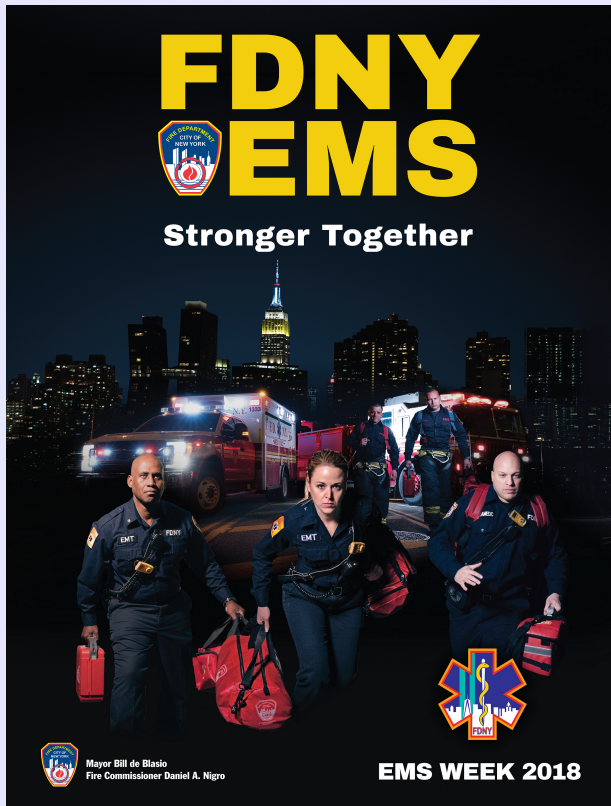




# Fire Department City of New York

## 24TH ANNUAL SECOND CHANCE CEREMONY



**TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2018**

**10:00 A.M.**

**Liberty Warehouse  
260 Conover Street  
Brooklyn, NY**

## **PROGRAM**

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: **Capt. Mark Guerra**

*Executive Officer to the  
Fire Commissioner*

NATIONAL ANTHEM:

**EMT Sarah McShane**

INVOCATION:

**Reverend Stephen Harding**

*FDNY Chaplain*

REMARKS:

**Daniel A. Nigro**

*Fire Commissioner*

**James E. Leonard**

*Chief of Department*

INTRODUCTION  
OF SURVIVORS:

**Dr. Glenn H. Asaeda**

*Chief Medical Director  
Office of Medical Affairs*

BENEDICTION:

**Reverend Stephen Harding**

*FDNY Chaplain*

---

SECOND CHANCE CEREMONY 2018

## DONNA AMATO

---

**D**onna Amato, 60, was discovered having trouble breathing in her living room in the Bronx by her son, Chris on the early morning of June 6, 2017. Chris determined his mother's breathing was abnormal and called 911. Her condition worsened and escalated to a cardiac arrest.

Lieutenant Caleb Prue and Firefighters Elvis Flores, Thomas Cozzi, Messan Greaves, and Nuzzi Luigi of Engine Company 89 and Paramedics Marvin Williams, Cesar Ramirez, and EMTs Stephanie Lugo and Johanna Perez of Station 20 arrived on scene and began administering critical treatment to save Mrs. Amato. Firefighters began CPR while Paramedics provided cardiac monitoring; and delivered a shock from the defibrillator.

Lieutenant Charles Vitale and Paramedic Allison Shaughnessy of Station 19 arrived to assist and additional shocks were deployed, but Mrs. Amato remained in cardiac arrest. Paramedics administered special medication via an IV in an effort to get her heart to circulate regularly. With the medication and a sixth shock, Mrs. Amato's circulation was spontaneously restored to her heart. From Mrs. Amato's cardiac monitoring, an FDNY physician was alerted and Montefiore-Weiler Medical Center was notified of an incoming cardiac patient.

Thanks to the collaborative and determined teamwork of Firefighters, EMTs, and Paramedics, Mrs. Amato was discharged from the hospital and successfully completed rehabilitation and is enjoying her second chance.



## BYRON COTTON

---

**B**yron Cotton, 53, had just returned home from a workout at the gym on January 10, 2018 when he collapsed in the shower in sudden cardiac arrest. His wife, Dana, heard him fall and acted quickly, calling 911 and beginning CPR with instructions provided by Dispatcher Kydeshia Langdon.

