting EMS personnel.

FF Appleholm’s courage and selfless actions in a dangerous situation—without the protection of a charged hose-line—resulted in the heroic rescue of two occupants. For his initiative and bravery, the Fire Department is proud to honor FF Bryon Appleholm with the Emily Trevor/Mary B. Warren Medal.
According to Rescue 4’s web page, “The Rescue Company was organized precisely for the purpose of dealing with any unusual, unexpected scenario where in Firefighters or civilians were in serious jeopardy.” This held true for FF Ronald Daly, Rescue 4, when early on November 18, 2011, a fire erupted at Box 4623, 40-38 61st Street, in Woodside, Queens.

At 0115 hours, a call came into the quarters of Rescue 4/Engine 292 for a fire in the rear bedroom of this 20- by 40-foot, wood-frame private dwelling. Working the vent/enter/search (VES) position that chilly morning, FF Daly and the members of Rescue 4 responded first-due, along with Engine 292.

En route, the company was notified of possible trapped civilians. Approximately four minutes after receiving the call, the companies arrived at the two-and-a-half-story dwelling, where they encountered an advanced body of fire, which already had taken both floors of the entire front of the building and burned down several power lines that were arcing in the street.

As Engine 292 transmitted the 10-75 and worked to secure a serviceable hydrant, FF Daly worked to gain access to the rear of the building. However, the alleyway between exposures #2 and #4 was impassable due to the expanding fire. The Firefighter moved quickly to the alley on the exposure #4 side of the building and, after moving a picnic table, gained access to the rear yard.

He found two frantic civilians, who were injured and burned. They told FF Daly that a person was still trapped inside and pointed to a window on the first floor of the still-unchecked blaze. FF Daly immediately transmitted two 10-45 signals, making note that the victims had self-evacuated. But people were still trapped and he required assistance. FF Daly then climbed a metal stair enclosure over the cellar entrance, directly under the identified window and, using his Halligan tool, removed the window bars and vented the upper panes of glass.

With time running out, FF Daly quickly donned his facepiece and moved through the now-open window. He was met by a heavy smoke condition and high heat. Alone in the burning room, FF Daly immediately began a left-handed search. He searched approximately 15 feet into the space and located not only the person, but the family’s dog. Locating the victim, FF Daly transmitted another 10-45 signal, dragged the man to the open window and then lifted him out of the burning room and into the arms of FF John Tew, Rescue 4.

FF Daly then reached back into the raging fire and rescued the family pet. The rescuer was assisted out the window by other members of Rescue 4, just as fire began to vent from the top of the window. The victim was removed from the scene to the hospital, where he recovered from his injuries. The family dog also survived.

In reporting the incident, Battalion Chief Robert McBride, Battalion 46, noted, “FF Daly...acted without regard for his safety. He acted in the best traditions of this Department and truly deserves recognition by the Board of Merit.” Therefore, in acknowledgment of his heroic actions, the Fire Department is proud to honor FF Ronald Daly today with the Thomas E. Crimmins Medal.

--DJH
The brothers Heeran--Sean (left) and William.
F F David Ritchie, Ladder 27, could be forgiven if his mind was elsewhere, as he and his wife were anticipating the birth of their first child. However, on the night of January 25, 2011, FF Ritchie had his priorities straight as he faced one of his toughest challenges yet, with the life of a fire victim and possibly his own in the balance.

It was 0136 hours when the computer spat out a report of a fire in a private dwelling at 1995 Arthur Avenue, the Bronx. Ladder 27 turned out quickly because they were assigned as the first-due truck. While still en route, members heard Battalion Chief John Salka, Battalion 18, transmit a 10-75 for a fire in a private dwelling. As they pulled up in front of the two-story structure, flames were lapping out of all the windows in the front of the building and access to the front door was blocked by a wall of flame. Several residents and a police officer on the scene informed them that there was a man trapped on the first floor, behind that wall of fire.

Engine 46 members were stretching a line to the front door, as the Ladder 27 forcible entry team--Lieutenant Steven Moore and FFs Ritchie with the irons and Joseph Depaola with the extinguisher--donned their facepieces to attempt entry. The tension was heightened when Engine 46's chauffeur transmitted a 10-70 signal for a frozen hydrant.

As the inferno grew, the victim’s chances of survival began to shrink. As soon as Engine 46 had booster water, members began to knock the flames back enough for the members of Ladder 27 to enter and make a search.

FF Ritchie crawled in past the line and with flames licking overhead, was able to make his way down the hall to search. If the intense heat and zero visibility were not formidable impediments, his search also was hampered by a large collection of personal belongings in the hallway that created Collyer’s mansion conditions. As he crawled through the mountain of debris, he faced the possibility of becoming trapped in the belongings and not reaching the victim. In the meantime, Engine 46 still was supplied only with booster water that could run out at any time. In spite of this, FF Ritchie pushed on, knowing that if he didn’t reach the victim, he could die.

About 15 feet into the room, FF Ritchie finally reached the unconscious form of 79-year-old Harold Gibson on the floor. He tried, but was unable to transmit a 10-45 signal on his handie-talkie. Yelling through his facepiece, he was heard by Lieutenant Moore, who relayed the message to Chief Salka. While members of Engine 46 pushed back the wall of flame, FF Ritchie used his own body to shield the elderly man and carried Mr. Gibson past the fire toward the front door. With the assistance of FF Depaola, FF Ritchie was able to bring the victim to safety.

The fire already had taken a great toll on the victim and EMS personnel had their hands full. He was in cardiac arrest and had severe burns from the blaze. He was transported to St. Barnabas Hospital by EMS and eventually was reported to be in stable condition.

Were it not for the bravery and determination displayed by FF David Ritchie in this daring rescue, Harold Gibson might have died that night. This is the kind of bravery for which the FDNY is noted. It is with great pride that the FDNY presents the Walter Scott Medal to FF David Ritchie.--JT
The apparatus doors opened up on July 7, 2011, and the bright morning sun glared into FF Francis Valerio’s eyes as he maneuvered Ladder 113 out into the street, responding to Box 1548. The day was warm, but pleasant. Shortly, FF Valerio would find himself in a very different environment.

The alarm reported smoke on the fifth floor of 11 East 21st Street. Additional information corrected the address to 111 East 21st Street and now reported fire in a fifth-floor apartment of a six-story multiple dwelling. The dispatcher reported receiving numerous calls. After consulting with his Officer—Captain Brian Davan, who was covering on this tour—FF Valerio changed course to the new location.

Pulling into the block, FF Valerio saw smoke boiling from a fifth-floor window. Despite difficult street conditions, he positioned the apparatus and raised its ladder. As the Firefighter readied himself to ascend the aerial ladder, a police officer informed him that he had just seen someone at the window. Now, no one was visible.

Aware of a confirmed life hazard, FF Valerio climbed the ladder. He immediately began removing the window and screen in preparation to entering and searching for the victim. He could hear the forcible entry team working on the apartment door. There would be no hose-line in place to protect him.

Smoke obscured his vision and the heat forced him to the floor. FF Valerio initiated a right-hand search and encountered the bedroom door, which was blocked by furniture and could not be closed. Conditions worsened and FF Valerio was acutely aware that his time in the room was limited and that his only way out was via the window. He continued to search the room and found the unconscious victim, Manuel Gonzales, lying on the floor. After transmitting a signal 10-45 over the radio, alerting the Incident Commander (IC) that he had found a victim, FF Valerio began dragging the 300-lb. Mr. Gonzales.

Because of the victim’s size, FF Valerio decided not to try to remove him via the ladder. Instead, he headed down the 50-foot hallway toward the sounds of the forcible entry team. As they progressed, Mr. Gonzales became entangled in an aluminum walker. The walker became snagged on a piece of furniture and FF Valerio, despite greatly increasing his efforts, no longer was able to move the victim.

The sounds of forcible entry continued as FF Valerio worked to disentangle the man. The heat was increasing and FF Valerio felt himself weakening. He freed Mr. Gonzales and continued to drag him past the living room fire, shielding him with his body.

As FF Valerio reached the apartment door, it opened. He pulled the victim out the door, into the waiting arms of the Firefighters in the hallway. As he sank to the floor exhausted, FF Valerio experienced pain in his back. He had strained his back while trying to disentangle Mr. Gonzales from the walker. The victim, in critical condition, was removed to the street and transported by EMS personnel to the Jacobi Medical Center.

FF Valerio knew that the hose-line was not in place, but also knew that there was a confirmed life hazard in the apartment. FF Valerio, in the time-honored tradition of the FDNY, knowingly placed himself at risk to save a life. Despite the victim’s size and injuring his own back during the rescue effort, FF Francis A. Valerio successfully rescued Mr. Gonzales and is recognized with the John H. Prentice Medal.--FCM
Henry D. Brookman Medal

LIEUTENANT MICHAEL P. LAMPASSO
LADDER COMPANY 124

February 28, 2011, 0314 hours, Box 75-0766, 269 Bleecker Street, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on October 28, 2001. Since promoted to Captain and is assigned to Division 1. Previously assigned to Ladders 112 and 124. Father, FF Al Lampasso, is retired from Squad 1; uncle, FF Paul Lampasso, is retired from Engine 299; and brother, FF Brian Lampasso, is assigned to Engine 218. Former member of the FDNY Bravest Football Team. Holds a BS degree in Sociology from Towson University. Resides in West Babylon, Long Island, with his wife, Jennifer, and their children, Aislinn and Rory.

When a phone alarm is received in the early-morning hours, all members’ senses are alerted due to the possibility of trapped occupants. Ladder 124 members’ concerns were realized when the dispatcher announced that children were reported trapped on the top floor of a private dwelling fire at 269 Bleecker Street. The truck company Officer, Lieutenant Michael Lampasso, monitored the radio as they left quarters on the morning of February 28, 2011, at 0314 hours. Engine 277 transmitted a 10-75 for fire on the first floor of a two-story, wood-frame, private dwelling.

On arrival, Ladder 124 members saw the outside vent Firefighter of Ladder 112 removing a child from a second-floor window via a portable ladder. As second-due truck, the position of Ladder 124’s inside team was ordered to the floor above the fire; another child might be trapped there.

Entering the front door, Lieutenant Lampasso observed heavy smoke throughout the first floor, which obscured the stairs to the second floor. The Officer and his forcible entry team--FFs Richard Mercado and William Monjardo--had donned their masks and quickly ascended the stairs without the protection of a hose-line. The conditions on the top floor consisted of extremely high heat and black, acrid smoke.

The inside team of Ladder 124 crawled into the apartment to make a search. About 15 feet into the apartment, Lieutenant Lampasso found an unconscious female, Yolanda Nieves, lying on the floor. He transmitted a 10-45 on his radio to Battalion 28 and informed Battalion Chief Lawrence Hyland that he was removing the victim via the interior stairs. After dragging the victim about 10 feet, Lieutenant Lampasso rejoined his inside team. He instructed his members to remove the victim, who was in respiratory arrest, to the street.

Time was critical and with the possibility of more trapped victims, Lieutenant Lampasso continued his search--alone--on the floor above the fire. After crawling about 30 feet into the apartment, he discovered a second victim, Jerry Nieves, who was unconscious on the floor of his bedroom, which was directly over the fire area. Once again, Lieutenant Lampasso transmitted a 10-45 radio signal to Chief Hyland.

After dragging the second victim out of the apartment toward the stairs, the Lieutenant again joined up with the rest of his team and they removed the second victim to the stairs. FFs Mercado and Monjardo were instructed to remove the victim to the street, while their Lieutenant resumed his search. Mr. Nieves was in cardiac arrest when removed and received emergency medical attention in the street.

By this time, Engine 277 members had charged their hose-line and begun to extinguish the fire on the first floor. While the interior searches were being completed, Ladder 112 members removed another child via portable ladder from a second-floor window.

Mrs. Nieves was transported to Wyckoff Hospital and then transferred to Cornell. She was released after three days in the hospital. Mr. Nieves was transported to Woodhull Hospital and then to Jacobi Hospital, where he ultimately succumbed to his injuries.

Lieutenant Lampasso performed this individual act of bravery with initiative and at personal risk by operating alone on the floor above the fire without the protection of a charged hose-line in order to save the lives of Jerry and Yolanda Nieves. Because of his heroic actions, Lieutenant Michael Lampasso is presented with the Henry D. Brookman Medal.

Lieutenant Michael Lampasso (center) at a press conference with the members of Ladder 124, following his rescue of Jerry and Yolanda Nieves.
M.J. Delehanty Medal

CAPTAIN JAMES F. HAY
LADDER COMPANY 163

July 2, 2011, 0353 hours, Box 75-7295, 48-38 48th Street, Queens

Appointed to the FDNY on June 1, 1983. Previous assignments include Ladders 115, 44 and 117, Haz-Mat 1 and Division 11. Member of the Holy Name and Emerald Societies, as well as the FDNY Incident Management Team. Recipient of three Unit Citations, a pre-hospital save and two Service Rating As, as well as a Katrina Campaign Ribbon. Also received a Firehouse Magazine Heroism & Community Service Award. Holds a BA degree in Communication Arts from Fordham University. Resides in Miller Place, Long Island, with his children, Holly, Emily, Connor and Colin.

In the early-morning hours of Saturday, July 2, 2011, Tower Ladder 163 received a response ticket for a phone alarm for Box 7295. The address was 48-38 48th Street, Queens. While responding, Ladder 163 members were told by the dispatcher that numerous calls were being received for a fire on the top floor with people trapped.

On arrival, Captain James Hay, Ladder 163, saw an advanced fire already showing out the third-floor windows and it was exposing the fire escape. Realizing that the fire already had self-vented out energy-efficient windows, Captain Hay knew that the fire had progressed significantly. With these facts in mind, the Officer and the rest of the Ladder 163 members believed that the occupants still might be trapped and their situation was compromised with unusable fire escapes.

Captain Hay and his forcible entry team--FFs Nicholas Gonzalez with the irons and Michael Rogdakis with the extinguisher--ascended to the third-floor landing and began to force the fire apartment door. Heavy smoke and high heat were emanating from the top of the apartment door. Once the door was forced, Captain Hay could hear moaning sounds coming from inside the apartment.

At this point, the Captain instructed his forcible entry team to wait for Engine 325’s line. With the hose-line still being positioned and charged, Captain Hay made his move into the apartment. He crawled in past the fire area to the rear of the apartment in the direction of the victim’s moans. Despite being confronted with high heat, zero visibility and heavy fire extending throughout the apartment, the Officer still managed to locate the unconscious victim inside a rear bathroom.

Captain Hay transmitted a 10-45 to the Incident Commander and proceeded to drag the victim back through the apartment--enduring the same brutal conditions--to the apartment door. Once making it back, he moved the victim outside the apartment door. The Captain instructed FF Gonzalez to stay with the engine Officer. Then, he and FF Rogdakis carried the victim down the three stories to the street, where oxygen immediately was applied. The victim’s care was transferred to EMS personnel. Captain Hay and FF Rogdakis returned to complete the searches with FF Gonzalez.

Battalion Chief Edward Watt, Battalion 45, stated, “Captain Hay conducted an aggressive interior search under blistering heat and severe smoke conditions.” Acting Deputy Chief Michael Gunning, Division 14, reinforced these comments: “The victim had received burns to approximately one-third of his upper body. If not for Captain Hay’s aggressive move past the fire, the victim might have succumbed to his injuries.”

Captain Hay passed fire not once, but twice, to come to the aid and rescue of a young man who was trapped and incapacitated, in dire need of help. His courageous actions were in the finest traditions of Tower Ladder 163 and the New York City Fire Department. In recognition of his heroism, the FDNY is proud to present Captain James F. Hay with the M.J. Delehanty Medal.
What do you call a person who can assess a situation, determine the risk vs. reward in the context of an imminent life threat and then formulate a plan in the blink of an eye? FDNY Emergency Medical Service Lieutenant Derrick Simpkins accomplished all of that on a windy July day in 2011.

It was just before noon when the 911 call for an injury at a Brooklyn construction site was received. The information supplied by the caller was limited to: Possible head injury...bleeding...possibly two patients. Just eight short minutes after receiving this vague call, Lieutenant Simpkins was faced with a situation that defines the term, imminent life threat.

Construction workers led Lieutenant Simpkins and EMT James Hyams to the patient. They found a severely injured 27-year-old construction worker precariously perched. He was on a narrow wooden plank, suspended three stories above the waters of Mill Basin. He was writhing in pain and dangerously close to the edge of the plank. With the patient out of reach and possibly running out of time, the situation dictated immediate and decisive actions. Relying on more than 18 years of experience, Lieutenant Simpkins pieced together a plan to effect a rescue.

As bits and pieces of information filtered in from the victim’s fellow workers, the pressure mounted. Factors surrounding the construction worker’s accident remained a mystery. There was speculation that a falling beam hit the construction worker on the head, causing him to topple onto the wooden plank. Observing the construction worker’s situation and digesting the speculative comments, the EMS Lieutenant called for additional resources and put his plan in motion.

The building—a mere skeleton of metal beams in the early stages of construction—did not lend itself to easy access by the rescuers. To complicate matters even more, there was a sustained wind blowing off the water. Faced with the possibility of the victim plunging into the 55-degree water, Lieutenant Simpkins and EMT Hyams began scaling the skeleton. Using three one-story ladders, the rescuers ascended to the third floor. Members of the NYPD helped to stabilize the shaky metal ladders and carry equipment.

Arriving on the third floor of this open building, they found it to be sparsely outfitted with temporary metal flooring. At that point, the pair realized the narrow wooden planks holding the victim’s life in the balance appeared to be unstable. Without hesitation, Lieutenant Simpkins and EMT Hyams crawled out onto the narrow wooden planks on their hands and knees. Finally reaching the bleeding victim and assessing his injuries, it was evident that there was a head wound and his leg likely was broken.

The two rescuers were forced to drag the victim inch by inch, carefully trying not to compromise his spine. The leg injury prevented the victim from moving or helping Lieutenant Simpkins and EMT Hyams. Since the building was under construction, options were limited. Once off the planks, they staged on the temporary metal flooring. At this point, the victim was assessed for life-threatening injuries, immobilized to protect his spinal column and packaged for transport. During the ongoing rescue effort, additional resources arrived. The patient then was placed in a stokes basket and safely transported to the ground with the assistance of an FDNY ladder company.

To answer the initial question: A person who can assess a situation, determine the risk vs. reward in the context of an imminent life threat and formulate a plan in the blink of an eye is known as a leader. FDNY EMS Lieutenants may not be born leaders, but through education, training and rigorous testing, they hone their skills to meet tough challenges, make critical decisions and proudly serve the citizens of and visitors to New York City.

A new medal, first introduced this year, the Chief Ulyses Grant Leadership Medal, was named in honor of the 30-year EMS veteran, who exemplified respect, leadership, integrity, imagination, compassion and dedication. How fitting, then, that Lieutenant Derrick Simpkins is the first recipient of this medal at today’s Medal Day.---MAT

WHEN FF CHRISTOPHER PILLARELLA AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF LADDER 83 PULLED UP TO THE ONE-STORY RESIDENCE, FLAMES WERE LAPPING OUT OF THE LIVING ROOM WINDOWS IN THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE. NEIGHBORS WHO HAD STARTED TO GATHER IN FRONT AND POLICE OFFICERS ON THE SCENE CONFIRMED THAT AN ELDERLY MAN WAS TRAPPED INSIDE. CAPTAIN GEORGE SYMON, LADDER 83, ORDERED HIS FORCIBLE ENTRY TEAM--FFS PILLARELLA AND VINCENT MELFI--TO FORCE THE FRONT DOOR. THE HIGH HEAT AND ACRID SMOKE THAT BILLIONED FROM THE DOOR MADE IT OBVIOUS THEY WOULD NEED THE ENGINE’S HELP IN ORDER TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH SEARCH. SO CAPTAIN SYMON ORDERED FF MELFI TO REMOVE THE FRONT SCREEN DOOR TO AID IN THE LINE’S ADVANCEMENT.


