



# One Parade, Three Reasons to Celebrate

## *Hero Firefighters Swift, Stolowski and Cawley march in this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade*

This year's St. Patrick's Day Parade gave Fire Department members even more of a reason to cheer.

On March 17, Firefighters Daniel Swift, Eugene Stolowski and Brendan Cawley made their way up Fifth Avenue after beating all odds.

In November 2004, Firefighter Swift sustained critical injuries when his Humvee patrol was hit by a roadside bomb while he was serving with the National Guard in Iraq. After months of rehabilitation, the firefighter not only marched the parade route with his fellow soldiers, but also received a Bronze Star Medal for Valor for his bravery overseas.

Just behind him marched Firefighters Stolowski and Cawley, who smiled widely as they slowly made their way up Fifth Avenue. They both bravely battled back after receiving critical injuries in the tragic Bronx fire on January 23, 2005, when they were forced to jump from a fourth-floor apartment window.

"I'm proud to be a member of this Department when I witness such bravery as I have today," Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta said. "Today's parade is a tribute to their courage and a tribute to the strength that defines all FDNY members."

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Leading the parade this year were 600 members of the New York National Guard's Fighting 69th, including Firefighter Swift who is assigned to Ladder 43.

The firefighter marched stoically in his army uniform, as thousands of spectators cheered, applauded and congratulated the group on their recent return from Iraq.

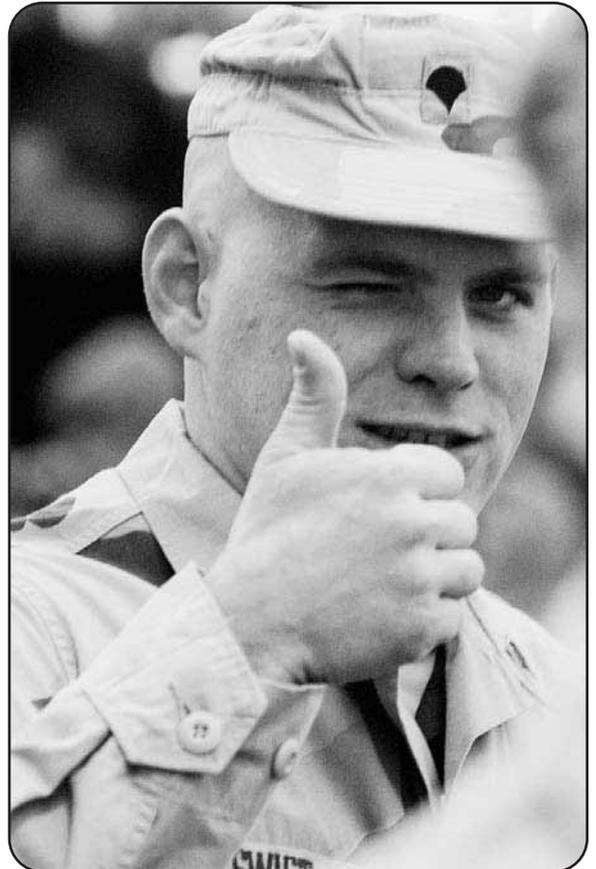
Firefighter Swift said he was "ecstatic" to be marching with his friends in the parade.

The firefighter received shrapnel wounds to his leg and eye following a roadside bombing in Taji, Iraq, on November 29, 2004. Yet although many noted that it was wonderful to see him mending from his injuries, they were even more thrilled to see him receive a Bronze Star Medal for Valor after the parade for his bravery.

Following the bombing, Firefighter Swift crawled through the wreckage to lend medical assistance to his fellow soldiers and radio for help.

He saved several lives that day, but, he said, still mourns the loss of two others in that attack, including fellow FDNY Firefighter Christian Engeldrum.

"Today is filled with emotion for me. I am very proud to be honored, but remember the two lives that were lost and carry their memories with me every day," he said. "I'm dedicating this [medal] to Engeldrum. He was always the go-to guy when things were on."



*Firefighter Daniel Swift marches in the St. Patrick's Day Parade with the Fighting 69th.*

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Firefighters Stolowski and Cawley of Ladder 27 also drew roaring applause from the crowd as they made their way up the parade route.

Using only a cane for support, Firefighter Stolowski walked the entire two-mile procession, smiling and waving to the thousands of onlookers.

