

# FALLEN FINEST

## POLICE OFFICER FRANCIS J. LASALA

Emergency Services Squad No. 1

**O**n Saturday, January 10, 1987, Police Officer Francis J. LaSala expired from severe injuries he received in a building fire several days before.



At about 10 pm, Monday, January 5, 1987, Officer LaSala and other officers from Emergency Service Squad No. 1 were alerted to an intense fire in a five-story residence adjacent to their headquarters in the Gramercy Park section of Manhattan.

Officer LaSala quickly grabbed a small breathing apparatus and rushed into the burning building on East 21st Street to evacuate and rescue occupants. He is credited with saving several people before he became trapped in a staircase amid heavy smoke and a fireball. Responding Firefighters found him unconscious near the hallway of the third floor with 2nd and 3rd degree burns over more than 50-percent of his body. He was transported to Cornell University Medical Center. Despite the best efforts and care of the Burn Center personnel, Officer LaSala succumbed to his injuries five days later.

On June 7, 1988, Officer LaSala was posthumously awarded the New York City Police Department's Medal of Honor for his heroic actions.

Police Officer Francis J. LaSala was 33 years old and had served with the NYPD for almost 13 years. He was survived by his mother, Beatrice; his sister, Ann; and his brother, Salvatore.