THE RESCUER IMMEDIATELY GAVE A 10-45 TO INDICATE THAT HE’D FOUND THE VICTIM. REALIZING THAT THE WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE THIS MAN’S LIFE WAS NARROWING, FF PILLARELLA PLACED HIS OWN BODY BETWEEN THE VICTIM AND THE FLAMES AND BEGAN TO DRAG HIM BACK TOWARD THE FRONT DOOR. AS ENGINE 163 MOVED IN TO PUSH BACK THE FLAMES, FF MELFI REACHED FF PILLARELLA TO HELP REMOVE THE 220-POUND MAN TO THE RELATIVE SAFETY OF THE FRONT LAWN. THEY WERE MET BY THE MEMBERS OF ENGINE 156, WHO IMMEDIATELY BEGAN RESCUE BREATHING. ONCE THE VICTIM WAS BREATHING, THEY ADMINISTERED OXYGEN AND BEGAN TREATING THE VICTIM’S BURNS UNTIL RELIEVED BY EMS PERSONNEL.

ONCE MR. MCCGEE WAS UNDER THE CARE OF ENGINE 156 MEMBERS, THE TWO FIREFIGHTERS RETURNED TO THE HOUSE AND BEGAN A MORE THOROUGH SEARCH TO ENSURE THERE WERE NO OTHER VICTIMS. DURING THE RESCUE AND SEARCH, FF PILLARELLA SPRAINED HIS BACK AND SHOULDER; HE WAS TAKEN TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM.

ONCE THE EMS MEMBERS RELIEVED ENGINE 156 OF MR. MCCGEE’S CARE, THEY CONTINUED TO TREAT HIM FOR HIS BURNS AND TRANSPORTED HIM TO THE STATEN ISLAND UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL’S BURN UNIT. HE FACED A LONG RECOVERY FROM THE BURNS, INDICATIVE OF HOW CLOSE HE CAME TO LOSING HIS LIFE. HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR FF PILLARELLA’S QUICK ACTIONS AND BRAVERY IN THE FACE OF A LIFE-THREATENING SITUATION, HE WOULD NOT HAVE HAD EVEN THAT SLIM CHANCE.

FF PILLARELLA’S ACTIONS IN BRAVING THE FLAMES WITHOUT PROTECTION OF A CHARGED HOSELINE IN ORDER TO SAVE THE LIFE OF A STRANGER WERE A SHINING EXAMPLE OF THE HIGH STANDARDS SET BY THE GREATEST FIRE DEPARTMENT IN THE WORLD. THE FDNY IS PROUD TO AWARD THE WILLIAM F. CONRAN MEDAL TO FF CHRISTOPHER G. PILLARELLA.--JT
One truism for all Firefighters--when they come to work, they expect the unexpected. And, so, a little more than one hour after the start of the night tour on May 16, 2011, the unexpected happened; FF Kevin Farrell was called upon to put all his skills to bear when Ladder 25, “The Pride of the West Side,” answered an alarm that had no specific information to guide the responders.

When Ladder 25 arrived at the address, members were told by residents that there was a smoke condition present in the lobby area. The members made their way up a half-dozen front steps into the parlor floor. It quickly became apparent that there was a fire below them in the basement apartment. FF Farrell, who carried forcible entry tools with him, took the interior stairs down to the basement.

As he reached the front of the building, FF Farrell realized that the apartment door would have to be forced open. He also noticed that adjacent to the apartment door was a door to the exterior of the building that went outside underneath the front stoop. Inside, next to the door, there was a walker. Digesting this information, FF Farrell concluded that there was probably a disabled person inside the fire apartment who would require assistance.

Using the door under the stoop, Engine 74 would be able to bring a hose-line directly down into the fire apartment. But, prior to this, FF Farrell had to make his way inside the flat. He forced the door and immediately encountered a heavy smoke condition. While waiting for water to arrive, the Firefighter commenced a search. Despite the deteriorating conditions and with no hose-line to protect him, he crawled from the front of the apartment, past the rapidly accelerating heat and fire, all the way to the rear of the apartment. When he reached the back bedroom, he located a man in a doorway, between the bedroom and the bathroom.

The victim, George Calhoun, was 61 years old and wearing leg braces from his hips to his ankles. Although breathing, he was unconscious. The slight noise that the victim was making spurred FF Farrell to intensify his efforts and he started dragging the man out of harm’s way. Once the man was extricated from the bedroom, the rescuer called for assistance and was helped by Ladder 25’s extinguisher Firefighter, FF Ryan Sullivan. Together, both Firefighters dragged the limp victim out of the burning apartment, under the stoop and on to the sidewalk. The victim was turned over to members of Engine 22 for basic life support. Subsequently, Mr. Calhoun, in critical condition, was transported to the hospital.

FF Farrell recognized the building construction, was alert enough to notice the walker positioned at the entrance to the apartment and, without regard for his own well-being, crawled more than 100 feet through four rooms to make this rescue. Had he not acted decisively and quickly, using his powers of observation and relying on his experience, the occupant of the apartment might have perished. For his bravery while exemplifying the highest traditions of the fire service, the Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia Medal is proudly awarded to FF Kevin Farrell.--BDG
Four of the five boroughs that make up New York City are islands. The network of waterways around the “Greatest City on Earth” has always been a prime factor in economic development. Today, this network carries not only commerce, but is used for entertainment--both on the water and above it. Several times, these uses have required the quick and selfless response of New York’s Bravest. This was the case on October 4, 2011, when the UCT link informed Ladder 7 of a helicopter crash at 34th Street and the East River.

Working the forcible entry position/primary water rescuer that autumn afternoon was FF Robert Lopez. As the company responded, dispatch operations confirmed the incident and noted a strong northbound tide. The company arrived on-scene in fewer than four minutes and Lieutenant Frank Giacoio ordered the members to deploy the water rescue equipment. However, because of the swift northbound current (and the need to make and keep visual contact with the wreckage), Ladder 7 could not waste time cutting a fence to move their equipment. Rather, the members scaled the eight-foot fence and then ran across a paved lot with all their equipment to get to the water’s edge.

At the sea wall, FF Lopez could see several victims hanging onto an upside down helicopter, approximately 60 feet out into the river. Knowing that time was precious because the current was moving both the wrecked helicopter and the victims farther from his position, FF Lopez immediately donned his cold water rescue suit. As one victim began to panic and try to swim to shore, the Firefighter realized he could not wait for a ladder to be placed into the water. Without concern for his safety, he jumped 10 feet down into the river.

Once in the river, FF Lopez grabbed two life rings, which were tossed into the water, with the hope he would be able to save more than one victim. He then swam out into the river with the scent of aviation fuel growing more intense with each stroke. As the rescuer reached the victim, he then used one life ring and positioned himself to control the victim and keep his head above water.

At this point, FF Lopez was approximately 15 feet from the sinking helicopter with one victim in his grasp and one arm partially entangled in the second life ring. Seeing the danger he was in, the members of Ladder 7 pulled FF Lopez and the victim to the base of the portable ladder that they had secured to the sea wall. Then, even though he was near exhaustion, FF Lopez, with the aid of FF Alan Squire, removed the victim from the water, assisted him up the ladder and transferred him to the care of EMS personnel.

In reporting the incident, Lieutenant Giacoio wrote, “Through decisive action, initiative and tenacity, FF Lopez saved this victim from drowning. He knowingly placed himself at...risk and his actions reflect the finest traditions of this Department.” Chief Austin Horan, Division 1, concurred, “His actions were the product of good training and a strong dedication to duty; swimming through aviation fuel, risking entanglement in a sinking helicopter, multiple victims to try to save and swimming in a strong current to exhaustion.” Therefore, the Fire Department is proud to honor FF Robert Lopez with the Chief John J. McElligott Medal/FFs Fitzpatrick and Frisby Award today.

Scene of October 4, 2011, helicopter crash in the East River, where FF Robert Lopez successfully rescued a victim and for which he was awarded the Chief John J. McElligott Medal/FFs Fitzpatrick and Frisby Award. --DJH
Frequently, it is said: “only truckies get medals.” While there are times when this seems true, engine company Firefighters--especially the nozzle Firefighter--are often the unsung heroes behind many successful rescues. Additionally, there are times when the action of the nozzle Firefighter, through sheer determination and courage, eclipses all other actions. This was the case on Sunday morning, March 13, 2011, when the tones sounded in the quarters of Engine 201 in Sunset Park.

Working that morning was FF Sean O’Mallon. At 0512 hours, the company responded as first-due engine to a multiple-floor fire at 510 61st Street, a four-story, 75- by 25-foot, class three multiple dwelling. While responding, fire dispatch notified the members that there were numerous people trapped throughout the building.

Arriving in approximately four minutes, the company members found heavy fire blowing out the front door, all stairway windows and the roof bulkhead. Members also observed several people descending the fire escape while screaming that people were trapped inside.

The members of Engine 201 stretched a line to the front door and FF O’Mallon, working the nozzle, realized that time was critical. He made an aggressive push inside the building to the first set of stairs. Using all his skill, he forcefully moved up the stairs. While pushing the line up to the second floor, one step gave way. FF O’Mallon quickly extricated his leg and continued to climb, knowing full well the stairs were in danger of giving way. FF O’Mallon and the members of Engine 201 courageously advanced past the second- and third-floor landings.

Meanwhile, Ladder 114’s Officer radioed Engine 201, reporting heavy fire in apartment 3R. Realizing a second line would be delayed due to the collapsed staircase, FF O’Mallon was directed by his Officer to move back down the stairs and into the burning apartment. Even though FF O’Mallon already had knocked down a significant amount of fire, he pushed into the apartment where he found heavy fire throughout and boldly attacked it. He quickly knocked down the flames in the kitchen and proceeded down a hallway in zero visibility to extinguish fire in two bedrooms.

With the apartment fire contained, FF O’Mallon moved the hose-line back into the hallway and proceeded toward the fourth floor. However, as he moved up these stairs, they, too, gave way. The Firefighter re-directed the hose-line stream, allowing his Officer to ascend the stairs. However, the stairs gave way again and this time, FF O’Mallon fell up to his chest. A mayday was radioed and, with assistance from FFs Jerry Bennici, Engine 201, and Raymond Pollard, Ladder 114, he was removed from the collapse.

The mayday was rescinded and FF O’Mallon, though exhausted, continued up to the fourth floor and resumed his position at the nozzle. Here, he knocked down a fire in apartment 4L where an unconscious man was saved. Then, he turned the nozzle around and knocked down the remaining fire in the stairway and bulkhead.

FF O’Mallon sustained second-degree burns to both knees in fighting this fire, which ended with 31 10-45s, eight of which were characterized as code twos. In the incident report, it was noted, “FF O’Mallon’s aggressiveness at this fire was an example of ‘how the first line goes is how the fire goes’ and his determination demonstrated the finest traditions of the Department.” Therefore, the Fire Department is proud to honor FF Sean O’Mallon today with the Thomas F. Dougherty Medal.

FF Sean O’Mallon (right) takes a well-deserved break with FF Jerry Bennici and Lieutenant Michael McCaffrey, following yeoman’s nozzle work at Brooklyn Box 33-2637.

Thomas F. Dougherty Medal

Firefighter Sean M. O’Mallon

Engine Company 201

March 13, 2011, 0512 hours, Box 33-2637, 510 61st Street, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on December 5, 2004. Holds a BA degree in English Literature from Brooklyn College and, currently, is in Nursing School at Kingsborough Community College. Resides on Staten Island.
On the fireground, one of the most difficult and dangerous places to be is on the floor above the fire. On August 25, 2011, that is where FF Peter E. Carroll, Ladder 120, was when he saved the life of a 40-year-old woman.

At 1347 hours, Ladder 120 responded to a fire in a private dwelling at 347 Marion Street. The company was first-due on the ticket, but while the truck was en route, Ladder 176 became available and was added to the ticket. Ladder 176 was the first unit to arrive at the Box and gave the 10-75 for a fire in a 25-by 50-foot, two-family, private dwelling of lightweight construction.

The fire was on the second floor, the lower floor of a duplex apartment. The actual address of the fire building was 340 Marion Street, which was across the street from 347. As a result of the companies initially receiving the wrong address, the Critical Information Dispatch System (CIDS) information for the fire building was not immediately available to the members.

Ladder 120 was the second truck to arrive at the job and was ordered by Battalion Chief Robert Spellman, Battalion 37, to search the floor above the fire, which was the top floor of the duplex apartment. The access to the top floor was through an open interior stair from the second floor of the fire apartment.

When Engine 233 arrived at the Box, members transmitted a 10-70 because the company could not locate a water source from a working hydrant. The initial attack line was supplied by booster water and would not last long. There was a heavy fire condition in the rear of the second floor. The inside team of Ladder 120 located the open wooden stairs and members made their way to the floor above and began their search.

At this time, the engine company chauffeur (ECC) from Engine 233 informed the units operating inside that only half the booster tank remained. Conditions on the top floor were very difficult and Lieutenant Thomas Losquadro, Ladder 120, split up his inside team and ordered FF Carroll with the irons to search the rear of the floor.

The fire now was venting out the rear windows on the second floor and auto-exposing into the top floor. The conditions on the third floor included zero visibility and a severe heat condition that was worsening. A hose-line was not in operation on the third floor. The lightweight construction—consisting of wooden I-beams—negated the option of cutting a hole in the roof for ventilation.

FF Carroll entered a rear bedroom and rapidly and aggressively began searching along the right wall. He quickly located the unconscious, 40-year-old Katie Kyle and transmitted a 10-45. FF Carroll was faced with the difficult task of removal because Ms. Kyle weighed approximately 300 pounds.

As he started dragging Ms. Kyle out of the bedroom, FF Ryan Frontera, the extinguisher Firefighter from Ladder 120, teamed up with FF Carroll and, together, they were able to move the victim to the top of the stairs. The fire was being knocked down and the conditions on the interior stairs had improved somewhat.

The two Firefighters used all their strength and energy to bring Ms. Kyle down the stairs and to the entrance of the apartment. She was in cardiac arrest and her care was handed off to EMS personnel who transported her to Brookdale Hospital. Thanks to FF Carroll’s determined efforts without the protection of a charged hose-line, Ms. Kyle survived being caught above a heavy fire condition. Unfortunately, she died approximately a month later.

The aggressive actions taken by FF Carroll at this fire gave Ms. Kyle a fighting chance to survive. The Board of Merit agreed and FF Peter E. Carroll is being honored with the Albert S. Johnston Medal.
Firefighting requires the ability to adapt to unforeseen circumstances and challenging environments in the pursuit of the ultimate goal— the preservation of life. After the turn of midnight on November 8, 2011, these skills were severely tested when FF Michael Willman, Ladder 32, responded to Box 75-3604 in the populous Ollinville section of “da Bronx.”

The Box was received as a phone alarm, followed by numerous calls; indicators that Ladder 32 and Engine 62 soon would be at work. As the companies arrived at the scene, a working fire was confirmed by the presence of heavy smoke and visible flames.

The occupancy consisted of a free-standing garage at the rear of the property that had been converted to living space. Lieutenant Sean Mannion, Ladder 32, gave the 10-75 signal and was notified by excited civilians that there were individuals trapped within the building. Undaunted by the heavy volume of fire, the entry team approached the front door, while the engine initiated a stretch.

FF Willman recognized a window of opportunity afforded by a small interior alcove adjacent to the entrance. The protection of this space permitted him to duck beneath the fire and gain access to the right side and rear of the fire area via a narrow and congested hallway. His subsequent rapid search of the living room, bathroom and a bedroom was impeded by stored items due to the Collyers’ mansion-like conditions. The search proved fruitless.

Conscious of the dwindling time and absence of a hose-line, FF Willman entered the last bedroom and “tossed” the bed. Initially finding no one present, FF Willman took the time to crawl over the bed and sweep the floor. This extended effort revealed the presence of an unconscious occupant, partially beneath the bed and buried beneath debris.

After transmitting the 10-45, FF Willman dragged the man to the exterior via the front entrance and performed CPR until relieved by EMS personnel. He then quickly re-entered the building to continue his search for victims.

The post-fire analysis of the fire building revealed Collyers’ mansion interior space and a layout that was small in area, yet convoluted and exceptionally difficult to negotiate. However, relying on his training and instincts, FF Willman’s flawless search was successful in locating and then removing the victim. Regrettably, the victim later died.

FF Willman showed exceptional initiative and persistence in overcoming the difficulties associated with the unorthodox occupancy. He also showed disregard for his personal safety in conducting his duties without the benefit of a charged hose-line. For his selfless actions, the FDNY is proud to present FF Michael Willman with the Ner Tamid Society/Franklin Delano Roosevelt Medal. --JF
Third Alarm Association Medal

FIREFIGHTER MATTHEW W. ROBERTS  
LADDER COMPANY 113

July 7, 2011, 0541 hours, Box 75-1548, 111 East 21st Street, Brooklyn

Assigned to the FDNY on December 5, 2004. Previously assigned to Engine 249. Father, Lieutenant William Roberts, is retired from Ladder 126; uncle, FF Robert Irving, is retired from Engine 234; uncle, Lieutenant Kenneth Maier, is retired from Engine 287; and grandfather, FF Robert Irving, is retired from Engine 303. Member of the Emerald Society and the FDNY Lacrosse Team. Holds as AA degree from Suffolk Community College. Resides in Rockaway Beach, Queens.

The Firefighters assigned to Engine 249 and Ladder 113 in the Flatbush neighborhood of Brooklyn are some of the busiest in the City. On July 7, 2011, at 0541 hours, Ladder 113 received a phone alarm for smoke on the fifth floor of 11 East 21st Street. The truck was first-due.

While en route, the dispatcher informed the members that the address was corrected to 111 East 21st Street and that multiple calls were being received for a fire on the fifth floor. On arrival at the Box, thick, black smoke was seen pushing from the front windows on the fifth floor. Engine 249 transmitted the 10-75 for a fire in a six-story new law tenement.

Captain Brian Davan, covering in Ladder 113, FF Matthew W. Roberts with the irons and the extinguisher Firefighter rapidly climbed the interior stairs to the fifth floor. They located the fire apartment door, quickly identifiable because of the smoke pushing from around the door jamb of apartment E2. FF Roberts checked the door and determined that three locks were engaged; he went to work to get through them.

As FF Roberts was forcing the door, its integrity started to weaken and the public hallway began to fill with smoke. FF Roberts and the other members of the forcible entry team donned their facepieces so they could continue to force the door. As they continued their task, they heard FF Francis Valerio, the chauffeur of Ladder 113, transmit a 10-45 for a male victim he had located in the fire apartment.

Right inside the bedroom door, FF Roberts discovered the motionless body of 69-year-old Maria Gonzalez. He transmitted the 10-45 and began the difficult task of removing her down the hallway and past the fire. FF Roberts passed the fully involved living room on his right side. Fire was extending out into the hallway and he made his way to a bedroom on the right side of the apartment. There was another bedroom directly behind this one.

Engine 248, the first-due engine, still was stretching the hose-line and water was not on the fire. FF Roberts passed the fully involved living room on his right side. Fire was extending out into the hallway and he made his way to a bedroom on the right side of the apartment. There was another bedroom directly behind this one.

As FF Roberts was forcing the door, its integrity started to weaken and the public hallway began to fill with smoke. FF Roberts and the other members of the forcible entry team donned their facepieces so they could continue to force the door. As they continued their task, they heard FF Francis Valerio, the chauffeur of Ladder 113, transmit a 10-45 for a male victim he had located in the fire apartment.

FF Valerio had set up the aerial and gained access to the front bedroom. FF Roberts finished forcing the last of the three locks and opened the fire apartment door. FF Roberts moved past him to continue his search down the apartment hallway.

Engine 248, the first-due engine, still was stretching the hose-line and water was not on the fire. FF Roberts passed the fully involved living room on his right side. Fire was extending out into the hallway and he made his way to a bedroom on the right side of the apartment. There was another bedroom directly behind this one.

Right inside the bedroom door, FF Roberts discovered the motionless body of 69-year-old Maria Gonzalez. He transmitted the 10-45 and began the difficult task of removing her down the hallway and past the fire. FF Roberts used his remaining strength to get Ms. Gonzalez out of the apartment and into the public hallway, where they were met by the members of Engines 248 and 249, who began treating her. The woman was in full respiratory arrest and was transported by EMS personnel to Kings County Hospital. Ms. Gonzalez eventually was transported to Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx for use of the hyperbaric chamber, but, unfortunately, she died a few days later.

FF Roberts was granted medical leave for strains and sprains he suffered to his back and neck while performing his duties. In his endorsement of the Report of Meritorious Act for FF Roberts, Deputy Chief Michael Ajello, Division 15, wrote, “I have no doubt that the aggressive actions taken by FF Roberts at this fire resulted in a successful rescue.” For his bravery, FF Matthew W. Roberts is presented with the Third Alarm Association Medal.—NG

Route taken by FF Matthew Roberts in his rescue of Ms. Gonzalez.