"We said we would do it, and we did it," Firefighter Stolowski declared.

Many said they were inspired by the

*(Continued on page 12)*



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## Electronic Incident Command Boards Developed for the FDNY

This month we began testing our new electronic incident command boards in Manhattan. The boards use wireless, state-of-the-art technologies that will enable chiefs to better manage large-scale incidents and keep all Department members better protected. We have trained members from Battalions 1, 7, 8 and 9, as well as Divisions 1 and 3 with the equipment and they will test the boards during the next several weeks. We plan to roll them out citywide by the end of the summer.

The electronic boards provide an improved means of coordinating responses and communicating at multiple alarms. With these boards, commanding officers can independently dispatch and recall units, review computerized blueprints of buildings and track the status of injured civilians. Street maps, satellite photos, water supply lines and subway lines can also be layered on the screen. Additionally, information can be freely transmitted among different boards, which could be valuable in large-scale, multi-unit operations. The new device weighs about 110 lbs and will completely replace the magnetic boards used today.

The boards also allow information to be continuously fed back to the Department's \$17 million, modernized Operations Center (FDOC) at Headquarters. When the FDOC is completed early this summer, it will serve as a control command center in the event of a large-scale incident. Staff chiefs at the FDOC will be able to make assessments based on information that flows wirelessly from the scene back to the operations center, as well as additional information sources such as live media and police helicopter video feeds.

Additionally, it will be possible to retain all incident command

information from the transmissions to the FDOC. Therefore, should the boards be damaged or destroyed during operations, we will still be aware of critical information about the job, such as the location of all our members in the building.

The decision to modernize the boards came following recommendations issued by the McKinsey Report in 2002, the Department's review of its own operations following September 11, 2001. One of its primary suggestions was to provide chief officers with improved means of managing and tracking information at incidents using more advanced communications tools.

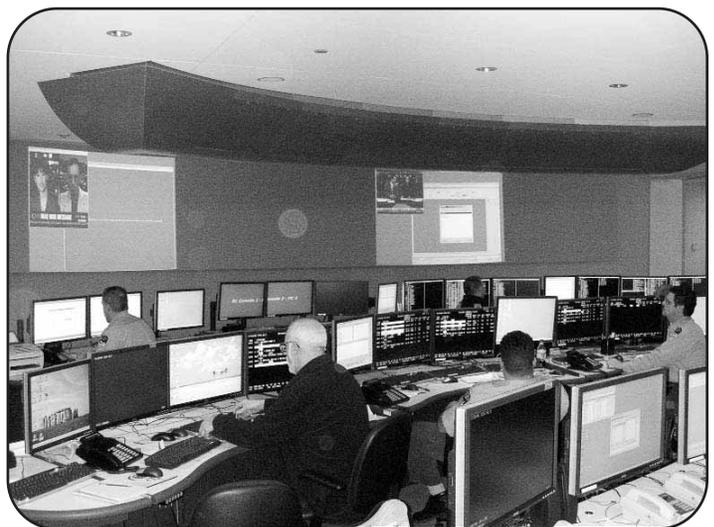
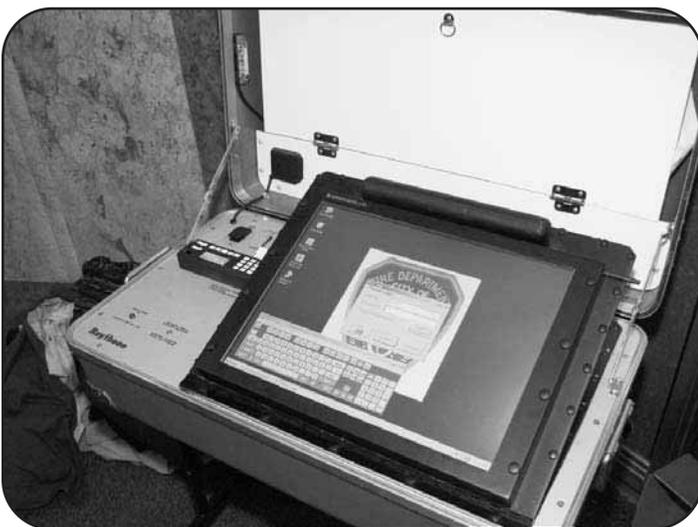
FDNY members spent several years researching and developing this equipment and fine-tuning the model. In early 2003, we began reviewing various technology components for this system. And by mid-2004, the firm Raytheon, in conjunction with the system integration firm, iXP, was chosen as the developer. Then last November, we received the prototype and it was successfully tested at a high-rise fire drill in lower Manhattan.

