

NYC and Fleet Lose Two Dedicated Public Servants

By: Keith Kerman

All of New York City joins FDNY and DSNY in mourning the loss of two excellent and dedicated public servants and fleet professionals to COVID-19: Thomas Ward and Michael Geraci.



Thomas Ward served the FDNY as an auto mechanic and supervisor of mechanical equipment for over 26 years. In his most recent assignment, Tom was the supervisor of the ambulance shop, responsible for the repair and maintenance of over 600 ambulances and other emergency response units.

As demand for ambulance services skyrocketed, Tom and his colleagues dedicated themselves to keep these units in service and available for all New Yorkers, despite the serious risks to themselves.

Tom's years of experience and easy-going demeanor made him a huge asset when handling difficult assignments and training new employees.

Tom's love of the fire service carried over to his life at home where he served as a volunteer firefighter at the Massapequa Fire Department for 32 years.

Tom was a gentle giant, who greeted everyone with a smile. He is survived by his sons Brian and Patrick; sisters Mary Roulette and Catherine Loechner; brothers John, James, and Joseph, who is a retired FDNY Lieutenant; as well as his longtime companion Georgette. He will be missed by all who knew him.

We also mourn the loss of Queens East 7A Auto Mechanic Michael Geraci, who passed away on April 14 from complications of COVID-19.

As with FDNY, DSNY also continues to perform its essential services during this crisis by collecting garbage and recyclables, cleaning streets and being prepared for a late-winter storm. Sanitation workers and mechanics have faced daily risks to keep NYC going for everyone else.

Mike joined DSNY in 2011. Vehicles weren't just his job, they were his passion. Mike loved motorcycles and was deeply involved in the Mustang world. He was very personable, funny, and brought much joy and love to all who knew him. There will be a noticeable void with his absence.

Mike leaves behind his son Mikey, his father Joe, mother Vicky, brother Eddie, sister-in-law Christina, nephew Liam, girlfriend Karen, and countless family members and friends.

We send our appreciation and condolences to the families, friends, and co-workers of Tom and Mike, who will forever remind us of the importance and heroism of public servants and of fleet's critical role in protecting New York.

We also send our hope and encouragement to all those continuing to serve in the face of this threat and to those who are personally fighting this illness now.



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