Fire Department, City of New York • Medal Day 2012
Firefighting—under any conditions—is, by its nature, a very dangerous profession. Unfortunately, occupants in many areas of New York City compound the hazard. A condition that Firefighters confront all too frequently is what has come to be known as Collyers’ mansion-type conditions. This occurs when occupants collect so much junk that their apartments become a veritable obstacle course just to walk through, let alone trying to fight a fire or search for victims. It was just this situation that FF Christopher Iannuzzi, Ladder 31, had to overcome on the evening of March 28, 2011.

At 1935 hours, Ladder 31 responded to a reported fire with people trapped at 1489 Longfellow Avenue. Ladder 31 arrived first-due and Lieutenant Daniel Conway—assigned to Engine 71, but working in Ladder 31 this night—saw smoke from a third-floor window. Lieutenant Conway and his forcible entry team—FFs Iannuzzi and Anthony Abbatemarco, assigned to Engine 80—rushed up the stairs to the fire floor.

Lieutenant Conway saw smoke pushing from around the door frame and knew conditions probably would be severe. He also realized that they would be operating without the protection of a hose-line for some time since the first-due engine was relocated. But without hesitation, Lieutenant Conway ordered his members to force the door.

Immediately upon entry into the apartment, they were met by heavy, black smoke and a high heat condition. Simultaneously, all members realized that the apartment was packed with garbage; the danger of entanglement and being buried by debris was great. Members attempted to clear the hallway so they could advance their search. When an opening was created, FF Iannuzzi crawled over the debris and checked the first two rooms to his right.

When he re-entered the hallway, fire was rolling over the Firefighter’s head. He realized that a flashover might be imminent. Through the glow above him, he could faintly see the living room just ahead of him. FF Iannuzzi knew that if anyone was trapped inside, time soon would run out for his/her possible survival. FF Iannuzzi gambled that he could search this last room before the room lit up.

FF Iannuzzi crawled into the living room and found an unconscious woman, Rita Anderson, pinned under a piece of furniture. He transmitted a 10-45. The Firefighter used his last bit of strength to remove the furniture atop Ms. Anderson and rapidly dragged her back toward the front door.

The fire was just above their heads when the victim and Firefighter were met by Lieutenant Conway and FF Abbatemarco. Together, the rescuers then removed the victim to the street where FF Iannuzzi initiated rescue breathing. He was relieved by other members so he could continue his search of the fire floor.

FF Iannuzzi’s efforts were above and beyond the finest traditions of the FDNY. For this reason, FF Christopher A. Iannuzzi is recognized today and presented with the Vincent J. Kane Medal.
Tracy Allen-Lee Medal

EMS Lieutenant
Bryan A. O’Malley
Station 39

May 27, 2011, 2130 hours, 2169 Pacific Street, Brooklyn

Appointed to EMS as an Emergency Medical Technician on August 24, 1981. Previously assigned to Stations 43 and 44, Division 4 and MEU. Uncle, FF Alfred Finn, is retired from Engine 268. Recipient of the Medal of Excellence, Excellent Duty, more than 20 saves and more than 10 Vice President Awards (HHC). Resides in Albertson, Long Island, with his wife, Kathleen, and their son, Bryan.

The weather was warm and dry on Friday, May 27, 2011, a perfect way to kick off Memorial Day weekend. The traditional mass exodus for vacation already was well underway by 1920 hours. EMS Lieutenant Bryan O’Malley was nearing the end of his 1400-2200 hour shift, a typically busy evening tour in Brownsville, Brooklyn, when he heard a call come in for a four-year-old being mauled by a vicious dog.

Lieutenant O’Malley, operating as Conditions 443 (his on-duty designation), jumped on the call and hurried to the scene, arriving simultaneously five minutes later with Engine 227. The scene was chaotic. A crowd had gathered outside the location, with some spectators yelling: Don’t go in there! They’re killers; trained to kill! A woman was screaming, My kid, my kid!

Lieutenant O’Malley and the crew of Engine 227 entered the first-floor apartment and found three large dog crates, two of which were occupied and one that was open and empty. They moved to a bedroom where they found a Cane Corso mastiff, weighing more than 100 pounds, hovering over the motionless body of a small child. The floor was covered in blood.

The dog was behaving very aggressively, but the members knew there was no time to wait for the proper authorities to tranquilize it. The members of Engine 227 used their axes, Halligan tools and a six-foot hook to force the dog away, as a Firefighter grabbed the child and passed him to Lieutenant O’Malley.

The EMS Lieutenant ran out of the house and transferred the critically injured child to EMS Unit 31W, whose members immediately began treatment and transport of the patient to Brookdale Hospital. Sadly, the attack was so severe that the four-year-old child did not survive.

Now outside in the midst of the growing crowd that was chanting, shoot the dogs, shoot the dogs, Lieutenant O’Malley was approached by the screaming woman who was asking about her other two children. He ran over to the Engine 227 Officer and told him they had to go back into the apartment.

They re-entered the premises and while several Firefighters held the aggressive dog at bay in a bedroom, the rest of them began to search the apartment. Lieutenant O’Malley found one child underneath a bed and a member of Engine 227 found the other, both of whom were unharmed, but paralyzed with fear.

The crowd had grown more unruly and disorderly following the rescue of the children by Lieutenant O’Malley and the members of Engine 227. Eventually, six bystanders were arrested for attempting to incite a riot.

The actions of Lieutenant O’Malley were commendable because he entered a highly dangerous and unknown situation in an attempt to save a child. He re-entered the apartment, well aware of the dangerous environment in order to rescue two more children. In recognition of his actions, the Department presents Lieutenant Bryan O’Malley with the Tracy Allen-Lee Medal.~JPP
As a Firefighter assigned to Manhattan’s Squad 18, FF Eugene O’Donnell responds regularly to incidents involving persons hit by, trapped under or seriously injured by subway trains. While all responses are never routine, some standard procedures and actions can be taken at these incidents. The grave hazards always present include the powerful third rail, falling or tripping dangers and the ever-present train traffic. On the night of November 23, 2011, FF O’Donnell found himself operating at just such an incident. The difference this time was that he was off-duty, without his personal protective equipment (PPE) or tools.

That night, FF O’Donnell was returning to his home after working a 9x6 tour. He was waiting on the subway platform for the E train at the Roosevelt Avenue/Jackson Heights station. FF O’Donnell heard a loud commotion approximately 50 feet down the platform. His attention was drawn toward several bystanders, pointing to an adult male who was lying face-down on the track bed across both rails.

Realizing the amount of time that had passed since FF O’Donnell was waiting in the station, he knew an incoming train would be arriving in a few short minutes. The Firefighter went to the location and asked the bystanders on the platform to call 911. He determined that immediate action was needed to save the man’s life.

Without hesitation and recognizing the risk to himself, FF O’Donnell jumped down onto the track bed and performed a rapid assessment of the patient, Hassan Chiek Kaba. FF O’Donnell found the injured man to be unconscious, but alive and viable. The Firefighter made a split second risk vs. reward decision: He felt that because the power was on and train movement was inevitable, removing Mr. Chiek Kaba from the tracks was far more important than any complications from his injuries.

FF O’Donnell began to lift the unconscious patient up from out of the track bed and onto the platform. This task proved difficult because the unconscious man weighed about 210 lbs. Fortunately, several of the bystanders on the platform reached down and helped FF O’Donnell to bring the injured man to safety. Only after the patient was safe did FF O’Donnell begin to pull himself back up onto the platform and out of harm’s way, a mere 90 seconds before the arrival of an E train into the station.

Back on the platform, FF O’Donnell began to perform a complete assessment of Mr. Chiek Kaba’s injuries. He attended to some bleeding and treated the victim for shock. EMTs Joanna Raczkowska and Kyle Logiudice, BLS Unit 46B, arrived on the scene and assumed control of patient care. FF O’Donnell identified himself to them and apprised them of the patient’s condition. He then continued to assist the EMTs with patient care, including bleeding control, airway management, spinal immobilization and transport to the ambulance.

While being carried to the ambulance, Mr. Chiek Kaba began to regain consciousness. However, he was suffering from altered mental status and became combative due to head trauma from the fall. Once he was stabilized, the EMTs transported the man to Elmhurst Medical Center for additional treatment. FF O’Donnell also was treated for exposure to the patient’s blood and body fluids.

FF O’Donnell placed himself in harm’s way to effect the rescue of Mr. Chiek Kaba from certain death by the inbound E train. He single-handedly faced numerous hazards, including the oncoming train, electrocution and contamination—all without PPE and assistance from trained personnel. Even though he was off-duty, FF O’Donnell never hesitated to take action. For his courage, FF Eugene O’Donnell is awarded the Brummer Medal.--AP
The day tour on February 17, 2011, started with the normal roll call at Ladder 170 and Lieutenant Robert Kittelberger directed the members to do their regular safety check of the fire equipment. It wasn’t long, however, before that equipment was needed at a fire that already was starting to grow.

At 0955 hours, the computer started to spit out an alarm for Box 2180, reporting a fire at 9823 Seaview Avenue in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn. While Lieutenant Kittelberger and the members of Ladder 170 were swiftly responding to the fire location, the dispatcher informed them that a woman was trapped above the fire, according to a report from an NYPD officer on the scene.

Arriving first-due at the two-story private dwelling, Ladder 170 members were met by heavy, black smoke enveloping the building from a fire roaring in the basement and billowing up the interior stairs. The Lieutenant immediately transmitted a signal 10-75 for a working fire.

The on-scene police officer, who was unable to enter the building himself due to the heavy fire condition, reported that the woman was an invalid. Her husband last had seen her in the kitchen as he was forced to exit because of the fire. With no second ladder company on the scene yet, Lieutenant Kittelberger knew that the woman’s life was in the hands of Ladder 170.

With the interior stairs engulfed in flames, Lieutenant Kittelberger led the forcible entry team of FFs James Kennedy and Aaron Martin up the exterior stairs to the front door. The heavy smoke condition forced them to don their masks as they tried to gain entry, but the door was blocked by heavy debris. The obstruction behind the door was part of the Collyers’ mansion conditions in the house, leaving members unable to open it fully.

With great effort, the Lieutenant was able to squeeze through the narrow opening. He directed FFs Kennedy and Martin to remove the door from its hinges to facilitate egress when he came back with the victim.

As Lieutenant Kittelberger searched his way through the room, over and around piles of old newspapers and personal possessions, he had to deal with the fire and smoke coming up the open interior stairway, right next to the area where he soon located the barely conscious, 60-year-old Mary Weissman. Guided by her moans, he was able to reach her 15 feet into the apartment, where she’d become pinned against a refrigerator by a pile of newspapers that had fallen on her.

Transmitting a code 10-45, the Lieutenant began to dig her out from under the debris and started to drag her back to the front door over the cluttered floor. Exhausted by the time he reached the front door, the rescuer was forced to pass the victim’s limp body through a still-narrow opening to FFs Martin and Kennedy. They immediately carried her down the stairs and into the arms of EMS personnel.

After stabilizing the victim, EMS transported her to Beth Israel Medical Center where she was treated for severe smoke inhalation and chest pains. Had it not been for the swift response of Ladder 170 and Lieutenant Kittelberger’s dogged determination to locate and remove Mrs. Weissman from this blaze, chances are she would have paid with her life.

Because of his great courage and perseverance in the performance of this rescue, without a protective hose-line in place, it is with great pride that the FDNY presents the Frank W. Kridel Medal to Lieutenant Robert E. Kittelberger.---JT
When the calendar nears the end of October, most people start to think about what to wear for Halloween. But, on October 29, 2011, New Yorkers were coping with a freak nor’easter that brought more than an inch of snow and left many dreading the upcoming winter.

At around 2030 hours, however, in the Borough Park section of Brooklyn, one New Yorker cared little for the weather as a fire erupted inside his apartment at 4800 14th Avenue, a six-story, class three, 80- by 140-foot multiple dwelling. Fortunately, working the irons position in Ladder 148 that raw and blustery night was FF Michael E. Murphy.

At 2027 hours, Ladder 148 was notified by Department radio of the fire and directed the members to respond as first-due ladder company to Box 3796 for a fire on the fifth floor. While responding, the dispatcher notified the company of numerous calls for a fire in apartment 5D and that a person was trapped inside.

Engine 282 arrived first and transmitted a 10-75 signal. Ladder 148 arrived one minute later and FF Murphy, along with the other members of the forcible entry team--Lieutenant Robert Giddings and FF Anthony Simoncini with the extinguisher--quickly moved into the building and up the stairs. Reaching apartment 5D, FF Murphy found the doorknob missing. He then looked down on the floor and found the missing knob. He quickly surmised a panicked occupant must have pulled the knob off from the inside, making the possibility of a trapped occupant even more plausible.

FF Murphy donned his mask, forced the door and let the smoke and hot gases vent into the hallway. He then crawled into the apartment with the other members of the team and down a long, narrow hallway. He could see the orange glow of fire, which was barely visible through the thick smoke.

Knowing it would take time to stretch a hose-line up the five flights of stairs, FF Murphy and the team proceeded deeper into the burning apartment. While FF Simoncini opened the extinguisher on the unchecked fire, it had little effect as the fire began to roll out what was later found to be the living room and into the hallway toward the apartment entrance.

As conditions worsened, FF Murphy continued down the left side of the hallway where he found an unconscious victim lying on his back. The Firefighter notified Lieutenant Giddings, who transmitted a 10-45 signal. FF Murphy quickly removed the victim to safety by dragging him out of the still-unchecked burning apartment and down the 25-foot public hallway. He then transferred the victim to EMS personnel at the stairway landing. Unfortunately, the victim passed away about two weeks later.

FF Murphy immediately returned to the burning apartment and continued to search through Collyers’ mansion-type conditions for possible victims. The search proved negative.

In his report of the incident, Deputy Chief Patrick Clifford, Division 11, noted, “FF Murphy performed this arduous task without the benefit of a charged line...” For these reasons, the New York City Fire Department is proud to honor FF Michael E. Murphy today with the Emerald Society Medal. --D.I.H.
Firefighters are challenged on a daily basis by innumerable and complex situations that demand a unique set of complementary skills. Not least among these is the ability to evaluate clues in order to determine a successful strategy. In the very early hours of March 12, 2011, FF James Smith, Squad 41, proved himself to be exceptionally adept at “putting the pieces together” in accomplishing a remarkable rescue of two fire victims under severe conditions.

The call for response was received at 0155 hours. Fire was reported on the second floor of a fully occupied, five-story, old law tenement (OLT). As Squad 41 members arrived on-scene, FF Smith observed that the building occupied a corner location and possessed a single fire escape situated on the front of the structure. His experience told him that the single fire escape represented the strong likelihood that only two apartments were on each floor.

Furthermore and importantly, the Firefighter observed both severe fire conditions on the front left corner of the second floor and the presence of heavy smoke issuing under pressure from the rear of the fourth floor. This unlikely combination of circumstances represented a puzzle that was pieced together by FF Smith in sequential fashion as he ascended the stairs under orders to search the floors above the fire.

First, as he passed the fire floor, FF Smith observed that the fire apartment door was open and discharging smoke and heat into the stair and hallway. Undaunted, he continued his ascent. Secondly, as he arrived at the fourth-floor level, the Firefighter realized that the entrance door to apartment #6 on this floor was wide open.

FF Smith quickly ascertained that the open doors on each floor resulted in a “chimney” effect that drew the products of combustion from the second floor to the upper apartment. As a final piece to the puzzle, he reasoned that the open apartment door on the fourth floor represented the potential of a victim who had aborted an attempt at evacuation. With this in mind, FF Smith crawled into the apartment under zero-visibility conditions.

The first room FF Smith entered was the living room, whereupon he heard a faint gurgling sound. After searching the perimeter, he probed the center of the room and discovered a large, unconscious woman, lying prone on the floor. He transmitted a 10-45 and rolled the woman over, discovering an unconscious child trapped beneath her frame.

He immediately issued a second 10-45 and requested assistance from FF Christopher Campuzano, Squad 41, who quickly arrived. With the help of FF James Lowe, Rescue 3, FF Smith carried the child out of the apartment and down the stairs. Recognizing that the victim was in cardiac arrest, he continually administered CPR until the child was resuscitated. He then turned her over to EMS personnel, who were standing by in the street. FF Smith turned his attention to the elder victim, assisting in CPR prior to her transport by EMS. Both victims survived their ordeal.

In recognition of his exceptional reasoning skills, the bravery he exhibited above the fire, persistence in administering first aid to both victims and the subsequent survival of both mother and child, FF James Smith is hereby recognized with the Chief Wesley Williams Medal.--JF
Holy Name Society Medal  
(Brooklyn/Queens)  
LIEUTENANT TODD A. VETTER  
ENGINE COMPANY 293

March 5, 2011, 2153 hours, Box 75-8516, 85-61 76th Street, Woodhaven, Queens


Woodhaven, Queens, is a predominantly residential neighborhood with numerous frame private dwellings. For the members of Engine 293, a single engine company, a fire in a Queen Anne private dwelling can be most challenging and frequently requires multiple alarms. Queen Annes are large, beautiful, turn-of-the-century private dwellings with large, open stairs and balloon-frame construction. On the night of March 5, 2011, Giani Ramos from 85-61 76th Street would owe his life to the quick, professional actions of Lieutenant Todd Vetter and the members of Engine 293.

At approximately 2200 hours, Engine 293 responded to an alarm reporting a structural fire on 76th Street. Lieutenant Vetter and the members of Engine 293 arrived to discover a fire on the upper floors of a Queen Anne. Additionally, civilians were frantically exiting the structure.

Lieutenant Vetter entered the first floor and questioned the fleeing occupants, who stated, “the fire is upstairs somewhere and they are still in there.” Engine 293 was the lone company at the scene; the first truck had not arrived. For the civilians still in the building, Engine 293 would have to perform search, rescue and stretch a hand-line to extinguish the fire. Lieutenant Vetter ordered a 1 3/4-inch hand-line stretched to the upper floors via the main entrance door.

The Officer proceeded up the stairs to the second floor and encountered a smoke condition. He donned his face-piece and performed a quick primary search of the second floor, which proved negative for fire and victims.

Simultaneously, Engine 293 was entering the first floor with the hand-line and making progress in the arduous task of stretching the line to the top floor. Lieutenant Vetter proceeded from the second floor to the top floor and found a locked door. He correctly sized up that the reported victims were behind this door.

He completed forcible entry with his Officers hand tool and quickly dropped to his knees as he entered the third floor due to a significant smoke and heat condition. The Lieutenant determined that the heat and smoke moving toward the entrance door were greatest at the front of the building. He searched in this direction and started to enter a front room where the fire originated. Inside the doorway, Lieutenant Vetter’s diligent search resulted in finding the male victim, Giani Ramos, just inside the fire room door.

Lieutenant Vetter removed Mr. Ramos from the fire room to the stairs, where he was assisted by FF William Finucane, Engine 293, who was ascending the stairs with the hand-line. Engine 293’s nozzle team advanced into the third floor and completed the critical assignment of suppressing the fire. The rescue team from Engine 293 transferred the victim to the members of Ladder 142’s forcible entry team on the first floor. They quickly transferred Mr. Ramos to EMS personnel. FF Finucane and Lieutenant Vetter joined their nozzle team to complete extinguishment of the third-floor fire.

The victim required resuscitation by EMS personnel prior to treatment for significant second- and third-degree burns. His injuries were so severe that besides CPR, he required an extended stay in the Cornell Burn Center. Thanks to the bravery of Lieutenant Vetter and Engine 293 members, Mr. Ramos survived his ordeal.

Lieutenant Vetter performed a complex, heroic act on the third floor of a Queen Anne fire without the protection of a hand-line. With the fire seconds from expanding to untenable conditions, he rescued and removed a victim. For these reasons, Lieutenant Todd Vetter is honored with the Holy Name Society Medal (Brooklyn/Queens).--RM
Hispanic Society Memorial Medal

LIEUTENANT JASON J. RIGOLI

LADDER COMPANY 16 (ASSIGNED)
ENGINE COMPANY 39 (DETAILED)

July 23, 2011, 0046 hours, Box 75-1051, 815 Park Avenue, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on February 1, 2000. Prior assignments include Engine 275 and Ladder 55. Father, FF Vincent J. Rigoli, is retired from Engine 262 and brother, Captain Christopher Rigoli, is assigned to Ladder 112. Holds Associate degrees in Management from SUNY at Farmingdale and in Applied Science from the Culinary Institute of America. Resides in Lindenhurst, Long Island, with his wife, Kimberly, and their five children, Amanda, David, Vincent, Alexandra and Nicholas.