In minutes, Captain Joseph Gasparini and Emergency Medical Technicians Thomas Russo and Christopher Betancourt of Station 49 arrived at Mr. Cotton's home and took over CPR. They shocked him once with a defibrillator, which returned his spontaneous circulation.

Next to arrive were Paramedics Pedro Dos Santos and Gonzalo De Jesus of Station 49 and Lieutenant Peter Solenne and Firefighters Joseph D. Griffin, Richard Adames, Kevin Rubenstrunk, and Miguel Gutierrez of Engine Company 312. The Firefighters assisted in patient care while the Paramedics established an IV, inserted a tube into Mr. Cotton's lungs to provide artificial breathing, and began continuous cardiac monitoring. Their assessment revealed Mr. Cotton had a blocked artery. The Paramedics notified FDNY Medical Control so that the cardiac intervention team at Elmhurst Hospital would be prepared for Mr. Cotton's arrival. The Firefighters assisted with the quick removal of Mr. Cotton to the ambulance.

When he arrived at the hospital, Mr. Cotton regained consciousness and was taken directly to the cardiac catheterization lab to clear his arteries. Three days later, thanks to the quick response of his wife, and the dedication of ten highly-trained FDNY members, Mr. Cotton was discharged from the hospital to enjoy his second chance.



## BARBARA DEGAETANO

---

Barbara DeGaetano, 67, of Hixson, TN, had just arrived in New York City for her father's 97th birthday and was riding on a shuttle bus at LaGuardia Airport on February 4, 2017 when she suddenly went into cardiac arrest. The bus operator called for assistance over the radio. That transmission was heard on another shuttle bus at the airport, where retired FDNY EMS Captain Philip Weiss was a passenger. He heard the driver's call for help, boarded the bus carrying Mrs. DeGaetano, and began to perform CPR.

Port Authority Police Officers Joe Miranne and Jason Berrios arrived next and Captain Weiss asked them for an automated external defibrillator. Captain Weiss administered one shock from the defibrillator.

Within minutes, Lieutenant Dennis Rehberger and Emergency Medical Technicians Daniel Fernandez and Cristian Rodriguez from Station 46 and Paramedics Nicholas DiPrima and Christopher Choy from North Shore University Hospital arrived to find Mrs. DeGaetano's pulse was restored and she was trying to breathe on her own.

The Paramedics established an IV and performed continuous cardiac monitoring while the FDNY members assisted with transport of their patient to Elmhurst Hospital, where she continued to receive medical treatment.

Twelve days later, Mrs. DeGaetano's doctors deemed her stable to be discharged and return home to Tennessee. Thanks to cooperation between FDNY and the Port Authority, and the quick response of one retired FDNY member, Mrs. DeGaetano made it back home to enjoy her second chance.



## KATHLEEN DOHERTY

---

**K**athleen Doherty, 74, was discovered by Paul Digiso, her neighbor in the backyard of her home on Staten Island on the early afternoon of September 17, 2017. Mr. Digiso alerted Laura Cappel, a nurse in their neighborhood and Ms. Cappel began administering bystander CPR as Ms. Doherty was in cardiac arrest.

In less than four minutes, Lieutenant Frank Noto and Firefighters Anthony Tanzillo, Steven Decarlo, Gary Elder, and Alex Filosa of Engine Company 167 arrived, took over CPR, and delivered a single shock with a defibrillator to Ms. Doherty.

Paramedics Keith Werner and Carmen Rosas and Lieutenant Ralph Cabello from Station 23 and Emergency Medical Technicians Anthony Natale and Benjamin Knight from Station 22 arrived next. They quickly established an IV and monitored cardiac activity.

The single shock had restored spontaneous circulation to Ms. Doherty. The members on scene prepared her for transport to Staten Island University-Prince's Bay Hospital.

Thanks to the quick actions of her neighbor, and the outstanding training of the Officers, Firefighters, Paramedics, and EMTs who responded, Ms. Doherty now has a well-deserved second chance.