All of us are anxious to get this technology in full operation. When it is launched, the FDNY will be the first fire department in the nation to use this type of wireless technology; and we expect it to serve as a model for fire departments from around the world.



Commissioner's  
— Message

*Richard Scoppa*



*(Left) The new Electronic Incident Command Boards provide a more coordinated means of communication at large-scale incidents. They are currently being tested in six units throughout Manhattan, and will be rolled out citywide at the end of the summer. (Right) When completed early this summer, the modernized Fire Department Operations Center at Headquarters will serve as an information hub.*

# A Tragedy that Sparked Change

*FDNY joins local leaders to commemorate the 95th anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire*

A touching tribute marked the 95th anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in lower Manhattan on March 24.

The FDNY joined union leaders and local politicians at the annual ceremony on the corner of Washington Place and Greene Street in Greenwich Village. They honored the memory of the 146 workers who died in a tragic fire on March 25, 1911.

Schoolchildren read the names of each victim and laid carnations at the base of the building in their honor. The Department's ceremonial unit then tolled an apparatus bell as each name was read, while members of Ladder 20 symbolically raised their ladder to the sixth floor, the highest point it could be stretched at that time.

"The fire was shocking, horrific, but worst of all, it was largely preventable," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

More than 700 people were at work in the building at the time of the fire, 600 of whom were young, immigrant women between the ages of 16 and 23. Many died because the fire escapes were unsafe and other exits were locked or blocked.

Yet although the memorial centered on the tragedy, many noted that the fire also brought about positive change.

"Triangle Shirtwaist is a story of immigrants, the poor, outdated codes and abuses



*New York City schoolchildren lay carnations to honor the 146 victims of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in Manhattan. As the victims' names were read, an apparatus bell was tolled in their honor.*

and violations," said First Deputy Fire Commissioner Frank Cruthers. "It also marked the beginning of a new era of fire safety regulations."

After the tragedy, the Fire Department

began teaching fire safety and prevention, staging fire drills in factories across New York. Legislation was also passed to improve workplace safety and mandate fire-safe construction.

Additionally, the Buildings Department and the Fire Department worked together to train building inspectors who could issue fines for fire safety violations. And the Bureau of Fire Investigation was organized to investigate similar tragedies.

"Commemoration is not enough," Commissioner Cruthers said, stressing the importance of fire safety education. "We can and we must do better. We want to save lives."

He added that the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire also spurred the efforts of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union to organize workers and pushed politicians to pass legislation improving sweatshop conditions in the garment industry.

## The Landmark Triangle Shirtwaist Fire

On Saturday, March 25, 1911, a fire broke out on the eighth floor of the Triangle Shirtwaist Company's factory in Manhattan's Asch Building. Believed to have started by a lit match or cigarette in a waste bin, the fire quickly spread across paper sewing patterns and shirts hanging above the sewing tables.

More than 700 factory workers scrambled to find available exits. The fire escapes were unsafe and many other exits were locked or blocked, to prevent workers from stealing or taking breaks.

Many died when forced to jump from windows to escape the heat and flames, and others were trapped by the heavy volume of fire.

Although firefighters were able to extinguish the fire within approximately 10 minutes of arriving on the scene, 146 lives were lost.

The building survived the fire and was refurbished. It was renamed the Brown building in 1929 and donated to New York University. It now operates as the school's main science building.

## Stepping Up to the Challenge

### *Fire Marshals chosen for the FBI's joint terrorism program*

The Bureau of Fire Investigation is working hard to make everyone feel a little safer.

In addition to investigating arsons, BFI has been helping the FBI investigate terrorism.

Since 2001, two fire marshals have been appointed full-time to the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force, and three others have received training from officials at the FBI. And this year, another fire marshal will receive high-level training at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

"We are the FDNY's conduit for law enforcement," said Assistant Chief Fire Marshal Richard McCahey. "I like to say we speak two languages – fire and police."