Just before 0100 hours on July 23, 2011, Engine 39 received a telephone alarm for Box 1051, reporting a fire in a multiple dwelling at 815 Park Avenue. Although assigned second-de, Engine 39 was informed that the first-due engine would be seriously delayed. Lieutenant Jason Rigoli--assigned to Ladder 16, but working this tour in Engine 39--acknowledged the dispatcher and informed his members that they would be operating as the first-due engine.

In anticipation of a standpipe stretch, as Engine 39 approached the 14-story building, Lieutenant Rigoli instructed the chauffeur to take a position in proximity to the Siamese. The Officer entered the lobby, along with the members of Engine 39 and Ladder 16. The doorman informed the Lieutenant that there was a fire in apartment 4A on the fourth floor and two elderly occupants were unaccounted for.

Lieutenant Rigoli relayed this information to the members of Engine 39 and advanced up the service stairwell with Ladder 16. As he reached the landing of the third floor, Lieutenant Rigoli instructed his members to hook up to the standpipe in the service stairwell and initiate the stretch.

After several years in Ladder 16, Lieutenant Rigoli had become all too familiar with this building and the large, complex layout of the apartments. He knew he had to enter the apartment to determine the best route to reach the seat of the fire. Due to high humidity and a reverse stack effect, conditions in the apartment and public hallway began to deteriorate rapidly.

As Lieutenant Rigoli entered the apartment, he was met with high heat and near-zero visibility. As he began crawling into the apartment, he made his way from the hallway into the living room where fire could be seen lapping out the rear bedroom. As the Lieutenant began exiting the apartment to guide the nozzle Firefighter to the seat of the fire, he heard a faint moan coming from the living room.

He immediately turned back and began crawling closer to the fire area. Despite high heat, expanding fire and no protective hand-line in place, Lieutenant Rigoli advanced in search of the victims. He found an elderly woman, face-down and in respiratory arrest. He immediately transmitted a 10-45 to Battalion Chief Richard Tarello, Battalion 10.

He then began removing the victim by dragging her through the apartment, back to the public hallway and into the service stairway, where he was assisted by FF John Rodriguez, Engine 39. Lieutenant Rigoli had to return to the line immediately, so he turned patient care over to FF Michael Seluzitsky, Engine 39, who brought the woman to EMS personnel in the lobby. EMS revived the patient at the scene and removed her to the hospital where she was treated for smoke inhalation and respiratory arrest. (Although in critical condition, the woman ultimately recovered, moved back to the building and is living with relatives.)

Lieutenant Rigoli called for water and reached the fire apartment door as the line was bled. Because he had just exited the apartment, he was able to lead Engine 39 directly to the seat of the fire, which had intensified. Although the Officer and Firefighters encountered extremely difficult conditions, they were able to knock down the fire that had extended into the living room and advance the line to the rear bedroom.

Although Ladder 16 was unable to break the apartment windows, they were able to force the windows by pushing the entire frame into the apartment with the aerial ladder. It later was learned that the inability to ventilate the apartment (which exacerbated the smoke and heat conditions) was due to hurricane windows installed to soundproof the apartment.

For his heroic actions under brutal conditions, Lieutenant Jason Rigoli is awarded the Hispanic Society Memorial Medal.

In the interests of promoting safety, Lieutenant Rigoli shared his experience with the specialty windows that attributed to the high heat and intense smoke conditions from this fire in an article co-written with FF Ron Corsale, Ladder 16, in the 1st/2012 issue of WNYF, the official training publication of the FDNY.

Lieutenant Jason Rigoli with Ladder 16 members. He was presented with the Hispanic Society Memorial Medal in recognition for his act of bravery on July 23, 2011.
The Firefighters of New York City respond to myriad emergency situations, day in and day out. As members of an “all hazards” agency, they must be ready to spring into action, no matter what the circumstances of the alarm. Such was the case on a beautiful, sunny and hot July afternoon, when Engine 22, under the command of Lieutenant Carmine Calderaro, along with other units from Battalion 10, were directed to the Central Park Reservoir for a person in the water. On the apparatus that day was FF Michael Stothers, who was detailed to the engine from Ladder 13.

As the companies were responding to the reported location of East 96th Street and Fifth Avenue, they were re-directed to go to East 90th Street. Engine 22 arrived first-due and FF Stothers quickly stepped off the apparatus and proceeded to the water’s edge. Seeing a person in the water at approximately 95th Street, FF Stothers immediately started running along the jogging path, which goes around the reservoir.

When he arrived opposite the victim, his natural instinct to help a person in obvious distress took over. FF Stothers vaulted over the fence—which surrounds the 40-foot-deep reservoir—unhesitatingly jumped into the water and swam approximately 100 feet out to a 47-year-old man, who was floating face-up. The victim was unresponsive and unable to aid in his rescue.

Other than a life ring, there was no water rescue equipment or flotation devices onboard Engine 22. Additionally, members did not have any formal water rescue training.

While FF Stothers was swimming toward the victim, Engine 22, which had traveled along the bridle path paralleling the reservoir, arrived. As FF Stothers was making his way toward the victim, FF William Pitta secured an additional life ring from a police officer and started out to meet FF Stothers. After maneuvering the victim halfway to shore, FF Stothers was joined by FF Pitta, who assisted in getting the man the rest of the way to safety. Members of Ladder 43 were at waterside to assist in bringing the victim to the waiting crew of Engine 22 for medical attention. Subsequently, the man was taken to St. Luke’s Hospital for treatment.

As this incident unfolded, it is worthy to note that FF Stothers recognized the severity of the situation and took decisive action, knowing that a life was at stake. Initially acting alone, without regard for his safety, he risked his own well-being for that of another person. His action in swimming to and dragging the victim from the water undoubtedly saved the man’s life.

For his initiative, perseverance and acting in the highest traditions of the FDNY, the Captain Denis W. Lane Memorial Medal is proudly presented to FF Michael D. Stothers. --BDG
At 2348 hours on April 6, 2011, Ladder 30 was responding first-due to Box 1599 for a reported fire at 2660 8th Avenue in Manhattan. The dispatcher advised the Officer--Captain “E.J.” Tierney--that they were receiving multiple calls for a fire on the 18th floor. Just prior to Ladder 30’s arrival, the first-due engine Officer (Engine 69) transmitted a 10-77 for heavy smoke from several windows on the 18th floor.

Entering the lobby, Captain Tierney was notified by the Officer of the second-due engine (Engine 80) that the first-due engine had taken one of the high-rise bank elevators (serving floors 13-21) and that the second high-rise elevator was out of service. Armed with that information, Captain Tierney led his inside team--FFs Russell Miklitsch with the irons and John McDowell, detailed from Ladder 27, with the extinguisher--to an elevator in the low-rise bank (serving floors 1-12).

Exiting the elevator at the 12th floor, the team accessed the “A” stairway and ascended toward the 18th floor. At the 16th floor, Ladder 30’s inside team encountered several evacuating occupants, who said that people were trapped above. At the 17th floor, the team encountered three hysterical civilians, screaming out a person’s name into the thick, black smoke emanating from the enclosed stairway’s open door on the 18th floor.

One inconsolable woman grabbed Captain Tierney and screamed that people were trapped in apartment 18-A. The enclosed stairway led into an open, 25- by 25-foot common breezeway, which split the building into two separate wings. Each wing has its own fire door, elevator and dead-end halls. After donning all of their personal protective equipment (PPE), Ladder 30’s inside team began to work their way onto the 18th floor.

They were met with high heat, which forced them to crawl into the breezeway. Identified by the intense heat and smoke conditions, Captain Tierney knew they had the correct wing. The breezeway’s fire door was partially ajar and would not open any further. Captain Tierney ordered FF Miklitsch to chock the door open. After searching behind the door, FF McDowell yelled to the Captain that there was an unconscious 10-45 wedged into the door. As the two Firefighters began removing the unconscious victim, Captain Tierney pressed on with the search.

Hugging the right-hand wall, Captain Tierney crawled down the hallway despite the intensifying heat conditions. The hallway went on for 25 feet, made a 90-degree right turn and continued on for an additional 25 feet to the dead end. As Captain Tierney reached the turn, he found a second unconscious victim, who was the first victim’s mother. The 71-year-old woman weighed more than 200 lbs. and suffered severe burns to more than 30 percent of her body. With no time to reposition the victim and after radioing an urgent message for a second 10-45, Captain Tierney started to drag the victim by her feet toward the relative safety of the stairway. As he worked toward the breezeway fire door, he was met by his inside team.

After removing the victim to the stairway’s half-landing (between the 17th and 18th floors), Captain Tierney and his inside team then returned down the 18th-floor hallway to the eight-room Collyers’ mansion-type fire apartment and conducted the primary search.

Acting alone, in high heat and zero visibility, without regard for his own safety, Captain Tierney performed a blind search without the protection of a charged hose-line. In recognition of his heroics and in the finest traditions of the FDNY, Captain (now Battalion Chief) Edward J. Tierney is presented with the Uniformed Fire Officers Association Medal, his ninth FDNY commendation in his 31-year career.--SM
On a summer afternoon in August 2011, Paramedic Timothy Anson and his partner, Paramedic Hoover Lopez, started their tour just as they are well-trained to do: After checking out their ambulance and equipment, they rolled out of Station 8 in Kips Bay. They were a couple of hours into their evening tour on August 25, 2011, when they were called to a pedestrian struck on East 34th Street and First Avenue. Initially, they thought it was a routine call, but as they were responding to the scene of the accident, they heard the EMS dispatcher change the call type from a pedstruck to a multiple trauma patient. They heard over the radio that the patient was pinned underneath a taxi.

When the pair of Paramedics arrived on-scene, there was a large crowd. Paramedic Anson immediately noticed the look of horror on many of their faces. They were pointing at the taxi and screaming that someone was pinned underneath. Paramedic Anson jumped out of the ambulance and ran over to the still-running taxi. Without hesitation, he crawled on his stomach underneath the taxi to make patient contact. He was expecting the worst, but much to his surprise, he found the patient awake and breathing, with a huge smile on her face. The patient, a 24-year-old female, immediately began talking to Paramedic Anson and expressed how scared she was. The rescuer knew he had to remain calm to keep his patient calm. While waiting for additional resources, he continued to reassure her that he would not leave her side.

As Paramedic Anson began his patient assessment, he noticed the woman’s purse straps had been wrapped around her neck during the accident, severely restricting her breathing. He quickly used his trauma shears to cut the straps from her neck to facilitate easier breathing. Paramedic Anson knew his patient required acute medical attention and the vehicle had to be lifted off her body as soon as possible. The woman had multiple traumatic injuries due to the impact of the taxi, being dragged underneath it and making contact with the vehicle’s hot muffler and exhaust system. She had injuries to all but one of her extremities, as well as severe burns, abrasions and lacerations.

Paramedics Anson and Lopez, along with fellow EMTs, quickly devised a plan to treat the patient, while Firefighters and police officers began to stabilize the vehicle. Paramedic Anson initiated advanced life support, immediately starting an IV to pump fluids into her body, monitoring her vital signs and attempting to stabilize her neck and back—all while underneath the taxi. With the assistance of the Firefighters, Paramedic Anson was able to place a collar on her neck and a backboard under her body.

As the Firefighters began to inflate the airbags, Paramedic Anson continued to monitor his patient and reassured her that they would free her from this one-and-a-half-ton vehicle resting on her tiny body. Eventually, the airbags were high enough so they could safely remove the woman from underneath the taxi. By this time, the patient was fully immobilized, had received a liter of fluid and had a complete physical and mental assessment. Once removed and placed on the stretcher, the patient’s spirits remained high as she continued to smile and thank all of the rescue workers who had helped her.

Paramedic Anson would not leave his patient and was underneath the vehicle with her until she was safely removed. For disregarding his personal safety and applying his advanced life support skills in an unstable environment, in a calm and comforting manner, Paramedic Timothy Anson is honored by the FDNY with the Chief James Scullion Medal today.—ML
Dr. Albert A. Cinelli Medal

LIEUTENANT THOMAS V. MADONNA

BATTALION 51 (ASSIGNED)

ENGINE COMPANY 298 (DETAILED)

February 24, 2011, 1701 hours, Box 75-6600, 88-31 173rd Street, Jamaica, Queens

Appointed to the FDNY on October 2, 2000. He has been UFO in Engine 302 since 2009. Previously assigned to Engine 255. Holds a Bachelor degree in Psychology from St. Joseph’s College and an Associate degree in Nursing from St. Vincent’s School of Nursing. Recipient of a Unit Citation. Resides in Queens.

On the afternoon of February 24, 2011, at 1700 hours, Engine 298, commanded by Lieutenant Thomas Madonna (assigned to Battalion 51), were returning from a previous alarm when they received radio alarm Box 6600. The call was for a reported building fire in a private dwelling at 88-31 173rd Street in Jamaica, Queens. Engine 298 responded and arrived at the scene first-due.

On arrival, members were greeted with thick, heavy, black smoke, pushing from the front door. Additionally, heavy smoke conditions were observed at the second floor and coming from the eaves of the two-story, peaked roof, private dwelling. A frantic male, seeking help, was waving outside the residence.

Lieutenant Madonna transmitted the 10-75 for a confirmed fire on arrival. He and the members of Engine 298 sprang into action. He ordered the company to stretch a 1 3/4-inch line to the front door. While the Firefighters were stretching the line, Lieutenant Madonna forced the front door by himself because no truck company was on-scene yet.

When he entered the building to locate the fire, Lieutenant Madonna found rapidly deteriorating conditions with zero visibility, extremely high heat and a Collyers’ mansion environment. Lieutenant Madonna transmitted a 10-45 and began to remove the victim. He observed that fire on the first floor now was quickly advancing to his location and beginning to roll over his head. He grabbed the unconscious female under her arms and made his move, dragging her back 20 feet to the main entrance. The Lieutenant made his way back through the debris and brought the woman to the front door and then the safety of the front porch.

Arriving at the porch, Lieutenant Madonna was met by the forcible entry team of Ladder 127 and the Engine 298 members, who had completed their stretch and flaked out their line. The Lieutenant transferred the victim to EMS personnel for medical care and transport to Queens General Hospital. Lieutenant Madonna called for water and then supervised Engine 298 members as they extinguished the fire. The woman was treated for severe smoke inhalation. Although unconscious when admitted, after several weeks in the hospital, she was released, fully recovered.

According to Chief Tauber, “Lieutenant Madonna’s meritorious actions and personal initiative by working without a ladder company present, highlighted his professional capabilities.” Deputy Chief Paul Ferro, Division 13, concurred, Lieutenant Madonna’s actions were “an individual act of personal bravery.” And, because of his heroism, a life was saved.

In recognition of his aggressiveness, initiative and capability, the FDNY presents Lieutenant Thomas Madonna with the Dr. Albert A. Cinelli Medal. --- TW
In the early morning hours of November 8, 2011, Bronx Firefighters were alerted by the transmission of Bronx Box 3604 for a report of fire in a private dwelling. Ladder 51 was assigned as the second-due truck. The first-due units transmitted a 10-75. The fire building was a one-story, peaked-roof series of attached garages that were converted to an apartment. This Bronxwood Avenue conversion provided a unique situation for FDNY members who performed heroically and saved lives.

At the beginning of the tour, Lieutenant Victor Leeber, Engine 38, but detailed to Ladder 51 for the tour, assigned FF Michael J. Gardella, III, the roof position and FF John Keaveney, Ladder 51, the outside vent position. As Ladder 51 arrived on-scene, members observed heavy fire conditions and received reports of people trapped.

Because of the peaked roof, FFs Gardella and Keaveney teamed up and forcible entry ensued on what appeared to be a separate attached garage (exposure) on the left side of the fire building. FF Gardella noticed the door was tight and fortified, equipped with two slide bolts, one at the top and one at the bottom. Once the door was forced and partially opened, the outside team was met with another hurdle—mattresses and a sofa piled against the door. FF Gardella realized that with the fortified door, contents of the apartment and reports of people trapped, an aggressive search for life was necessary.

This incident challenged Firefighters with a confusing apartment layout and illegal alterations to a building that was never intended for human occupancy. The illegal alterations created a four-bedroom living area, including the original fire area and what was thought to be the exposure.

FFs Gardella and Keaveney donned their self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and personal protective equipment (PPE), split up and began a well-calculated search. Each member encountered dense black smoke, high heat and active fire. Through a flimsy wooden door, fire began to enter the area the two Firefighters were searching. With fire chewing through the door, higher temperatures and extension of fire toward the pair necessitated quick searches.

FF Gardella was forced to his stomach and pushed past the fire without the protection of a hose-line or extinguisher. Searching this area proved to be an arduous task, due to old clothes, garbage and furniture placed throughout the apartment. He made his way to the rear of the structure where he found a door at the opposite side of the building. He began feeling with his hand and felt a toilet, followed by a bathtub. As he swept the bathtub with his hand, he found a 60-year-old female.

The Firefighter transmitted a 10-45 and began removing the victim from the bathtub. This proved difficult because the woman was obese. However, FF Gardella managed to pull her out of the bathtub without assistance. As the woman was placed on the floor, she had to be dragged through all the debris encountered on the search in; not an easy task.

FF Gardella was met by FF Keaveney about halfway back to the door that led all three to safety. Once the victim was dragged out of the fire area, FF Gardella started CPR until EMS personnel arrived. The victim was immediately transported to Jacobi Hospital and placed into the hyperbaric chamber.

This fire was difficult for all units on-scene. There was a total of three 10-45s—the first was burned and self-evacuated; the second succumbed to injuries; and the third would not be alive today if it wasn’t for FF Gardella’s aggressive action and disciplined search efforts—without the protection of a charged hand-line.

FF Gardella upheld the greatest traditions of the New York City Fire Department. He operated without regard for his personal safety and under extreme conditions. For his heroism, FF Michael Gardella, III, is presented with the Fire Chiefs Association Memorial Medal.

Members of 51 Truck—FF Keaveney, Lieutenant Leeber and FFs Michael Gardella (awarded the Fire Chiefs Association Memorial Medal) and Wacha.
In the early-morning hours of Father’s Day 2011, the tones sounded in the quarters of Engine 325 and Tower Ladder 163 for a UCT911 phone alarm for a fire on the second floor at 60-05 44th Avenue in Woodside, Queens. The fire was reported to be in apartment B5 of the four-story building and while the truck was responding, the dispatcher informed the companies that a second source was received for smoke coming from apartment B5 with a possible person trapped.

Engine 292 was the first unit to arrive and transmitted the 10-75 because of fire and smoke blowing out of a window on the second floor. When Ladder 163 arrived, the inside team of Captain James Hay and FFs Thomas Adams with the extinguisher and James Pue with the irons, immediately took the interior stairs to the second floor.

When they arrived at apartment B5, the inside team encountered heavy, black smoke in the hallway, with a high heat condition and smoke pushing from the fire apartment. Engine 292 members were stretching a hand-line, but water was not yet on the fire.

The forcible entry team went to work, forcing the apartment door. As soon as the door was open, FF Adams entered the apartment and began using the extinguisher to push the flames at ceiling level back toward the bedroom. The fire originated in the bedroom at the end of the apartment’s hallway and was extending out into the corridor.

FF Adams proceeded about 15 feet down the narrow hallway, past cardboard boxes, plastic storage drawers and the high heat coming from the bedroom. He was able to use the extinguisher to push the flames rolling across the ceiling back into the bedroom as he made his way down the corridor.

When FF Adams arrived at the entrance to the bedroom, he discovered the unconscious, 46-year-old Patrick Brown, who was barely breathing. The Firefighter transmitted the 10-45 to Captain Hay.

FF Adams relinquished the extinguisher and started dragging the victim out of the fire apartment. He had to drag Mr. Brown past the same obstacles he encountered on the way in, which made his task more difficult. Since there was no water on the fire, the flames and heat resumed, traveling across the ceiling.

Once FF Adams and the victim reached the stairwell, Captain Hay assisted Mr. Brown with his breathing. FF Adams and Captain Hay carried the victim down the public stairs and outside the building. The victim’s care was turned over to EMS personnel, who transported him to Elmhurst Hospital.