## THOMAS DRAKE

---

Retired NYPD Police Officer Thomas Drake, 74, collapsed in sudden cardiac arrest in the Times Square subway station on July 26, 2017.

Emergency Medical Technicians Anthony Sahagun and Josef Lisoski from Station 7 were already in the station treating an unrelated, non-critical patient when they were flagged to help Mr. Drake. They quickly began CPR and applied their defibrillator. Mr. Drake's heart was in a lethal rhythm and was not effectively pumping oxygenated blood. With one shock from their defibrillator, the EMTs restored his spontaneous circulation.

Paramedics Winslow Luna and Corey Titus of Station 8 arrived to find that Mr. Drake had a pulse, but his heart was still in an unstable state. A second shock was delivered to restore normal electrical activity. Mr. Drake regained consciousness and an IV was established. The EMTs and Paramedics assisted his breathing and maintained continuous cardiac monitoring. Emergency Medical Technicians Maria Fessaras and Brett Butler from NYU Langone Medical Center responded to assist the Paramedics with transport of Mr. Drake to Bellevue Hospital. EMTs Sahagun and Lisoski returned to their original patient and continued care.

Mr. Drake spent his career serving and protecting New Yorkers as a member of the NYPD. At his moment of need, EMTs and Paramedics responded to serve and protect him, and to make sure he received a second chance.



## MICHAEL FENSTER

---

Michael Fenster, 40, was running in the Brooklyn Half Marathon on May 20, 2017, when he went into cardiac arrest at Avenue U and Ocean Parkway. An off-duty Paramedic from Maimonides Medical Center, Andrew Posner, was also running in the half marathon and stopped to help.

Paramedic Posner found Mr. Fenster not breathing and with no pulse. He immediately began CPR. Emergency Medical Technicians Arthur Bronshteyn and Marvin Zuniga from Station 43 were nearby and were flagged down to assist. They shocked Mr. Fenster one time with a defibrillator and continued CPR to restore his circulation.

Lieutenant Daniel Napoletano and Paramedics Robert Lapre and Joseph Castelli, also from Station 43, arrived and applied a cardiac monitor. They found that Mr. Fenster's heart, while beating, was in an unstable rhythm. They delivered a second shock to restore a stable rhythm, inserted a tube to assist his breathing, and established an IV. On the way to NYU Lutheran Medical Center, Paramedics continued to administer medications and provide constant care.

Thanks to the immediate intervention, the quick response from FDNY members, and the continued cardiac care he received at the hospital, Mr. Fenster survived his cardiac arrest and now has a second chance.





## MICHAEL GILLMAN

---

Michael Gillman, 32, was running sprints near the Brooklyn Navy Yard on April 11, 2017 when he collapsed on the street in sudden cardiac arrest.

Dr. Todd Cowdery, a physician at the Riker's Island Correctional facility, was riding by on a bicycle and saw Mr. Gillman lying on the street. He stopped to help him and discovered he was in cardiac arrest. Dr. Cowdery called 911 and began to perform CPR.

Minutes later, Paramedics Earl Roberts and Bryant Gutierrez from Station 31 responded. Their assessment confirmed Mr. Gillman was in cardiac arrest and they immediately began cycles of defibrillator shocks and CPR. They were soon joined by Lieutenant Brian Smith and Emergency Medical Technicians Robert Bruccoleri and David Ku, also of Station 31; and Lieutenant Christopher Corsi and Firefighters Carlos Denys, Andrew Burns, Tony Ng, and Alex Porta of Engine Company 210 who all assisted with patient care.

The EMTs took over CPR, while the Paramedics inserted a tube into Mr. Gillman's lungs to provide artificial breathing and established an IV to administer medications. After four defibrillator shocks, Mr. Gillman's circulation was restored. The Paramedics then performed a 12 lead EKG acquisition and assessment to identify any coronary artery occlusion in Mr. Gillman's heart. This information was shared with Brooklyn Hospital prior to his arrival to ensure activation of specialized cardiac treatment teams.

Mr. Gillman condition improved over the next two weeks and he was discharged from the hospital. Thanks to a Good Samaritan physician, and the outstanding efforts of FDNY Station 31 and Engine 210, Mr. Gillman now has a second chance.



