

Bill de Blasio, Mayor  
 Lisette Camilo, DCAS Commissioner  
 Keith T. Kerman, Chief Fleet Officer

JUNE 19, 2017

ISSUE 186

## IN MEMORIAM: RAFFAELE E. SCARPITTI OF FDNY

KEITH T. KERMAN

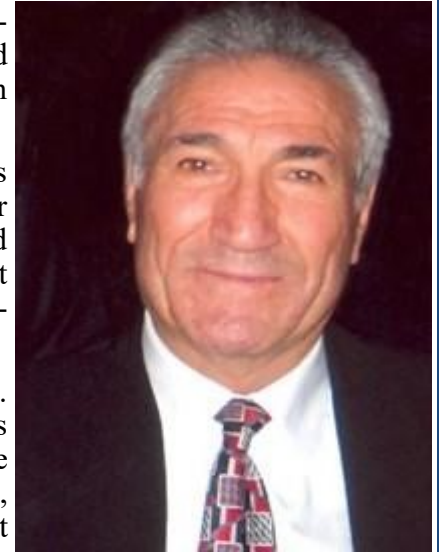
On June 19, 2017 FDNY Commissioner Daniel Nigro led a Plaque Dedication Ceremony at the FDNY Engine Shop at 35th Street in Queens. The ceremony honored Raffaele E. Scarpitti, an auto machinist at the Engine Shop who passed away in 2014 of illness tied to his work on damaged FDNY fleet units after 9-11.

The ceremony was organized by Assistant FDNY Commissioner for Fleet Services Mark Aronberg and attended by a large contingent of senior FDNY officials, labor officials including Local 246 President Joseph Colangelo, and fellow fleet staff and friends from FDNY and citywide. Among family members representing Raffaele at the ceremony were his wife Giovanna Scarpitti, son Pasquale Scarpitti, and daughter-in-law Susan Scarpitti.

We will never forget the sacrifices made by New Yorkers on September 11, 2001. At the forefront were firefighters, police officers, and EMTs who lost their lives that day saving others in the course of evacuation, search, and rescue operations at Ground Zero. Many others

have also become ill and lost their lives since 9-11 due to impacts from the rescue and recovery operations. This includes responders in support roles like Raffaele.

Raffaele answered the call to use his mechanical skills to get damaged fire apparatus and equipment repaired and back in service after 9-11. Hundreds of FDNY fleet units were damaged and contaminated on 9-11. Still FDNY needed its equipment resources more than ever during that time and mechanics like Raffaele dedicated themselves under difficult and dangerous circumstances to clean, repair, transport, and get these units back in use. His dedication in the months after 9-11 would later



compromise his health and shorten his life.

Raffaele worked for the Ladder Section at the 34th Street Shop in Long Island City for his entire FDNY career from June 1980 until October 2002. He worked on all types of fire apparatus repairs including body work.

“Raffaele was a pleasant person,” remembers Hugh McAllister, his colleague from FDNY’s 34th Street Shop. “He got along well with all his co-workers, not just at work but when we went out after work.” He was a man of many talents including making wine and advanced cement masonry. Raffaele was born in Italy and settled down in Bayside, Queens.

All of us in City service and Fleet thank him for his critical efforts during this time of need. Skilled and committed fleet professionals support operations each day at FDNY and all City agencies and their efforts are essential to safeguarding and protecting our City.