FF Pue remained with the Officer of Engine 292 to continue searching the fire apartment. With Mr. Brown out of the fire apartment, Engine 292 members were able to enter the narrow hallway with the hose-line and extinguish the fire in the bedroom.

In his endorsement of the Report of Meritorious Act for FF Adams, Deputy Chief Steve Kubler, Division 14, wrote, “The actions of FF Adams demonstrated personal bravery, as well as initiative and capability. Due to the quick actions of FF Adams, not only did Mr. Brown survive this fire, his injuries were minimized.”

The Board of Merit agreed and FF Thomas Adams is officially recognized with the Fire Marshals Benevolent Association Medal.
Serving the citizens of Brooklyn for nearly a century, Engine 279 and Ladder 131 have been protecting life and property in the Red Hook section of the borough since 1913. On March 18, 2011, the members working in the firehouse on Lorraine Street were called upon once again to quench flames and save lives. At 0740 hours, the tones sounded, triggering the response of both companies to a phone alarm for a fire reported at 537 Court Street.

As Tower Ladder 131 was crossing the apron of the firehouse, the dispatcher advised them that multiple calls were being received for Box 1338, with reports of people trapped, a sign that the members likely would be “going to work.” Smoke was visible shortly after pulling out of quarters and both companies arrived at the three-story fire building in fewer than two and a half minutes.

On arrival, members were met with fire blowing out the windows of a store on the first floor, with heavy, acrid smoke pushing from the windows of the apartments above. Lieutenant Chris Gaby, Engine 279, transmitted signal 10-75, as Lieutenant Peter Traut, the Officer in charge of Ladder 131 for the tour, astutely observed window bars, which prompted him to apprise the dispatcher so that an additional truck would be assigned to the Box.

After forcing entry, Ladder 131’s inside team donned their facepieces and entered the fire building. On a small landing atop three stairs, Lieutenant Traut found an inner, locked door to the commercial occupancy. To provide his forcible entry team with adequate room to work, the Officer passed the landing and climbed a little bit higher on the staircase.

From this position and amidst the noise of the firefighting efforts underway, Lieutenant Traut heard a muffled moan coming from the second floor. He knew time was critical, with conditions deteriorating. Lieutenant Traut did not have the luxury of waiting for a hose-line to be placed into operation before a search was made. As Lieutenant Gaby was waiting in the entry doorway for Engine 279’s nozzle Firefighter, Lieutenant Traut informed the engine Officer that he was going to the floor above the fire.

With every step closer to the second floor, the heat and smoke intensified. Visibility was nil. First sweeping the stairs and then the second-floor hallway with an outstretched arm, Lieutenant Traut’s hand corroborated what his ears had told him moments earlier--someone was overcome by smoke.

Alerting members on the fireground of the 10-45, Lieutenant Traut began the arduous task of dragging the unconscious victim toward the narrow staircase. At this time, Ladder 131’s forcible entry team popped the inner door to the store and conditions on the second-floor landing became untenable. Using his body to shield the middle-aged male victim from the intense heat, Lieutenant Traut made his way down the stairs, past the congested landing from which members were entering the store and outside to waiting EMS personnel.

If not for the heroic actions of Lieutenant Traut, Antonio Aguilar surely would have met his demise. Suffering a hernia in the process of effecting this rescue, the Lieutenant demonstrated situational awareness, initiative and bravery as he selflessly placed himself in harm’s way to save the life of a stranger. For demonstrating the greatest virtues of the FDNY, Lieutenant Peter Traut is awarded the Community Mayors, Inc./Lt. Robert R. Dolney Medal. --AD
As the calendar moves into December, many New Yorkers travel out to the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Dyker Heights and Bensonhurst nightly to marvel at the spectacularly decorated homes adorned with countless varieties of colored flashing lights, bulbs and moving figurines. Some say this area “feels like Christmas” and the only thing that might spoil these wondrous nights is an occasional rain or snowstorm and the increased automobile traffic. However, at 2224 hours on Saturday, December 3, 2011, the joyous feelings the holiday lights bring to this neighborhood were overshadowed by the light of a quickly advancing fire at Brooklyn Box 2816.

The Brooklyn Communications Office informed Ladder 168 of numerous calls for a structural fire at 7718 16th Avenue, a 20- by 60-foot, Class 3 multiple dwelling. Leading the company was Lieutenant John D. Sullivan, Jr., and members were directed to respond as the first-due truck. Arriving at the address in approximately four minutes, the company received several reports from distressed civilians regarding trapped occupants inside the 2½-story building. Lieutenant Sullivan remained calm and quickly developed the team’s plan of attack.

Lieutenant Sullivan observed thick smoke pushing from the entire second floor. He led the other members of the forcible entry team--FFs Michael Ellia with the irons and Joseph Engel with the extinguisher--into the building. They encountered an occupant who was forced to flee the unchecked fire. She told them her 70-year-old husband was still in the apartment.

Lieutenant Sullivan observed two apartments at the top of the stairs and both doors were open with smoke emanating from both units. This factor meant the team would have no avenue of retreat should conditions worsen. However, Lieutenant Sullivan led his team up the stairs and FF Ellia immediately found an unconscious female at the front door of the apartment. He removed the victim, leaving Lieutenant Sullivan and FF Engel to complete the search of the units.

Lieutenant Sullivan moved into one of the apartments and down a 30-foot corridor. Conditions worsened and he was operating without the benefit of a charged hose-line. He reached the two bedrooms, one of which was fully involved. From the other room, he heard the sound of a person struggling to breathe. Moving into this room, Lieutenant Sullivan quickly performed a systematic search and found a victim weighing more than 300 pounds sitting in a chair.

Lieutenant Sullivan now had the arduous task of removing this person alone. Thinking quickly, the Lieutenant pushed the victim and the chair toward the safety of the front door. However, after moving about 25 feet, the chair collapsed under the victim’s weight. Thus, Lieutenant Sullivan used his remaining strength to drag the man out of the burning apartment. Reaching safety, he passed the victim to FF Engel and directed him to remove the man to the street. Lieutenant Sullivan went back into the apartment and directed Engine 243’s hose team to the fire location.

In his report of the incident, Battalion Chief Brian Lanci, Battalion 42, noted, Lieutenant Sullivan, “through determination and brute force was able to remove the helpless victim from imminent peril and performed a successful rescue in the highest tradition of the Fire Department.”

For his resoluteness and bravery, Lieutenant John D. Sullivan, Jr., is recognized with the Battalion Chief Frank T. Tuttlemondo Medal.

FF Michael Ellia and Lieutenant John Sullivan, following the Lieutenant’s rescue of a man. FF Ellia found an unconscious woman and removed her.
By mid-July, New York City usually is sweltering through the “dog days” of summer and the climbing thermometer and humidity levels make the days almost unbearable. Such days are particularly tough on Firefighters, due to their protective equipment, the tools they carry and sometimes the size of the nameless victims they go in harm’s way to rescue. All of these factors came to the fore on the morning of July 9, 2011, when a fire ignited from overtaxed electronic equipment on the second floor of 2120 Lafayette Avenue, a two-story, 20- by 60-foot, class four multiple dwelling.

Shortly after 0700 hours on that hot and sticky morning, the tones sounded in the quarters of Engine 64/Ladder 47 on Castle Hill Avenue, directing the companies to the Lafayette Avenue address. Assigned the outside vent position in Ladder 47 was FF Douglas Ferretti.

The company arrived in fewer than four minutes and found fire and heavy smoke pushing from the second-floor rear windows. Civilians told the members people were trapped in the second-floor rear apartment. FF Ferretti grabbed his tools and raced to the exposure #2 side of the wood-frame structure where the fire escape was located.

As he got to the bottom of the fire escape, the Firefighter ordered two civilians who had climbed up the ladder to come down so he could perform his duties. With the civilians off the ladder, FF Ferretti donned his facepiece, ascended the ladder, vented the window and forced the window gate. While FF Ferretti was performing these tasks, he heard a radio report from his Officer, Lieutenant Timothy Sullivan, that Ladder 47 had removed a victim.

Knowing full well that seconds could mean the difference between life and death, FF Ferretti entered the apartment and immediately found a high heat condition and zero visibility. He began a search of the kitchen. Finding it clear, he proceeded into the living room where the still-unchecked fire was burning. Without the benefit of a hose-line for protection, FF Ferretti used a left-handed search and crawled past the sofa and into the left rear bedroom, where he found a bed.

Checking both the top and around the bed, FF Ferretti determined the room to be empty. He then proceeded out of the bedroom and toward the dining room. He continued his search into the other bedroom. At this point, FF Ferretti was confronted by several boxes of material belonging to the tenant. He quickly searched the area and found a body, face-down, on the floor.

FF Ferretti called out that he had found another victim and Lieutenant Sullivan transmitted a second 10-45. The Firefighter tried to move the large victim on his own, but had to call out for help. FF Ferretti and other members of Ladder 47 then dragged the victim from the room, through the apartment, past the members of Engine 64—who had begun to put water on the fire—and out to safety.

In his report of the incident, Lieutenant Sullivan noted, “FF Ferretti, without the protection of a charged hose-line, operating by himself in high heat and zero visibility, was able to search for and locate the victim…thus saving his life.” Therefore, the New York City Fire Department is proud to honor FF Douglas Ferretti today with the Dr. John F. Connell Medal.

--- DJH
In the pre-dawn hours of a February morning, Ladder 42 was dispatched to a reported fire in a five-story apartment building on Gilbert Place in the Hunts Point section of the Bronx. When the company arrived, members noticed occupants descending fire escapes in the cold air as fire lapped out of four windows on the third floor. Lieutenant Robert E. Lee, who was commanding the truck for the night tour, knew immediately that his main priority was to search above the fire—especially the fourth floor—directly above the fire’s origin.

As Lieutenant Lee led his inside team—extinguisher Firefighter Thomas E. Morrison and forcible entry Firefighter Christopher Morgan—into the lobby, additional residents were fleeing the building by the interior stairs. The Incident Commander (IC), Battalion Chief Thomas P. McKiernan, Battalion 3, then informed Lieutenant Lee over the handie-talkie that people may be trapped on an upper floor.

As a 17-year veteran of the FDNY, the Lieutenant already knew the dangers on the floors above a fire, especially in older, wood-and-brick buildings with open stairwells and numerous voids. However, the radio transmission added to the urgency of his primary search mission.

When Lieutenant Lee and Ladder 42’s inside team arrived on the third-floor landing, the inside team of the first-due truck company, Ladder 48, was trying to contain the flames and heat to the fire apartment (3A) by closing the front door, while they waited for Engine 94’s hose-line to arrive. Intense heat already had warped the apartment door, leaving it ajar, and causing unusually thick, black smoke to drive into the public hallway.

Consistent with sound firefighting safety precautions, Lieutenant Lee informed, in person, both the engine and ladder Officers on the fire floor that he intended to ascend the public stairs with his forcible entry team in search of victims. Time was running out for anyone above the fire and exposed to the choking smoke and heat. Without the hose-line in place below, Lieutenant Lee and FFs Morgan and Morrison made an advance on the floor above the fire—a place where Firefighters must act quickly and decisively.

Lieutenant Lee’s aggressive tactics paid off immediately. Arriving first on the fourth-floor landing, enveloped in total darkness and high heat, the Officer discovered an unconscious woman on the floor of the public hallway and transmitted that information to Chief McKiernan. While trying to protect the woman from fire and heat as best they could, FF Morrison and Lieutenant Lee dragged the 42-year-old victim to the safety of the second floor, where they transferred patient care to members of Engine 73.

The two rescuers then headed back up to the fourth floor to continue their search with FF Morgan, who had forced his way into the apartment directly above the fire. The members of Ladder 42 completed searches of the fourth and fifth floors, finding no other occupants.

The victim, Mayra Acosta, spent considerable time in the Jacobi Medical Center’s Intensive Care Unit for smoke inhalation and burns, even spending time in the hyperbaric chamber. However, she is alive, due to the courage and determination exhibited by Lieutenant Lee. For his actions on the precarious floor above a fire before a hose-line could protect him and his forcible entry team, Lieutenant Robert E. Lee is awarded the Fire Bell Club Medal.
While most New Yorkers have never tried the sport, surfing enthusiasts can be found all along the Rockaway Peninsula. By November, the beaches are quiet. However, when a post-summer hurricane churns up the waters, there are individuals who still look to see if they can find that “perfect wave,” regardless of the cooler temperatures or the danger of going into the ocean without a lifeguard present. This was the scenario on the afternoon of November 12, 2010, when FF Evan J. Davis and the members of Ladder 137 received a report of a missing surfer.

At 1615 hours, the tones sounded in the quarters of Ladder 137, directing the company to respond to Box 1337, at Beach 92nd Street and Shorefront Parkway. At the time, the weather was extreme, following the remnants of Hurricane Thomas and temperatures were in the mid-50s, with six- to eight-foot waves and dangerous rip currents.

When Ladder 137 arrived in a little more than four minutes, members were told a surfer was submerged and presumed drowned. Even though there were other surfers in the area, apparently, they could not reach the victim.

FF Davis, assigned to the rescue swimmer position, believed time was critical. Aside from his duties as a Firefighter, FF Davis also is an experienced ocean lifeguard. He immediately dove into the rough surf and navigated the strong currents and white water toward an unattended surfboard, fighting each set of waves as they pounded him, the shore line and a nearby jetty. FF Davis, at the risk of being thrown against the jagged pylons by the crashing surf and strong currents, inched closer to the surfboard and found the unconscious male surfer submerged, but still attached to the board.

FF Davis grabbed the victim, brought him to the surface and began to swim back toward shore. He soon was assisted by FF Casey Skudin, Ladder 137, and, together, they carried him to shore. Once on the beach, it was determined the victim was not breathing and had no pulse, CPR was performed by members of Engine 268 and EMS personnel transported the victim to a local hospital. Although in severely critical condition, the man was resuscitated and brought back to life, after being under water for more than 10 minutes. Tragically, the surfer expired about a month later. In no way does this detract from the truly heroic efforts put forth by FF Davis.

In investigating the incident, Battalion Chief Charles Silvia, Battalion 47, noted, “FF Davis’ success under these conditions is a testimony to his extraordinary abilities. His rescue in these difficult conditions honors the Fire Department and demonstrates the core values of bravery and initiative.” This sentiment was echoed by Deputy Chief Charles Clarke, Division 13, who wrote, “FF Davis operated in the highest traditions of this Department and subjected himself to...risk, due to the wave conditions, rip currents and dangers of the fixed jetty and was able to accomplish what many other capable surfers and swimmers could not.” In recognition of his bravery, the FDNY is proud to honor FF Evan Davis with the Firefighter David J. DeFranco Medal today.--JB
On a work day that seemed to begin in a “typical” way, Paramedics Samantha Neverson and Michael Toomey arrived for their 0700 tour on July 26, 2011, at EMS Station 32 in Brooklyn. They are both certified as Rescue Paramedics and assigned to unit 48R2. However, as advanced lifesaving (ALS) crews such as Paramedics Neverson and Toomey get ready to start their tour, they never know when their specialized training may be called into play.

That afternoon, Paramedics Neverson and Toomey were assigned to a difficulty breathing call. After performing a thorough assessment on the patient, the Paramedics were notified of a fire that started in a building near their location. The patient they assessed was found to be stable and safely transferred to the basic lifesaving (BLS) unit on-scene for transport. The two Paramedics now were available to respond to the fire burning in front of them.

Paramedic Neverson notified EMS dispatch of an active fire, providing the location, best access and staging area. Residents from the surrounding buildings were standing in front of the fire, watching this horrific scene, frozen as if in shock. Screams could be heard from inside the building, which prompted Paramedics Neverson and Toomey to spring into action.

First, the Paramedics moved the bystanders to a safe area, away from the fire building. Then, they entered the building and began a floor-by-floor search, helping to evacuate any people who were still inside.

Amid the noise and anxiety, Paramedic Toomey noticed heavy smoke coming from an open apartment door. Realizing that this could be where the fire had started, he closed the door to the apartment. This action held the fire back, facilitating a safe evacuation of civilians.

Exiting the building after a thorough search, Paramedics Neverson and Toomey assumed the role of the first responding unit, taking charge of the incident. Paramedic Neverson provided updates to EMS dispatch, assisting the first-arriving EMS Officer.

Simultaneously, Paramedic Toomey assisted in staging, providing the best access and egress for assigned EMS resources. Both Paramedics remained for the duration of the event, assisting the Medical Branch Director with medical care and on-scene management.

These two Paramedics went above and beyond the call of duty, assisting civilians who were trying to escape a fire. Their dedication and training assured a clear and accurate notification of the incident and they provided the proper direction and support when needed. For their worthy actions in the face of danger, the FDNY honors Paramedics Samantha Neverson and Michael Toomey with the Lieutenant Kirby McElhearn Medal.~JA
The Bureau of Fire Investigation (BFI) is responsible for conducting a broad range of investigations related to fire, arson and fire-related crimes. On November 19, 2010, the BFI dispatched Fire Marshals to the scene of a three-alarm fire at 42 Westervelt Avenue, Staten Island. The FDNY Incident Commander had reported that 10 Firefighters had been seriously injured as a result of the firefighting operation. Fire Marshals Daniel Flynn and Constantine Kanelopoulos, Citywide South Command, were assigned to lead the investigation. This long-running investigation proved to be a true test of perseverance that would uncover a web of criminal conspiracy that included arson, kidnapping, assault and robbery.

When FMs Flynn and Kanelopoulos arrived at the fire scene, the extinguishment operation was still underway. FMs Flynn and Kanelopoulos, working with other members of the BFI, canvassed the scene to evaluate factors that might need prompt attention and identify potential investigative leads requiring further development. In the fire building, the forensic examination of the fire scene uncovered evidence leading Fire Marshals to determine the fire to be of incendiary origin, the result of arson.

A crucial piece of information, which became a critical lead in the investigation, came from Captain Kenneth Donohue, Engine 154. When FMs Flynn and Kanelopoulos interviewed the Captain, he described an earlier response that day to a local strip mall. FDNY units had aided a female in distress, who was trying to explain what had happened to her at 42 Westervelt Avenue--now the scene of the ongoing arson investigation. A search of hospital records helped Fire Marshals to locate and interview that woman. She had been taken to 42 Westervelt Avenue by several men. She was tied to a chair, stripped and beaten, in an effort to collect a drug debt. She explained that when she was unable to repay the debt, she was forced into prostitution or shoplifting as a means of repayment. Eventually, she was able to escape. This information also provided Fire Marshals with a significant motive. Ongoing investigation by FMs Flynn and Kanelopoulos soon identified a number of possible suspects associated with the fire building.

During the next several months, the investigation became focused on four men, all violent felony offenders. One individual recently had been paroled from a prison sentence for murder. The two Marshals launched a manhunt that led to the apprehension and arrest of all suspects. FMs Flynn and Kanelopoulos continued to work with prosecutors from the Office of the District Attorney on issues pertaining to case enhancement, evidence presentation and witness development, resulting in Grand Jury indictments on an array of charges that included arson, kidnapping, assault, robbery, labor trafficking and unlawful imprisonment.

The case was concluded successfully in 2011. The suspects all pled guilty, have been sentenced and currently are incarcerated with the New York State Department of Corrections. This is a significant BFI investigation and prosecution. The perpetrators in this case showed a depraved indifference to human life. FMs Flynn and Kanelopoulos distinguished themselves by working diligently, under the most challenging conditions, to develop investigative leads and formulate a strategy that resulted in the apprehension, prosecution and conviction of four violent career criminals. Throughout the course of this investigation, the pair demonstrated the resourcefulness and ability found only in the most knowledgeable investigators. The results of this investigation send forth a powerful message, to both the public and potential offenders: The FDNY will meet and confront all those who challenge the safety of the citizens of New York City and the Firefighters of the FDNY.

For their commitment to investigative excellence, FMs Daniel Flynn and Constantine Kanelopoulos are presented with the Deputy Commissioner Christine R. Godek Medal.
Firefighter Kevin C. Kane Medal

**FIREFIGHTER**

RYAN PATRICK WEBER

**LADDER COMPANY 47**

July 9, 2011, 0705 hours, Box 75-2694, 2120 Lafayette Avenue, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on March 7, 2004. Holds an Associate degree in Communications from Westchester Community College. Resides in Pelham Bay, the Bronx, with his wife, Edie, their son, Ryan, Jr., and stepsons, Phil, James and Frankie.