## EMMA HASANKOLLI

---

**1** 6-month old Emma Hasankolli, was found unresponsive by her father, Albert on the morning of March 10, 2017. Mr. Hasankolli called 911 and while EMS units were responding, FDNY Assignment Receiving Dispatcher Christopher Hughes kept Mr. Hasankolli calm and provided him with instructions to administer CPR on his daughter.

NYU Langone Brooklyn Medical Center Emergency Medical Technicians Uriel Chavez and George Valente arrived and took over CPR on Emma. They were soon met by Lieutenant Jesus Deinnocentiis and Paramedics Maggi Peterson and Joseph Laporte from Station 40. Together, the EMS personnel performed continuous CPR and prepared Emma for immediate transport to the hospital, which is essential in pediatric cardiac cases.

In the ambulance, CPR on Emma continued and one shock from a defibrillator was administered, which restored Emma's spontaneous circulation. Lieutenant Deinnocentiis notified EMS communication units that Emma was on the way to NYU Langone Brooklyn Medical, so the staff there would be aware of an incoming pediatric cardiac patient.

Thanks to CPR administered by Emma's father and the professional, coordinated response from EMTs and Paramedics who responded, Emma received the emergency care she needed and returned home with her parents for a second chance.



## BRIAN HENDERSON

---

**B**rian Henderson, 37, was playing basketball in Greenpoint, Brooklyn on the morning of June 4, 2017 when he suddenly collapsed. Bystanders quickly called 911 as Mr. Henderson was experiencing cardiac arrest.

In less than three minutes, Captain Patrick J. Keena and Firefighters Michael R. Morrow, Kareem R. Morancie-Leid, John J. Greenwald, and Juan Feliz of Engine Company 238 arrived at the basketball court. They began administering CPR and used a defibrillator to deliver two shocks to Mr. Henderson's chest.

Lieutenant Eldwood Thomas, Emergency Medical Technicians Vincent Oyangoren, Michael Barrow, and Paramedics Eddie Radovic and Dennis Chen from Station 35 arrived and assumed care for Mr. Henderson while Firefighters continuously delivered CPR. With cardiac monitoring, Mr. Henderson's heart was shown to be functioning at a lethal rate and Paramedics determined Epinephrine, a special medication to increase his heart rate, was needed.

After the medication, Mr. Henderson's heart returned to spontaneous circulation. EMTs assisted the Paramedics to prepare Mr. Henderson for transport as Lieutenant Thomas notified Woodhull Medical Center a cardiac arrest patient was on the way.

Thanks to FDNY Officers, Firefighters, EMTs, and Paramedics, Mr. Henderson averted his nearly fatal cardiac arrest and he now has a second chance.



## PATRICIA HERDT

---

Patricia Herdt, 43, was about to speak at a conference on August 2, 2017 at the International Organization of La Francophonie to the United Nations when she collapsed in cardiac arrest. Her colleagues called 911 for help.

On the other end of that 911 call was FDNY Emergency Medical Dispatcher Barbe Summers. She immediately dispatched units to the scene and relayed instructions for bystander CPR to Ms. Herdt's colleagues. EMT Summers' actions would prove crucial to Ms. Herdt's survival.

NYPD Sergeant Daniel Freifeld, and Police Officers Marilyn Noa, Jacqueline Garcia, and Gregory Rittenhouse from the 17th Precinct arrived and applied a defibrillator. Lieutenant Mark Klinger and Firefighters Brian Prior, David Gonzalez, Peter Augello and Joseph Demaio from Engine Company 8 arrived next and continued CPR. They delivered two shocks with the defibrillator and continued CPR, but Ms. Herdt remained in cardiac arrest.

Paramedics Andriy Hrycyk and Victoria Papazian from Station 8 were next on scene, along with Lieutenant Bernard Pogrebinsky, also of Station 8, and Emergency Medical Technicians Maria Fessarar and Brett Butler of NYU Langone Medical Center. The Paramedics administered two additional shocks which restored Ms. Herdt's spontaneous circulation. They inserted a tube into her lungs to provide artificial breathing, established an IV for medication, and provided continuous cardiac monitoring. Lieutenant Pogrebinsky notified dispatch that their patient would be transported to Bellevue Hospital so that hospital staff could prepare for an incoming cardiac patient.