According to Edward F. Croker, FDNY Chief of Department, 1908: “Firefighting is a hazardous occupation; it is dangerous on the face of it, tackling a burning building. The risks are plain...consequently, when a man becomes a fireman, his act of bravery has already been accomplished.”

The Chief’s statement has proved true throughout the centuries. However, during the course of a Firefighter’s career, there are moments that surpass his/her initial act of bravery and those acts, no matter how challenging, can simultaneously be incredibly rewarding.

An event such as this occurred on the morning of July 9, 2011. At 0705 hours, the Bronx Communications Office received a report of fire at 2120 Lafayette Avenue. Ladder 47, along with Engine 64, were assigned first-due to the above address. On arrival, units encountered heavy smoke emanating from the second floor of a two-story, flat-roof private dwelling. Numerous bystanders in the street frantically were informing FDNY members that people were trapped in a rear bedroom.

Along with Lieutenant Tim Sullivan and extinguisher Firefighter Dan Gordon, Ladder 47, FF Ryan Weber--armed with his forcible entry tools--ascended the interior stairs to the second floor. Arriving at the fire floor, the inside team encountered rapidly deteriorating conditions, including a high heat condition and zero visibility due to the open fire apartment door.

The inside team donned their facepieces, preparing to find the trapped occupants. Without the protection of a charged hose-line in place, FF Weber began to perform an intense search for life. After searching through a maze of obstacles, he passed the raging fire in the living room and proceeded toward a rear hallway where he discovered the unconscious, 29-year-old Jaharr Brunson, who had collapsed behind a couch and was partially underneath the dining room table.

With this discovery, FF Weber transmitted a code 10-45 to Lieutenant Sullivan, indicating he had discovered a victim. FF Gordon immediately came to assist FF Weber to remove the man from peril. As the determined rescuers pulled the victim to the stairway, FF Jimmy MaGuire, Engine 64, joined with the inside team to remove the victim to the street.

Finally removed to a safe area, it was determined the man was in cardiac arrest and had suffered severe burns. His care was turned over to EMS personnel. Resuscitative attempts were initiated and Mr. Brunson, in critical condition, was transported to Jacobi Medical Center.

If not for FF Weber’s disregard for his own safety and fearless determination, Jaharr Brunson may have succumbed to his injuries. For his selfless and heroic actions and to the great appreciation of the people of the City of New York, FF Ryan Weber is presented with the Firefighter Kevin C. Kane Medal.--SI
There was more than 80 years of experience on-duty this day tour at Ladder 48: FF John Blake in the chauffeur position; the outside vent Firefighter Bryon Appleholm; FF Craig Frey was the roof Firefighter; and the forcible entry team included FFs Sean Doyle with the irons and James Colby with the extinguisher. The covering Officer was Lieutenant William Seiter (1). That knowledge and experience were tested at a Hunts Point five-alarm fire on March 9, 2011.

At 1407 hours, the housewatch Firefighter alerted members to an incoming “run.” As they donned their personal protective equipment (PPE), Bronx dispatch directed them to 754 Manida Street, between Spofford and Lafayette Avenues. The building was well-known to Ladder 48. Over the years, they had been there often for mostly routine jobs.

As FF Blake maneuvered the apparatus out of quarters and through the midday traffic, members listened intently to the dispatcher report additional information: “Fire on the second floor”; then, moments later, “Second source, fill out the alarm, we’re getting numerous phone calls.” The members anticipated a working fire and as they pulled into the block, that is exactly what they saw. Ladder 48 was confronted with heavy fire on the second floor of a big, “H”-type multiple dwelling, six stories high and fully occupied. Fire was in the “B” wing. Heavy fire with thick, black smoke boiled violently from the second-floor windows onto the adjacent exposure.

FF Blake positioned the apparatus and FF Appleholm started his ascent to the front fire escape. As Lieutenant Seiter led the forcible entry team into the building, occupants were pouring into the street, fleeing the fire. They notified Firefighters that numerous occupants were trapped on the floors above the fire.

At the front of the building, visibility was presenting a significant challenge for FF Blake. Weather conditions were causing the thick, black smoke to bank down to street level over the front of the entire building. But when the smoke did clear for a moment, he spotted a woman waving frantically from a fourth-floor window located directly above the advancing fire, just two floors below. He alerted FF Appleholm so that he could redirect his attention to that immediate life hazard.

Without missing a beat, FF Blake continued to raise the aerial ladder to the roof. Suddenly, he was alerted by FF Appleholm that there was a second victim, trapped and unconscious, inside the fourth-floor apartment. Ladder 48 was the only truck company on-scene.

FF Blake made his size-up, then redirected the aerial ladder to the fourth-floor fire escape. The front windows were dangerously close to blowing out and fire already was raging out the exposure #4 windows. These were the conditions as FF Blake began his ascent on the aerial.

The victim was hysterical, almost frozen. Conversely, FF Blake was calm, firm, resolute. He pulled the victim onto the ladder. Then, just as he began his descent on the aerial ladder, the front windows began to vent, pushing fire and smoke toward the aerial ladder. He took a firm hold of the woman, made a rapid descent through extreme high heat and passed her off to assisting Firefighters.

In a heartbeat, FF Blake was back at the turntable. The front windows to the fire apartment continued to vent. FFs Appleholm and Frey, now at the window of the fourth-floor apartment, were lifting the unconscious second victim out and onto the fire escape landing. In this position, they were dangerously exposed to fire, high heat and recurring zero visibility.

FF Blake directed via radio that both Firefighters maneuver their victim down to a more tenable third-floor fire escape landing. Then, he extended the aerial ladder to that position. Although still exposed to high heat and fire blowing out the vented windows, this position took the rescuers out of the most severely exposed area and provided just enough relief to quickly load the unconscious victim onto the aerial ladder. Demonstrating great skill, determination and coolness under pressure, FF Blake held his position at the controls to guide rescuers and victim alike to safety.

FF Blake operated under extreme and challenging fire conditions. Without the benefit of a charged, protective hose-line, FF Blake moved through rapidly deteriorating fire conditions, past fire that threatened to cut off his only egress. He demonstrated initiative, resourcefulness and courage in the performance of his duty. His leadership and decisive actions directly resulted in the rescue of the occupants of the apartment. For these reasons, FF John Blake, III, is presented with the Captain John J. Drennan Memorial Medal. --JDL
It takes a special person and certainly a commitment to civic duty when one chooses to become an emergency responder. And, when the person chooses to employ his/her skills and knowledge in a city such as New York, it also takes a certain degree of fortitude and a key sense of observation.

On April 22, 2011, EMTs Corey Imperial and Keith Martin demonstrated that they possess these qualities to be successful emergency responders in New York City. While responding to an assignment in the borough of Manhattan, as the crew approached the intersection of East 25th Street and Second Avenue, they observed a male with a wooden plank. In a very brisk and threatening manner, he was walking north on Second Avenue. The man appeared to be distraught and was striking random objects along his path with the plank. In a very brisk and threatening manner, he was walking north on Second Avenue.

The man appeared to be distraught and was striking random objects along his path with the plank. As the EMTs were just about to pass the individual, the man suddenly and without provocation struck a female pedestrian passerby with the plank, causing her to fall to the sidewalk. The male stopped and stood over his victim, angrily screaming at her. He then quickly turned around and ran out onto Second Avenue, directly into the passing traffic.

Quickly recognizing the need for their assistance and the imminent danger that the unruly male was presenting to himself and others around him, EMTs Imperial and Martin stopped their vehicle and notified the dispatcher of the situation. As they were exiting their ambulance, a taxi cab making a turn onto the Avenue struck the male, knocking him to the pavement. The pair of EMTs split up to render assistance; while EMT Imperial was assessing the female victim, EMT Martin attempted to assess her assailant.

The male, who at first appeared to have been unconscious, quickly became combative and verbally abusive when approached by EMT Martin. Knowing that the patient’s mental status may have been altered by an underlying medical condition and that his injuries from the car impact might not be clearly and immediately identified, EMT Martin attempted to convince the male that he needed to be assessed for trauma, immobilized and transported to the hospital.

The man was incoherent, becoming more and more distraught by the minute. While appearing dazed and still unable to get up, he tried to punch and kick EMT Martin. Conversely, the female victim was stunned by the events, but declined any medical attention.

Noticing that his partner was having a difficult time with the male patient, EMT Imperial came to his aid. With the assistance of several bystanders, EMT Imperial and the bystanders were able to restrain the perpetrator/victim from inflicting any more injuries on himself or others until NYPD’s arrival on the scene.

With police officer assistance, the patient was secured on the stretcher and EMTs Imperial and Martin were able to complete their patient assessments and transport the male patient to the hospital for additional medical and psychological evaluation. The female victim thanked the two EMTs for their quick reaction to the unfolding event, which could have escalated with accompanying detrimental effects.

EMTs Corey Imperial and Keith Martin observed a tenuous and possibly dangerous situation, used their best judgment and emergency medical skills to address the event and, finally, ensured the best possible outcome for this incident. For these reasons, the FDNY is pleased to present them with the Jack Pintchik Medal.--OP
The members of Engine 22 responded to a phone alarm for a report of smoke on an unknown floor at 1751 2nd Avenue on June 17, 2009, at 0629 hours. It seemed to be the start of a typical spring morning in New York City—warm, a bright sun rising, nothing unusual. But as the apparatus moved uptown, the chatter on the radio began to provide a different scenario.

Engine 22 members recognized the reported address and noted two primary concerns: First, the building is a 42-story, high-rise multiple dwelling. Second, the early-morning hour represented a significant life safety factor. As the dispatcher reported additional 911 callers, there was an unspoken sense of heightened awareness among the members. As units pulled into the block, fire already was blowing out several windows on an upper floor. A 10-77 was transmitted. A second alarm soon followed.

The company Officer, Lieutenant Thomas Delgrosso (Ladder 13), led the members into the building, where the doorman, in a panic after receiving numerous calls from people on the ninth floor, could not specify the location of the fire apartment. Reports of people trapped were being transmitted over the radio. All members of the FDNY are well aware of the challenges that exist in this kind of building when presented with an advanced fire condition. Additionally, the layout of the building was complex; there were long hallways, multiple stairwells and elevator banks.

Arriving at the ninth-floor stairwell, Lieutenant Delgrosso ordered a tactical delay in standpipe hook-up, pending a more precise identification of the fire apartment, then cracked the door to check conditions and locate it. Visibility was zero with a high heat condition. The heat confirmed that the fire had extended from the apartment into the public hallway. Radio reports from Battalion Chief Eugene Kelty, Battalion 10, confirmed the fire apartment as 9T. This information prompted the Lieutenant to drop down to the floor below the fire to survey the layout in anticipation of zero visibility on the fire floor.

Meanwhile, in the street, Engine 22 chauffeur, FF David Greisch, had located a working hydrant, then single-handedly stretched the 3½-inch hose-line to the siamese connection and supplied the system. Since the fire apartment was at the far end of a long, narrow hallway, FF Michael Daley, control Firefighter, was ordered to complete the standpipe connection and then prepare for the long stretch. Knowing that time was a critical factor for the survival of trapped occupants, the members of Engine 22 steel themselves for an aggressive push down a long, punishing hallway toward the entrance door of the fire apartment.

With the hose-line charged at the stairwell door, the nozzle team—FFs Pitta and Dory—advanced the line under the Officer’s supervision, to the fire apartment, where they were confronted with blowtorch-like conditions. As the members made the turn into the fire apartment, conditions worsened. There was a heavy volume of fire throughout. Outside, weather conditions, in combination with vented windows, had created a wind-impacted fire. Wind was feeding the fire, driving it toward the Firefighters, increasing the amount of fire and heat and diminishing the extinguishing effects of the hose-line.

The members of Engine 22, providing each other relief on the nozzle, continued their attack, successfully knocking down the fire, allowing teams to operate more effectively in the search for victims. Once the fire was extinguished, FFs Pitta, Dory and Daley were transported to the New York Burn Center and hospitalized for treatment of burn injuries incurred battling this fire. Five 10-45s were transmitted for this incident.

This is an example of outstanding company operations, dependent upon teamwork and cooperation, resulting in the rescue of trapped occupants, prevention of loss of life and reduction of civilian injuries. The members of Engine 22--Lieutenant Thomas J. Delgrosso and FFs Michael P. Daley, Andrew S. Dory, David J. Greisch and William C. Pitta--in the face of brutal, fierce fire conditions, demonstrated the tenacity and determination found only in the most dedicated professionals. They are presented with the Lieutenant James Curran/New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal/Father Julian F. Deeken Memorial Medal.—JDL
Early-morning fires frequently trap sleeping tenants, who don’t awaken in time to escape. However, when a fire rapidly makes the interior stairs impassable, even those people who do wake up are trapped and need to be rescued by New York’s Bravest.

In the wee hours of March 13, 2011, a three-alarm fire swiftly spread up the stairs and into several apartments of a four-story, old tenement at 510 61st Street in Brooklyn’s Sunset Park section, trapping 31 sleepy souls in a real nightmare. At 0512 hours, the computer at the quarters of Engine 201 spit out a report of a fire in a multiple dwelling. As Lieutenant Michael J. McCaffrey and FFs Jerry Bennici, Joshua I. Calacanis (detailed from Ladder 114), Jorge J. Cornejo and Sean M. O’Mallo were responding, the dispatcher informed them and the other first-due units that there were numerous residents trapped.

As Engine 201 pulled up in front of the fire building, the blaze was pushing out the front door and all the windows on the stairway and into the bulkhead. Numerous men, women and children were crowding the fire escapes to flee the conflagration. As Engine 201 stretched a line to the front door, members were met by heavy fire. They began an aggressive attack that enabled them to reach the interior stairs. Knocking down fire as they advanced up the stairway, members received a warning of how badly the fire had damaged the stairs, just as the nozzle Firefighter’s foot went through a step. As FF O’Malloon quickly extricated himself, the company advanced to the second floor and then to the third, knocking down heavy fire on all sides as they progressed.

They had started to push onto the fourth floor when they received word from Lieutenant Daniel Keane, Ladder 114, that there was heavy fire in apartment 3R. Turning back to the third floor, they were met by heavy fire in the kitchen, which they quickly extinguished and advanced the line down the hallway to two more burning rooms. This fire was spreading rapidly.

Engine 201 members made quick work of the bedroom fires, but still had so much more to do. Returning to the stairs, they started to advance, when FF O’Malloon’s foot again went through a step. This prompted Lieutenant McCaffrey to hold the nozzle team back while he ascended to the fourth floor, checking the stability of the stairs. There was still fire on the fourth floor and after passing the nozzle up to the Lieutenant, FF O’Malloon again started to ascend the stairs when a partial collapse left him trapped up to his chest.

As the other Firefighters grabbed him, Lieutenant Keane transmitted a mayday for a collapsed stairway and a trapped Firefighter. While the other Firefighters struggled to extricate FF O’Malloon from the hole without causing a further collapse, Lieutenant McCaffrey fought the heavy fire still engulfing the top floor and bulkhead. With help from Ladder 114 and Rescue 2 members, FF O’Malloon was safely removed, the mayday rescinded and a ladder called for, to cover the stairs and facilitate safe passage. Despite burns to both of his knees, FF O’Malloon insisted on finishing the job and ascended to the fourth floor to extinguish remaining fire.

As the fire in the hallway was being extinguished, a report came of fire in apartment 4L. Fire had burned through the apartment door and extended into the hallway. A swift and aggressive attack to knock the fire down allowed Captain Robert Rex Morris, Rescue 2, and Lieutenant Keane to make a search, find and carry an unconscious man to the fire escape for removal in the bucket. The engine members then returned to extinguish any remaining fire in the stairway and bulkhead.

If not for the determination, bravery and aggressive attack on this fire, lives could have been lost. Their teamwork and cooperation with other FDNY units in dangerous conditions enabled 31 people—eight of them in critical condition—to be rescued. The Fire Department is proud to present the Lieutenant James Curran/New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal to the members of Engine 201—Lieutenant Michael J. McCaffrey and FFs Jerry Bennici, Joshua I. Calacanis (Ladder 114), Jorge J. Cornejo and Sean M. O’Malloon.—JT
One of the most difficult fires to fight is in a church. Frequently, a church fire means the loss of the whole building. Some of the common factors include the large amount of dried-out old lumber, numerous voids and difficult access to certain areas. On January 10, 2011, shortly after 1200 hours, Rescue 1 responded to a second-alarm fire at St. James Roman Catholic Church, 28 James Street. Thanks to the determined efforts of the company, members prevented a complete loss of this historic facility.

Flames had been reported coming from the chimney. Rescue 1’s Officer this tour was veteran Captain Robert Morris. As his chauffeur, FF Jason Faso, drove the apparatus to the scene, Captain Morris monitored the radio reports, indicating that fire was burning through the roof on the exposure #2 side in the rear.

On arrival, the company reported in to the Incident Commander (IC) and received orders to gain access to the attic above the vaulted ceiling so a hand-line could extinguish the fire. Due to the lack of a direct way up into the hanging ceiling, entry to this area was difficult. A 30-foot straight wooden ladder was the only way up to the fire. There was a 14-inch space between this ladder and the back of the organ, necessitating that Captain Morris and FFs Francis Rush (with the irons), Alfred Benjamin (with the extinguisher) and Sean Cummins (with the hook) remove their SCBAs, climb up the ladder and haul the SCBAs up with a rope and re-don them at the top of the ladder. Then, they hauled up the rest of their tools and equipment.

A heavy smoke condition existed, but there was no visible fire. Using the thermal imaging camera, Rescue 1 located the fire approximately 90 feet away from their location. Captain Morris informed Deputy Chief Michael Mullins, Division 1, of the conditions and that access was gained to the hanging ceiling area. He advised the Chief that an attempt could be made to crawl in over the exposed beams. There was a 14-inch space between this ladder and the back of the organ, necessitating that Captain Morris and FFs Francis Rush (with the irons), Alfred Benjamin (with the extinguisher) and Sean Cummins (with the hook) remove their SCBAs, climb up the ladder and haul the SCBAs up with a rope and re-don them at the top of the ladder. Then, they hauled up the rest of their tools and equipment.

The heavy fire was running up the trusses to the ridge. Rescue 1, aided by Squad 18 members, advanced the hand-line and water was put onto the fire. Once again, due to confined quarters near the eave, the members had to remove their SCBAs and use a reduced profile maneuver in order to advance into the tight area.

The outside team of FFs Faso and Michael Cioffi (roof) worked on getting the vent hole open. FF Cioffi climbed an aerial ladder to the roof, which was approximately six stories high at the ornamental peak. Once at the peak, he crawled across the ridge with the lifesaving rope. He tied the rope off to an anchor and used it to secure himself and FF Faso, who joined him while they cut open the roof. This was necessary because of the steepness of the roof, as well as the ice that had formed on it. Cutting the vent hole proved difficult due to the heavy timber-truss roof construction. The sheathing was 1½-inch-thick, making it hard to cut and pull up. Ultimately, FFs Cioffi and Faso were able to make a 10- by 10-foot vent hole and overhaul the roof area.

Inside, conditions were becoming severe as dense smoke impaired visibility. Additionally, without a catwalk, members were required to use great caution and carefully crawl, beam to beam. Any misstep might mean a member falling 50 feet to the church floor. Also, the ceiling was supported only by a series of two- by two-inch wood strips, attached to the wood truss above. Only a minimum number of Firefighters could be used and they had to be spaced out to prevent overloading the ceiling beams and provoking a collapse.

Manhattan Box 22-0132, the incident for which the members of Rescue 1 are being recognized.
While bravery often is thought of as the critical element to a successful rescue operation, more often than not, it is teamwork that is the deciding factor. Teamwork was much in evidence by Ladder 114 members throughout an early-morning fire at Brooklyn Box 2637 in the Sunset Park section of Brooklyn on March 13, 2011.

At 0512 hours on that cold, late-winter morning, the members of Ladder 114—Lieutenant Daniel T. Keane and FFs Kevin G. Anderson, Joseph J. Dunn, Kevin J. Hogan (2), Ray G. Pollard and Thomas C. Tobiassen—were directed by Brooklyn Dispatch Operations to respond to a reported fire at 510 61st Street, a four-story, 75- by 25-foot, non-fireproof, multiple dwelling. Arriving at the old law tenement within three minutes, members found an advanced fire with flames visible on all floors, as well as through the roof bulkhead.