Days later, Ms. Herdt was home recovering from her medical episode. She missed her speech, but thanks to the efforts of her colleagues, FDNY members, NYPD members, NYU Langone EMTs, and Bellevue hospital staff, she has received a well-deserved second chance.



## GREG MELLI-JONES

---

**G**reg Melli-Jones, 48, collapsed on the sidewalk on West 43rd Street and 6th Avenue in Manhattan on the morning of March 3, 2017. Mr. Jones was in cardiac arrest and in desperate need of medical attention.

An NYPD Police Officer was the first to arrive and began CPR on Mr. Melli-Jones. That Officer was quickly joined by Lieutenant Philip Polemeni and Firefighters Michael Eddy, Nicholas Batista, Prem Nair, Sandy Zorilla, and Thomas Furnan of Engine Company 65. The Firefighters continued CPR and provided three shocks from their automated external defibrillator, which restored Mr. Melli-Jones' normal heart rhythm and spontaneous circulation.

FDNY Paramedics Lorena Hanton and Christopher Gilkes of Station 8 were next on the scene. They continued care and confirmed his pulse and breathing has been restored. The Paramedics also provided medication intravenously, as well as oxygen, while continuing cardiac monitoring.

FDNY Emergency Medical Technicians Taylor Perez and Christos Groutas, also of Station 8, responded to assist the Paramedics with transport of Mr. Jones to NYU Langone Medical Center. On the way to the hospital, Mr. Jones vital signs stabilized and he began to regain consciousness.

Thanks to the quick actions of every first responder that day, and the excellent care at every link in the chain of survival, Mr. Jones was discharged from the hospital and back home with his family just days later.



## TIK NG

---

**T**ik Ng, 54, was experiencing chest pains on the morning of October 1, 2017. Mr. Ng was experiencing a heart attack and called 911 from his motor vehicle.

New York Presbyterian Community Hospital EMTs Jonathan Shalhov and Anthony DeRico arrived first; to stabilize Mr. Ng with medication and oxygen. Paramedics Maggie Peterson and James Mcquire of Station 40 arrived and provided IV access to Mr. Ng and leveraged FDNY's STEMI Directive which immediately activates cardiac catheterization labs at specialized hospitals under supervision of an FDNY physician to deliver the care a patient needs expeditiously. FDNY alerted Maimonides Medical Center to prepare for the arrival of Mr. Ng.

While en route to the Maimonides, Mr. Ng's condition became worse and quickly deteriorated to cardiac arrest. CPR was performed immediately and a shock from the defibrillator restored Mr. Ng's spontaneous circulation. By the time Mr. Ng arrived at the medical center, Mr. Ng regained consciousness.

Thanks to the quick teamwork of New York Presbyterian Hospital EMTs, FDNY Paramedics Peterson and Mcquire and FDNY's Office of Medical Affairs, Mr. Ng now has a second chance.



## JUAN SANTOS

---

**J**uan Santos, 67, was at home in the Bronx on the evening of October 6, 2017 when he began to feel dizzy and suddenly went into cardiac arrest. His family called 911 for help and his son-in-law began bystander CPR, which would be critical to his survival.

In minutes, a team of Firefighters, Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians arrived to continue the care that would save Mr. Santos's life.

Lieutenant Gerard Morrone and Firefighters Mario Marsich, Robert Brown, Matthew Correa, and Cesar Lozada from Engine Company 81 took over chest compressions. Paramedics Jonathan Rivera and Carrie Boyd of Station 27 provided defibrillator shocks to Mr. Santos' chest, began intravenously administering medication, and inserted a tube into the patient's lungs to provide artificial breathing. They were assisted by Lieutenant Seon Taitt and Paramedic Lancia Bailey-Hooper, also of Station 27. Thanks to the quick medical intervention by all responders, Mr. Santos circulation was restored and he began to regain consciousness.

Emergency Medical Technicians Yahaira Arias and Aron Vargas from St. Barnabas Medical Center arrived to assist with transport of Mr. Santos to Montefiore Medical Center. On the way, he was alert and communicating with the Paramedics.

One week later, because of the immediate, effective emergency medical care Mr. Santos received from his family and first responders, he was back home once again enjoying a second chance.



## ETHLYN SIMMS

---

Ethlyn Simms, 64, was enjoying a festive afternoon on a New York City party cruise near Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn on July 1, 2017, when she suddenly collapsed in cardiac arrest by the dancefloor. Her fellow passengers began CPR on her as the boat headed for the pier.

As the cruise ship pulled into Pier 8, Station 43 Paramedics Jesse Lipton, Jeanine Rodriguez, and Emergency Medical Technicians Omara Juarez-Rivera and Arlene Garcia, and Lieutenant Cemal Cengiz from Station 38; and Captain John Leverock and Firefighters James McDonald, Thomas Wilkinson, Joseph Schafer, and Nikolaos Parikas from Engine Company 246 immediately boarded the ship to deliver critical patient care.

FDNY Members delivered two cycles of continued CPR and two shocks from a defibrillator, restoring Ethlyn's spontaneous circulation. Ms. Simms began to breathe on her own and IV access was established. FDNY EMS personnel continued cardiac monitoring throughout her transport to the hospital. Together, every FDNY member on scene worked to expedite the extrication of Ms. Simms from the boat for transport to Coney Island Hospital.

Thanks to the quick response of her fellow passengers on sea and the responding FDNY members on land, twenty days after her cardiac arrest, Ms. Simms was discharged from the hospital with a second chance!





## KEN TASKENT

---

**K**en Taskent, 50, was attending a classic car meet in Brooklyn with his friends on April 28, 2017, when he had a seizure and stopped breathing. He was in sudden cardiac arrest..

Luckily for Mr. Taskent, retired EMT Joseph Rodriguez and FDNY Community Liaison Richard Velez, also a trained EMT, were at the same event and quickly intervened to help. They called for FDNY members to respond and removed him from his vehicle to perform CPR.

Emergency Medical Technicians Trudy Bermudez and Michael Fennell from Station 43 arrived and administered one shock with their defibrillator. Paramedics Jillian Cox and Tayreen Bonilla, also of Station 43, were next to respond. The Paramedics inserted a tube into Mr. Taskent's lungs to provide artificial breathing and began to administer medications through an IV. The members on scene were joined by Captain Kevin Barwick, also of Station 43. Together, each member worked as one to continue CPR, deliver additional shocks from the defibrillator, and provide medication until Mr. Taskent's circulation was restored.

Throughout the incident, the members provided continuous cardiac monitoring. On the way to Coney Island Hospital, Mr. Taskent began to move his head and arms and tried to speak to his rescuers. One week later, he was discharged from the hospital.

Thanks to the immediate actions and response by both active and retired FDNY members, Mr. Taskent has received a well-deserved second chance.



# ***EMS IN ACTION***



SECOND CHANCE CEREMONY 2018

# **PINTCHIK**

## **WE ♥ FDNY EMS**

The Pintchik Family's devotion to FDNY EMS dates back to 1982 when New York City Paramedics Ken Honig and Carl Tramontana performed advanced life support techniques and revived then-58-year-old Jack Pintchik after suffering cardiac arrest. Since then, the Pintchik family has been proud to honor EMS members annually for their hard work, dedication and ability to profoundly touch the lives of so many fellow New Yorkers and visitors.

---

*The Fire Department  
would like to thank  
the Pintchik Family  
for their generous support  
in making this  
annual event possible.*

---



***FDNY EMS WEEK***  
***May 20-26, 2018***



**National Emergency Medical Services (EMS)  
Week is designed to bring  
public attention to the life-saving work that  
more than 750,000 men and women  
provide to millions of Americans each year.**

**During this week  
we honor those who work for  
the New York City  
Fire Department's EMS Command  
and salute them for their  
commitment and dedication.**

**EMS Week also features special events  
and forums that seek to  
educate the public.**

---

Honorable Bill de Blasio  
*Mayor*

---

Daniel A. Nigro  
*Fire Commissioner*