Additionally, the interior staircase was fully involved, cutting off the egress point for civilians who were appearing at windows, frantically seeking rescue. This condition necessitated that the forcible entry (FE) team advance behind the hose team. Considering the number of people in need of assistance, Lieutenant Keane ordered the FE team to work in conjunction with the outside team.

After the order was given, the FE team ascended the fire escape. Reaching the third floor, they entered an apartment and rescued a woman and a small boy. After getting them out onto the fire escape, they re-entered the apartment and removed two unconscious toddlers, who were turned over to the outside vent Firefighter. Going back a third time, the team successfully removed a pregnant woman and a 52-year-old man to the fire escape.

Because the company’s apparatus was positioned on the exposure #1 side of the building, the chauffeur entered the bucket and, with Ladder 149’s chauffeur covering the pedestal, raised the bucket to the third floor, where he assisted the FE team with removal of two victims. The chauffeur then repositioned the bucket and proceeded to the fourth floor, where he removed a man from the window ledge.

The victim indicated there were three other people trapped inside. The chauffeur entered the apartment through the open entrance door and found a considerable heat and smoke condition. Moving into the apartment, he located and removed two unconscious children. After getting them to safety, he went back to the apartment and removed an unconscious, 33-year-old woman. He then repositioned the bucket to another top-floor window and aided in the removal of another victim, who was located by Rescue 2.

After the fire, which later was found to be intentionally set and the perpetrator apprehended shortly thereafter, Deputy Chief Richard Howe, Division Commander, Division 8, wrote in his report, “Ladder 114’s aggressiveness and determination allowed these civilians to be alive today. Their teamwork, efficiency and cooperation could be characterized as an outstanding ladder company operation. Each member should be very proud as he operated in the finest traditions of the New York City Fire Department.” For these reasons, Ladder 114 is presented with the World Trade Center Memorial Medal. — DJH

Numerous civilians were rescued via fire escapes at Brooklyn Box 33-2637, March 13, 2011.
Service Rating A

FF Thomas E. Adams, L-163
FF Ron J. Bacchi, L-117
FF John J. Blake, III, L-48
FF Peter E. Carroll, L-120
FF Angelo J. Cocciolillo, L-54
FF Anthony G. Conti, E-251
FF Evan J. Davis, L-137
FF Brian W. Drury, SQ-288
FF Douglas Ferretti, L-47
FF Patrick J. Finegan, L-26
FF Brian W. Drury, SQ-288
Capt. Robert M. Forde, L-122
Lt. Robert E. Lee, L-42
Lt. Robert Lopez, L-7
Lt. Thomas V. Madonna, Bn-51
FF Glen Merkitch, R-1
FF Michael E. Murphy, L-148
FF Eugene P. O'Donnell, SQ-18
FF Sean M. O'Mallon, E-201
FF Ricardo Remon, E-289
Lt. Jason J. Rigoli, L-16
FF Matthew W. Roberts, L-113
FF James D. Smith, SQ-41
FF Michael D. Stothers, E-22
Lt. John D. Sullivan, Jr., L-168
Capt. Edward J. Tierney, L-30
Lt. Peter M. Traut, Bn-48
Lt. Todd A. Vetter, E-293
FF Ryan P. Weber, L-47
FF Michael P. Willman, L-32
FF Robert W. Zirbel, E-59

Service Rating B

FF Richard W. Burke, L-54
FF Christopher Campuzano, SQ-41
Lt. Emmett T. Daly, L-155
FF Scott M. Doody, L-56
FF Michael Ellia, L-168
Capt. Mark Foris, E-262
FF John T. Fox, E-44
FF Craig R. Frey, L-48
FF Michael Frey, L-32
FF Allan P. Goetz, L-120
FF Robert W. Hogan, M-1
FF Nathanial B. Ighowu, L-131
FF Sean M. Killarney, L-19
Lt. Theodore T. Krowl, L-32
FF Patrick T. Linehan, L-49
Lt. Gregory G. Lynch, Bn-7
FF Federico Martinez, E-54
FF John S. McDowell, L-27

Bureau of Fire Investigation--BFI

Unit Citations

Citywide South
January 20, 2011, Box 794

Auto Fraud Squad/
Special Investigations Unit
January 27, 2011, Box 963

Citywide South/
Special Investigations Unit
May 25, 2011, Box 0027
**CFR Pre-Hospital Save Commendations**

**January-December 2011**

### January 2011
- Squad Company 1, January 27
- Engine Company 21, January 28
- Squad Company 41, January 23
- Engine Company 43, January 27
- Engine Company 55, January 19
- Engine Company 63, January 11 and 13
- Engine Company 66, January 8
- Engine Company 67, January 6
- Engine Company 68, January 17
- Engine Company 88, January 15
- Engine Company 89, January 13
- Engine Company 91, January 19
- Engine Company 96, January 4 and 7
- Engine Company 161, January 8
- Engine Company 202, January 23
- Engine Company 211, January 31
- Engine Company 217, January 19
- Engine Company 225, January 21
- Engine Company 231, January 30
- Engine Company 234, January 1
- Engine Company 236, January 3
- Engine Company 247, January 16
- Engine Company 253, January 21 and 26
- Engine Company 258, January 25
- Engine Company 280, January 12
- Engine Company 299, January 16
- Engine Company 301, January 5
- Engine Company 305, January 16
- Engine Company 314, January 3
- Engine Company 326, January 15

### February 2011
- Engine Company 3, February 15
- Squad Company 18, February 13
- Engine Company 23, February 26
- Engine Company 37, February 4
- Engine Company 38, February 26
- Engine Company 81, February 25
- Engine Company 82, February 24
- Engine Company 92, February 9
- Engine Company 222, February 2
- Engine Company 225, February 17
- Engine Company 229, February 23
- Engine Company 240, February 6
- Engine Company 249, February 4
- Engine Company 257, February 21
- Engine Company 283, February 23
- Engine Company 289, February 13
- Engine Company 298, February 27

### March 2011
- Engine Company 1, March 10
- Squad Company 1, March 17
- Engine Company 33, March 21
- Engine Company 38, March 8
- Engine Company 43, March 16
- Engine Company 62, March 4 and 29
- Engine Company 68, March 8
- Engine Company 71, March 28
- Engine Company 151, March 29
- Engine Company 166, March 18
- Engine Company 206, March 7
- Engine Company 210, March 3
- Engine Company 220, March 7
- Engine Company 253, March 27
- Engine Company 259, March 12
- Engine Company 274, March 31
- Engine Company 305, March 24
- Engine Company 325, March 7

### April 2011
- Engine Company 3, April 14
- Engine Company 6, April 13
- Engine Company 7, April 2
- Engine Company 42, April 11
- Engine Company 47, April 27
- Engine Company 52, April 3 and 14
- Engine Company 55, April 7
- Engine Company 68, April 23
- Engine Company 93, April 23
- Engine Company 152, April 8
- Engine Company 159, April 2
- Engine Company 168, April 9 and 24
- Engine Company 201, April 24
- Engine Company 206, April 22
- Engine Company 210, April 21
- Engine Company 221, April 1
- Engine Company 230, April 16
- Engine Company 233, April 5
- Engine Company 234, April 29
- Engine Company 243, April 22
- Engine Company 260, April 14
- Engine Company 271, April 21
- Squad Company 288, April 17
- Engine Company 303, April 2
- Engine Company 309, April 30
- Engine Company 326, April 23

### May 2011
- Engine Company 1, May 16 and 24
- Engine Company 15, May 17
- Squad Company 18, May 20
- Engine Company 37, May 10
- Engine Company 38, May 12
- Engine Company 43, May 16
- Engine Company 44, May 16
- Engine Company 54, May 19
- Engine Company 84, May 9
- Engine Company 93, May 6
- Engine Company 96, May 19
- Engine Company 218, May 26
- Engine Company 243, May 4 and 8
- Engine Company 248, May 8
- Engine Company 254, May 28
- Engine Company 263, May 10 and 23
- Engine Company 271, May 17
- Engine Company 276, May 3 and 12
- Engine Company 283, May 10
- Engine Company 295, May 8
- Engine Company 306, May 12
- Engine Company 307, May 17
- Engine Company 308, May 23
- Engine Company 325, May 22 and 30

### June 2011
- Engine Company 1, June 26
- Engine Company 8, June 11
- Engine Company 21, June 3
- Engine Company 23, June 19
- Engine Company 34, June 30
- Engine Company 38, June 7
- Engine Company 48, June 6
- Engine Company 76, June 21
- Engine Company 84, June 19
- Engine Company 159, June 4
- Engine Company 216, June 3
- Engine Company 217, June 17
- Engine Company 226, June 22
- Engine Company 230, June 26
- Engine Company 241, June 13
- Engine Company 243, June 12
- Engine Company 245, June 11
- Engine Company 249, two incidents on June 18
- Engine Company 253, June 27
- Engine Company 257, June 2
- Engine Company 260, June 23
- Engine Company 276, June 4
- Engine Company 284, June 14
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Engine Company</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>287</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>289</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>298</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>299</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>308</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>312</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>324</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>11 and 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>330</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>265</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>283</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>290</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>294</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>298</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>14 and 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>310</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>318</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>325</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>332</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>308</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>304</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>292</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>289</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>262</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>27 and 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>270</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>283</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>288</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>289</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>292</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>304</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>308</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>318</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>5 and 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>319</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>323</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>324</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>332</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 engine</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>6 and 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>168</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>242</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>255</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>257</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>265</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>7 and 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>206</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>225</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>9 and 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>231</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>243</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>290</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>305</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>321</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>323</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>324</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>20 and 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>151</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>225</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>254</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>6 and 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>263</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>284</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>298</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>301</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>303</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>320</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>9 and 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>325</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>326</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>9 and 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>154</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>210</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>217</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>218</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>224</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>229</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>233</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>246</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>257</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>5 and 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>285</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>293</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>298</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>8 and 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>301</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>303</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>13 and 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>315</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>324</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>16 and 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>325</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>328</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>154</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>162</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>19 and 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>221</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>246</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>249</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>255</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>257</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>277</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>302</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>305</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>309</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>312</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>317</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>319</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>330</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>16 and 23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2011 Pre-Hospital Save Awards

Number in parentheses indicates multiple saves.

Lieutenant Paul Abate
Paramedic Roberto Abril
Paramedic Justine Abruzzo (2)
Paramedic Alex Acacito (2)
Paramedic Joel Acocito (2)
EMT Jorge Acosta
EMT Pedro Acosta
Paramedic Gilbert Acosta (4)
EMT Ahmed Adekoya (2)
Paramedic Juan Aguilar (3)
EMF Rafael Aguilar (2)
Paramedic Keith Ahrens
Paramedic Rene Alaby
EMT Elias Alachouzas
EMT Richard Alavarez (2)
Paramedic Joseph Albo
EMT Edwin Aldrich, III
Paramedic Ashley Alejo (2)
EMT Shaun Alexander
EMT Mir Ali
EMT Zeeshan Ali
Lieutenant Rosemarie Alibrandi
EMT Kevin Allen (2)
EMT Malene S. Allen
Paramedic Ryan Allen
EMT Farouk Ally (2)
EMT Daniel Almandoz (2)
Paramedic Anthony Almojuela (2)
EMT Jimmy Alvarez
Paramedic Luis Alvarez
EMT Correy Alverson (2)
Paramedic Vanessa Alvear
Paramedic Antonio Amor (2)
Lieutenant Lawrence Anderson
EMT Raymond Arubin
EMT Wilkerson Antoine
Paramedic Jose Arias
Lieutenant Carlos Ariza (2)
EMT Chris Arnaud
EMT Corey Arndt (2)
Paramedic Miriam Arnold
EMT Alexander Arroyo
EMT Marilyn Arroyo
EMT Sharon Assis
Paramedic Ulysa Atigun-Quada (2)
Lieutenant Christopher Attanasi
EMT Steven M. Aumoithe
Lieutenant Gilberto Aviles (3)
Paramedic Angel Avila (2)
EMT Carlos Avezido
EMT Roxie Babb
EMT Marco Babi
Lieutenant Edgar Baez
Paramedic Anthony Bacciocco
Paramedic Carl Baker
Paramedic Marc Balas
Paramedic Felicia Bangura
EMT Kimberly Barba
Paramedic Matthew Barbell (2)
EMT Elvin Barinas
Lieutenant Nicholas Barker (4)
Paramedic Kenneth Barkman
Paramedic Daniel Bartlette
EMT Kenneth Barrieau
EMT Michael Barrow
Paramedic Jason Bartels
Lieutenant Anthony Bartolomey (2)
Paramedic Raymond Bartolomey
EMT Serestre Bar dock-Hosannah
Captain Wayne Baskin
Lieutenant Brendan Bass (2)
Lieutenant Moses Bastien (2)
EMT Oehnsto Batalla
Lieutenant Andrew Bates
EMT Mark Batista

Lieutenant James Bayreuther (2)
EMT Jamelya Beefarinas
Lieutenant James Becker
EMT Netta K. Bedassee (2)
Paramedic Leonard Befor (3)
EMT Sadek Belkacem
Paramedic Joseph Bellino
EMT John Beltram
Lieutenant Gary Benedict
Paramedic Jose Benitez (3)
Paramedic Joshua Benjamin (2)
Paramedic Sean Benjamin
EMT Jennifer Bernstein
EMT Jennifer Berroa
EMT Ruben Berrios (2)
Paramedic Richard Berroa (2)
Paramedic Thomas Berry
EMT Ryan Biggs
EMT Todd Bilgore (2)
Lieutenant Christopher Bilz (6)
Paramedic Timothy Bittar
Paramedic Daniel Bivona, Jr. (3)
EMT Anthony Blain
EMT Kimberly Blair
Paramedic Nadra Blesis
Lieutenant Jorge Blouidet (4)
EMT Jerry Bond
Paramedic Richard Bonet (2)
Paramedic Ferdinand Bomfucio (2)
Captian Mark Bonilla (10)
Paramedic Franz Bonaparte
EMT Marc Bonometre
Paramedic Darryl Boodoo
Lieutenant Jose Borroto (2)
EMT John Boris
EMT Kelly Boulter
Paramedic Schyler Boyd
Paramedic Timothy Boyle (3)
Lieutenant Richard Bracken (3)
Paramedic Michael Bradshaw (3)
Paramedic Gregg Brady (2)
Paramedic Shane Brady (3)
Paramedic Kevin Bratholt
EMT Charles Braun
EMT James Bremen
Paramedic James Bresnan (3)
EMT Randolph Brewster (2)
EMT Akiba T. Briggs Hall
Paramedic Benjamin Bryson (4)
EMT Nicholas Broadbent
Paramedic Keisha Brockington
EMT Kathleen Brough
EMT Joshua Brown
EMT Joshua Browntest
EMT Louis Brunk
Paramedic Joshua Bucklan
EMT Ronald Bulaeac
Paramedic George Bubalo
EMT Kathleen Burgess
Paramedic Jeffery Burke
EMT Jazmin Burrell
Paramedic Tyisha Burnell (2)
Paramedic Alexus Buttermark
EMT Katrina Buyund
Paramedic Keshia Byrd (2)
EMT James Byrne
EMT Anthony Calбра (2)
EMT John Cadotte
Paramedic Steven Caggio (2)
Paramedic William Cahill
Lieutenant Margaret Calamusa
EMT Giovanna Calandra
Paramedic Pablo Calejas
Paramedic Betsy Camacho
EMT Zain Camejo

Lieutenant Steven Cameron (2)
EMT Michelle Campbell
Paramedic Hugo Canedo
Lieutenant Gene Canel
Paramedic Jerry Cane
Lieutenant Mark Caplan (2)
Paramedic Richard Caprock
EMT Matthew Capolla
EMT John Capunay
Paramedic Joseph Carballo
EMT Alberto C. Carballo
EMT Jorge Carbonell
Lieutenant Michael Carboni (3)
EMT Thomas Cardona
EMT Linda Carlson (2)
Paramedic Stephen Carpenter (3)
Paramedic Gerald Carr
Paramedic Efrain Carraquillo
EMT Philip Riggs
EMT Theresa Carroll (2)
Lieutenant Richard Casiello
Lieutenant Elizabeth Cascio
Lieutenant Kevin Cassidy
EMT Salvatore Cassonetto (2)
Paramedic Julian Castaneda
EMT Joseph Castell (3)
EMT Ruben Castillo
EMT Anthony Castro
EMT Lee Castro
EMT Franklin Cataldi
Lieutenant Salvatore Catania (4)
Lieutenant Andre Catapano
EMT Andrew Cellucci
EMT Jose Jerda-Matos
EMT Sharita Chambers
EMT Kas Chan
Paramedic Marvin Chan
EMT Terrance Chanderdatt (2)
Paramedic Pierre Charboneau (2)
Paramedic Brent Charles
EMT Stephanie Charles (2)
EMT Steven Chasen (2)
EMT Sharon Chase-McLean
EMT Ruth Chavez
Paramedic Francisco Checo
Paramedic Kenny Cheng (2)
Paramedic Stuart Chenking (2)
Paramedic Jason Cheung (3)
Paramedic Kenny Cheung
Paramedic Timothy Chucar
Paramedic Christopher Chin
EMT Serguei Chronov
EMT Frank Ciccariello
Paramedic Martha Confooens-Oritz
EMT Todd Cinetti
EMT Carlo Ciqueto
EMT Gregory Clair (2)
EMT Keith Clark (2)
EMT Courtney Clarke
Paramedic Edward Clarke
Captain Lizette Claro
Paramedic Johana Clerge
EMT Kevin Clifford
EMT Robert Codrington
EMT Michael Coleman (2)
Paramedic Trevor Coleman (3)
EMT Angel Colasso
EMT Darrell Collier
Paramedic Gardenia Collins
Paramedic Arthur Concepcion
Paramedic Lorenia Concepcion
Paramedic Thomas Conforti (2)
Paramedic Andrea Connell (2)
Paramedic Daniella Connell
EMT Felix Contreras
EMT Joseph Conzo
EMT Matthew L. Cook
EMT Edwin Cordova
Paramedic Nicholas Cordova
EMT Derek Corlette (2)
Paramedic Scott Cornell
Paramedic Gary Cortes
Paramedic Helen Courtney (2)
EMT Barkim Covington
Lieutenant Anthony Cozzino
EMT Pat Cortez
Paramedic James Crispino (2)
Paramedic Marissa Crocco (3)
EMT Christopher Crutchfield
EMT Gina Cruz
Paramedic Yeny Cruz (2)
Lieutenant Albert Cruzaado
EMT Henry Cua
Captain Steven W. Cuvias
EMT Bernard D. Crucych (2)
EMT Mark David
Lieutenant Roy David
EMT Daniel Davis (4)
EMT Raymond Davis
EMT Roland Diaz
Paramedic Kevin DiFiori
EMT Matthew DIGio Lio
Lieutenant Patruck Dillon
Lieutenant John Paul Dimen (3)
Paramedic Trinh Dinh (2)
EMT Anthony Disapio (2)
Paramedic Joseph Discopolo
EMT Jonathan Disilvestro (2)
Lieutenant Timothy Dluhos
EMT Randy Dominguez
EMT Jean Dominque
EMT Ellis Donley
Paramedic George Doremus
Lieutenant George Dorsey
EMT Kevin Dougherty
Lieutenant Erin Doyle
Lieutenant Elizabeth Drakoutto (2)
Paramedic Soledad Druse
Lieutenant Steven Dubin (4)
Lieutenant Richard Dun
Lieutenant William Dunkelee (2)
EMT Christopher Dunlevy
Captain Thomas Dunlevy
Lieutenant Andrew Dunn (5)
EMT Timothy Dunne

FIRE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK • MEDAL DAY 2012

63
Lieutenant Dave Gill (3)
Lieutenant Joseph Girotti (2)
Paramedic Anne-Marie Gergonty
Lieutenant Abraham Glatter (7)
Lieutenant Sheldon Glabach
Lieutenant Michael Glem (2)
Paramedic Alan Glick (3)
Paramedic Suraj Gomes (3)
Paramedic Alexander Gomez
Paramedic Andre Gonzalez
Paramedic Carlos Gonzalez (2)
Paramedic Emilio Gonzalez
Lieutenant Jose Gonzalez
Lieutenant Sergio Gonzalez (3)
EMT David Goodman
Paramedic Daryl Goodridge
Paramedic Robert Goodwin (4)
Paramedic Sean Goodwin (2)
EMT Bernard Gordon
EMT Howard Gordon
EMT Devon Graham
Lieutenant Feliks Granovsky (4)
EMT Blauro Graterol (2)
Lieutenant Steven Graulau
Paramedic Corey Gray
Paramedic Nicholas Graziano
EMT William Graziano
EMT Deborah Greco
EMT Jaclyn Greene
EMT Lester Greene
Paramedic David Greenidge (3)
EMT Charles Greenwood (2)
EMT Ryan Gray Fearin (2)
EMT Eric Gregg
Lieutenant Staci Grigarc
Lieutenant Jay Griffin
Paramedic Althea Groarke
Paramedic Eric Girinar (3)
Lieutenant Charles Goshlecht
EMT Henry Guirlanda (2)
Paramedic Garry Guerrier
EMT Keymarroo Guiden
Paramedic Roland Guirand
EMT Alan Guiss (2)
Paramedic Matthew Guth
Lieutenant Luis Gutierrez (2)
Paramedic Brian Gutkin (2)
EMT Bennie Guzman
EMT Douglas Guzman (2)
EMT Richard Guzman
Lieutenant Bruce Haas (2)
Lieutenant Andrew Haber (2)
Paramedic Jonathan Haber
Paramedic Andrew Hal
Paramedic Claude Hall (3)
EMT Tai Hall
EMT Theodore Hamilton
Paramedic Ali Hamad (2)
EMT Shawn Hanaburgh
Lieutenant Elise Hanlon (2)
Lieutenant Thomas Hanman (2)
EMT Dindyale Harrrcharan (2)
Lieutenant Charles Harris
Paramedic Christopher Harris (2)
EMT Keesha Harris (2)
EMT Russell Harris
EMT Samuel Harris
Paramedic Bevonie Harrison (2)
EMT Noel Harrison
Paramedic Samal Hassan (3)
EMT Joseph Hauser
Paramedic Krystle Haynes (2)
Paramedic Kornelia Haynes
EMT Shawn Healy (3)
EMT Lori Hecker (2)
EMT Zeph Hedrington (2)
Paramedic William Heegan
EMT Charles Hellnake
EMT Juan Henriquez (2)
EMT Casey Henry
Paramedic Howard Henry (3)
Paramedic Walter Henry
EMT Betty Hephps
Lieutenant Jonathan Herbst (2)
EMT Christobal Hernandez
EMT Samuel Hernandez (3)
Paramedic Betty Higdon (3)
Lieutenant Barrett Hibside (2)
Paramedic Walter Hochbruecken
Lieutenant Chantel Holland (2)
EMT Gary Honore
Lieutenant Kevin Hooghwis (2)
EMT Vincent Hopkins
Lieutenant Frank Horan
Lieutenant David Hovestadt
Paramedic Joseph Hudak (2)
Lieutenant Donald Hudson
EMT Steven Hughes (3)
Lieutenant Paige Humphries (2)
EMT William Hunt
EMT Heathcuter Hutchison
EMT Shown Hutchison
EMT James Hyams
Paramedic Bruce Hyduck, Jr.
EMT Anthony Imbasciani
EMT Corey Impey
EMT Barbara Irizarry
EMT Irma Irizarry
Paramedic Matt Jachyra
EMT Arman Re-Jack
Paramedic Christian Jackson
Paramedic Christopher Jacobs (3)
Paramedic Jared Jakob
Lieutenant Peter Jakubowski (2)
EMT Andre James
Paramedic Dennis Jamieson
EMT Richard Jankowicz
EMT James Januszkiewicz
Paramedic Eddy Jean-Philippe (2)
Lieutenant Joseph Jefferson
Lieutenant Walter Jeleh (2)
Paramedic Daril Jimenez
Paramedic Ramon Jimenez
EMT Joshua Jimenez (2)
Paramedic Roddy John
EMT Kenneth Johnson
Lieutenant Marietta Johnson
EMT Michael Johnson
EMT Peter Johnson (3)
EMT Ronald Johnson
EMT Sean Johnson
Lieutenant Stephen Johnson (2)
Paramedic Vincent Johnson
EMT Loobars Joliceur
Paramedic Andre Jones
Lieutenant Angelo Jones
Paramedic Brenda Jones
EMT Jason Jones
Lieutenant Wayne Jones
EMT Ian Jordan
Paramedic Alexis Joseph
Paramedic Henderson Joseph (2)
Paramedic Nathalie Joseph
Lieutenant Tracy Joseph (3)
EMT Paula Josten
Paramedic Sean Josten
Paramedic Winsley Julian (2)
Lieutenant Michael Kaiser (6)
EMT Edward Karasik
Paramedic Andrea Katsanos (2)
Lieutenant Kevin Kelleher (2)
Paramedic Robert Kelly
Paramedic Sikinia Kemp (3)
EMT Vladimir W. Kernizan
Paramedic Adel Khd (2)
EMT Nazir Khan (2)
Paramedic David Kher
Lieutenant Scott Kiernan (3)
EMT John Kirkland (2)
Paramedic Gloria Kim
EMT Shaun King (2)
EMT Andrey Kirichenko
Paramedic Christopher Klein
Lieutenant Moshe Klein
Paramedic Steven Kleinberg
Paramedic Troy Klempner
EMT La-Shunn Knight
EMT Anthony Knowles (2)
EMT Adela Koiki
Paramedic Jing Kong (2)
Paramedic Jeebur Krahd (2)
EMT Plamen Kostadinov
EMT David Kowalski (2)
EMT Arran Krishen
EMT Krovatski Jostas (2)
Paramedic Ross Kruzow
Paramedic Jason Kunn (2)
EMT Monique Lacozre
Lieutenant Sean Lahay
EMT Andrew Lyons (2)
Lieutenant Karen Lamanna (4)
EMT Edwin Lamboy
EMT Garrett Langdon
Paramedic Yaki Langford
Lieutenant Joseph Lanzi
EMT Paul Larow
Paramedic Kevin Laroy (2)
Paramedic Arina Lasserre
Paramedic Caleb Laue
Paramedic Joseph Laurencio
EMT Raymond Laurie (2)
EMT Stephen Laurikietis (2)
EMT Virginia Layton
Lieutenant Giuseppe Lavore
Lieutenant Man Wai Law (4)
Paramedic Crystal Lawrence
Lieutenant Patrice Lawrence
Lieutenant Gaetano Lazzara (6)
Paramedic David Lee (3)
Paramedic Eric Lee
Paramedic Gilbert Lee
Paramedic Hyogap Lee
Paramedic Warren Lees
EMT Ronald Leggadstro
EMT Thomas Leonard
Paramedic Vito Leroi
Paramedic Kevin Leroy
EMT Thomas Leto (2)
EMT Avia Levi
EMT Jeffrey Levine (2)
EMT Andrew Lewen
EMT Maurice Lewis
EMT Robert Lewis
Paramedic Webster Lewis
Paramedic Ron Li
EMT Ruben Licona
Paramedic Justin Lim (2)
EMT Zhangka Lin
Deputy Chief Stephen Lincke
EMT Christina Linton
Lieutenant Matthew Lindner
EMT Jesse Lipton (2)
Paramedic Rostislav Livinski (2)
EMT Kayesle Liz
EMT John Lo Bello
EMT Melissa Lockley
EMT Thomas Logan (2)
EMT Kyle Logrande (2)
EMT Michael Lombardi
Lieutenant Alice Lominico
EMT Valerie Longo
Lieutenant Carlos Lopez
Paramedic John Lopez
Paramedic Lisa Lopez (4)
Paramedic Lisset Lopez
Paramedic Luis Lopez (2)
EMT Steve Lopez
Paramedic Michael Locusalo (3)
Paramedic Joseph Losquadro
Lieutenant Edward Loss
EMT David Louis
Paramedic Alexander Lousky
Paramedic Kristin Lovegren-Boyle (2)
EMT Mwalimu Lovelace
EMT Brendan Lovett
Captain Thomas Luby
Lieutenant Joseph Luciano
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>07VY</td>
<td>Paramedics Timothy Boyle, Kristen Lovegren-Boyle, Robert Valenz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>54R2</td>
<td>Paramedics Robert Caggiano, Joseph O'Farrell, Steven Scarniz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>49C2</td>
<td>EMTs Jimmy Guiaiacela, Christopher Mifsud, Johnny Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>16D2</td>
<td>EMTs Cullen McGraw, Dennis Tavernite, Andrew Yen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>54A2</td>
<td>EMTs Christopher Geraghty, Kevin McDonald, Meaghan Mischke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>26C3</td>
<td>EMTs Salvatore Caiozzo, Anthony Furino, Avia Levi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>48G2</td>
<td>EMTs Gregory Gentile, Emmanuel Rodriguez, James Ubiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>19E3</td>
<td>EMTs Fredric DeSarno, Samuel Murray, Matthew Myers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>15I3</td>
<td>EMTs Alethea Groarke, Michael Smith, William Sochor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>43A3</td>
<td>EMTs Alan Guss, Robert Maiorana, Kelly O'Malley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>49H3</td>
<td>EMTs Pedro Acosta, Paul Forte, Dennis Rehberger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>06A3</td>
<td>EMTs Charles Bernardi, Brian Kilroy, Andrew Scharff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>EMS Unit of the Month—2012</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
May M. Burke provided in her will for the endowment of a medal in 1899. The recipient also is awarded the Firefighter Louis Valentino Award, a medal endowed by the Fitzpatrick and Frisby Foundation, in memory of these two sisters, in their deed of gift, to be awarded annually to a member of the Department in honor of the late Chief and Fire College faculty member, James Gordon Bennett. The medal was endowed by the late Chief and Fire College faculty member, James Gordon Bennett in memory of his father, a volunteer Fireman, Mrs. William F. Conran and first was awarded in 1937.

Brooklyn Citizens Medal/FF Louis Valentino Award
In 1896, a committee of Brooklynites endowed this medal “to be given to the most deserving Firefighter in the Brooklyn Fire Department, as he/she shall be selected by the Fire Department of the City of New York.” The recipient also is awarded the Firefighter Louis Valentino Award, a medal endowed/funded since 1998 by Diane Valentino and the Valentino family.

Charles H. Frisby 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.”

Christopher J. Prescott Medal
Named in honor of EMT Christopher Prescott, the first EMS member to make the Supreme Sacrifice in the line of duty in 1994, the Prescott Medal is the highest honor bestowed upon a member of the Bureau of EMS. Funded by the Uniformed EMTs and Paramedics and Fire Inspectors Union.

Hugh Bonner Medal
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.

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 and funded by the Honor Legion.

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.

Thomas E. Crimmins Medal
First awarded in 1912. In memory of her father, Thomas E. Crimmins, contractor, builder, loyal New Yorker and son of a volunteer Fireman, Mrs. May M. Burke provided in her will for the endowment of the Crimmins Memorial Medal.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.”

Chief Ulyses Grant Leadership Medal
Named in honor of Chief Ulyses Grant, a 30-year veteran of the Emergency Medical Service, who exemplified respect, leadership, integrity, imagination, compassion and dedication. The recipient of this medal is an EMS Officer who has the ability to influence others to accomplish the mission. The medal is awarded to an EMS Officer who, in leading members under his/her command, has performed an outstanding act of heroism and bravery in the line of duty. The award is endowed by Chief of EMS Operations Robert A. McCracken (retired) and EMS Division Chief Robert P. Browne (retired), who believe a man’s experience and wisdom need not die with him, but become his legacy.

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.

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.

Chairman 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 also is awarded the Fitzpatrick and Frisby Award, a medallion endowed by the Fitzpatrick and Frisby Foundation, in memory of two Firefighters who made the Supreme Sacrifice. The UFA funds this award.

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.

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.

Ner Tamid Society/Franklin Delano Roosevelt Medal
This medal was endowed by the officers and members of FDNY’s Ner Tamid Society in honor of the late president. First awarded in 1946.

Third Alarm Association Medal
The Third Alarm Association, a group of men interested in Fire Department activities, endowed this medal for valor in 1950. Funded by the Third Alarm Association.

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. Funded by the UFA.

Tracy Allen-Lee Medal
MT Allen-Lee is nationally recognized as the first EMS professional in the country to be awarded the Public Safety Officer’s Benefit by the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, after dying from a communicable disease sustained in the line of duty. Funded by the Uniformed EMTs and Paramedics and Fire Inspectors Union.

Brummer Medal
The late Bertram Brummer and his wife, Susie, have had a long-standing interest in the FDNY. Bertram, a member of the New York Stock Exchange, received training during World War II at the Fire Department College and was assigned to Engine Company 44 in the Auxiliary Corps. In 1961, Bertram and Susie Brummer endowed this medal to be awarded annually for an act of bravery. First awarded in 1962.

Frank W. Kridel Medal
Awarded by the Hotel Association of New York City to a member of the FDNY in recognition of an act of valor above and beyond the call of duty. First awarded in 1962.

Emerald Society Medal
Endowed/funded by the Emerald Society and awarded to an FDNY member whose distinguished service in the line of duty receives recognition by the Department’s Board of Merit. First awarded in 1965.

Chief Wesley Williams Medal
Endowed/funded by the Vulcan Society. Awarded to an FDNY member whose distinguished service in the line of duty receives recognition by the Department’s Board of Merit. First awarded in 1966.

Holy Name Society Medal (Brooklyn/Queens)
Endowed/funded by the Holy Name Society (Brooklyn-Queens) in memory of Chaplain Emeritus Very Reverend Monsignor Merrit E. Yeager. First awarded in 1967.

Hispanic Society Memorial Medal
Endowed/funded by the Hispanic Society as “a memorial tribute to the 12 Brother Firefighters who made the Supreme Sacrifice at the East 23rd Street fire on October 17, 1966.” First awarded in 1968.
Captain Denis W. Lane Memorial Medal

Endowed in honor of the late Captain Denis W. Lane. Established by the Honorable Joseph M. Lane and Ms. Joan M. Lane. Captain Lane was appointed to the Department in 1913. A life-long member of the FDNY Anchor Club, he retired in 1958 after a long and dedicated career. Awarded to a deserving member of the united force in recognition of an outstanding act of bravery. First awarded in 1976. (Page 40)

Uniformed Fire Officers Association Medal

Endowed/funded in 1977 by the Uniformed Fire Officers Association “for an act of heroism and bravery performed by a Fire Officer at a fire.” (Page 41)

Chief James Scullion Medal

Recognized as a pioneer in his field, Chief James Scullion was instrumental in bringing both basic and advanced life support services into the modern-day emergency medical system in the City of New York in the early 1970s. His dedication and commitment to excellence are memorialized through this award. (Page 42)

Dr. Albert A. Cinelli Medal

Endowed/funded by the UFA in memory of Dr. Albert A. Cinelli, a longtime friend of the FDNY. Dr. Cinelli was responsible for founding both the Medical and Surgical Specialists Plan and the Surgical Assistance Fund. Serving without salary as the director of both programs, Dr. Cinelli won the admiration and respect of every member of the FDNY. In keeping with these thoughts, this medal has been dedicated to his memory. Awarded for the first time in 1978. (Page 43)

Fire Chiefs Association Memorial Medal

The Fire Chiefs Association has endowed this medal to honor the memory of those Chief Officers of the FDNY who, from volunteer days to the present, have given leadership, inspiration, courage and, sometimes, their lives, to the development of the finest firefighting force in the world. First awarded in 1979. (Page 44)

Fire Marshals Benevolent Association Medal

This medal was endowed/funded since 1980 by the Fire Marshals Benevolent Association, to be awarded to a member of the united force for performance of an outstanding act of valor. (Page 45)

Community Mayors, Inc./Lt. Robert R. Dolney Medal

This medal is sponsored by the Community Mayors, Inc., and is dedicated to the memory of Lieutenant Robert R. Dolney, who gave his life so that others might live. The Community Mayors organization, dedicated to helping handicapped children, will present this medal annually to a member of the Department who performs an act of bravery in attempting to save the life of a Firefighter. However, if an act of this nature does not occur during the year, it will then be presented to a member who performed an outstanding act of heroism. First awarded in 1981. (Page 46)

Battalion Chief Frank T. Tuttlemondo Medal

This medal is endowed/funded by the members of the 44th Battalion in honor and memory of their late, beloved Chief, who served the Brownsville area of Brooklyn most of his firefighting career and gave his life to save his men. The medal was designed by then-Firefighter George Guinan, former of Ladder 120. It is presented annually to a member of the Department who performs an act of bravery and courage in keeping with the highest traditions of the FDNY. First awarded in 1982. (Page 47)

Dr. John F. Connell Medal

Awarded since 1983 in honor of the late Dr. John F. Connell, adopted in 1923 by Engine 2, in what was then Hell’s Kitchen. With encouragement of Firefighters who became his substitute fathers, he received his medical degree. He attended thousands of fires, treating Firefighters and civilians without a thought of personal recognition. Endowed/funded by his son, the late John F. Connell, Jr., and first awarded in 1983, the award continues from Rosemary Connell, the widow of John F. Connell, Jr. (Page 48)

Fire Bell Club Medal

The Fire Bell Club, the oldest and largest such group in the New York City area, consists of individuals, both in and outside of the fire service, who have an interest in the FDNY. The Fire Bell Club awards this medal bi-annually as an expression of their admiration and appreciation of the camaraderie that has existed between the FDNY and the Club since its founding in 1939. First awarded in 1984. Funded by the Fire Bell Club. (Page 49)

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, funded by the Association and first 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. (Page 50)

Firefighter David J. DeFranco Medal

In honor of the memory of FF David J. DeFranco for his dedicated efforts on behalf of the FDNY. This medal, awarded for a water-related rescue, is presented by the Uniformed Firefighters Association (UFA) in memory of David’s father, FF Dan DeFranco. FF Dan DeFranco was assigned to Engine Co. 17 and Ladder Co. 18 on the lower east side for 30 years and survived a period of extremely heavy fire duty. FF Dan DeFranco also served on the executive board of the UFA for eight years at the post of sergeant at arms with honor, dedication and devotion to his Brother Firefighters. (Page 51)

Lieutenant Kirby McElhearn Medal

Dedicated professional with a passion for communications, Lieutenant McElhearn is remembered for his instrumental involvement in the research and development of the first modern-day Field Communications Unit (FieldComm) for EMS. Sponsored by the Uniformed EMS Officers Union. (Page 51)

Deputy Commissioner Christine R. Godek Medal

Established and presented by Honorary Fire 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. (Page 52)

Firefighter Kevin C. Kane Medal

This medal has been established in honor of Firefighter Kevin C. Kane, who made the Supreme Sacrifice in the discharge of his duties, protecting life and property on September 13, 1991. This medal is awarded bi-annually to a member of the Department who performs an act of outstanding bravery and courage as deemed by the Board of Merit. Funded by Engine 207. (Page 53)

Captain John J. Drennan Memorial Medal

Endowed/funded by the Viking Association of the FDNY in memory of Captain John J. Drennan, who sacrificed his life in the line of duty. This medal is awarded to members of the Department who perform acts above and beyond the call of duty. (Page 54)

Jack Pintchik Medal

Following successful resuscitation from cardiac arrest by EMS Paramedics, Jack Pintchik, founder of the Pintchik Home Improvement Stores, honored members of EMS by establishing the first formalized EMS Awards & Recognition ceremony. In his memory, the Pintchik family continues to show their respect and support of EMS professionals through the Jack Pintchik Medal. (Page 55)

Lieutenant James Curran/New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal

This medal, awarded for a water-related rescue, is presented every three years to a unit that received the Lieutenant James Curran/New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal during the previous three years. Endowed by Honorary Deputy Chief Peter Horowitz. (Page 56)

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.” Endowed by the New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation and Dr. Marc Kramer, Honorary Assistant Chief and Consultant to the Medical Division. (Page 57)

Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Medal

Endowed/funded 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. (Page 58)

World Trade Center Memorial Medal

Established to honor the bravery and courage of the 343 FDNY members who made the Supreme Sacrifice on September 11, 2001, at the World Trade Center. This Company of the Year Award is endowed/funded by the 9/11 parents and families. (Page 59)
Died in the Line of Duty

Lieutenant Richard A. Nappi
Engine Company 237
Died on April 16, 2012, as a result of injuries sustained in the performance of duty at Brooklyn Box 33-0717.
New York’s Bravest
Proudly Serving Since 1865

FIRE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK
MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG, Mayor
SALVATORE J. CASSANO, Fire Commissioner
EDWARD S. KILDUFF, Chief of Department

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