The partnership between BFI and other law enforcement agencies (which also include OEM and the NYPD) began after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

"The BFI became more pro-active," said Chief McCahey. "We brought valuable investigative resources to the table."

Their work includes investigating threats to public utilities, office buildings, schools, places of worship, as well as looking into suspicious websites and emails.

Since taking over as Assistant Chief



*Several FDNY Fire Marshals have recently joined the FBI to help fight terrorism. (L to R) Assistant Chief Fire Marshal Richard McCahey, Fire Marshal Patrick Campbell and Supervising Fire Marshal J.D. Lynn.*

Fire Marshal in 1999, Chief McCahey helped establish national security clearance for top officers in the bureau, and secure a seat for a BFI member in classes held at the FBI Academy.

Supervising Fire Marshal J.D. Lynn is among the BFI members who completed his three-month, in-residence program in Quantico last December.

An 18-year BFI veteran, Supervising Fire Marshal Lynn described the training he received as "cutting edge" in tactics and procedures.

"This is the benchmark by which all

other training should be measured," he said.

Fire Marshal Patrick Campbell was working in the field when he was selected to work with the FBI three years ago.

Now he is helping to counter cyber-terrorism, and monitoring websites and chat rooms for suspicious activities.

"You have to decipher between ranting and what is disguised or coded genuine threats," he said. "When I joined the Fire Department, I never thought I would be given the opportunity to do this type of work."

And while not all fire marshals can have the same top-level clearance from the FBI, they are all trained to follow-up on possible indicators of terrorist activities in the post 9/11 world, according to Chief McCahey.

"That's what we are here for, saving lives through prevention and enforcement," Supervising Fire Marshal Lynn added.

#### Did you know?

This March, three squads of fire marshals participated in joint terrorism training exercises coordinated by the City's Office of Emergency Management.



**Cash for New Orleans:** On March 23, FDNY firefighters presented two checks, totaling \$41,165, to thirty members of the New Orleans Fire Department at Engine 155/Ladder 78 in Staten Island. The first check, for \$18,165, was presented on behalf of the Staten Island Centennial Units to the Local 632 Katrina Relief Fund, to help the New Orleans Fire Department rebuild in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The second was for \$23,000 from various fire companies in Queens.

## A Bright New Career

**60-year-old EMT Robert Small among the 73 EMS Academy graduates**



(Left) Seventy-three Probationary EMS members take the Oath of Geneva on March 14, at a graduation ceremony on Randall's Island. (Right) First Deputy Commissioner Frank Cruthers, Chief of Department Peter Hayden and Chief of EMS John Peruggia congratulate graduate EMT Robert Small.

He's been a manager at AT&T, a soldier in Vietnam, a lifeguard, and on ski patrol in Colorado. But he always dreamed of being an FDNY EMT.

And on March 14, he finally fulfilled his wish.

Sixty-year-old Probationary EMT Robert Small graduated from the EMS Academy with 72 others at a boisterous ceremony on Randall's Island.

"Thank you for taking up the challenge of providing life-saving emergency medical treatment for the citizens and tourists of New York City," said First Deputy Commissioner Frank Cruthers. "We welcome you to what will become, if it has not already become, your second family."

He reminded the graduates that the profession they chose is characterized by courage, service, excellence and commitment.

Chief of Department Peter Hayden added that the new EMTs will find great joy in their new professions.

"I know you will be proud of your job," he said. "And you will always be smiling."

The graduates were all praised for their hard work and dedication, including the class's Academic Achiever, EMT William Keating.

"Take with you the knowledge and skills you learned at the Academy and put it to good use," Chief of EMS John Peruggia said.

gia said.

Many also noted that they learned a great deal about being a part of the FDNY from their family members on the job. Fourteen of the new EMTs have a member of their family in the FDNY.

Also graduating was EMT Michael Toomey, whose father, Firefighter John J. Toomey of Ladder Co. 123, made the Supreme Sacrifice on December 6, 1987.

Additionally, the class included four members who previously served a tour of

duty in Iraq: EMTs Gloria Kim, Frankie Marrero, Scott Specht and Terrence Sykes. And EMT Sykes was also recognized for delivering a baby on his ambulance rotation at the Academy.

Then as the graduates threw their uniform hats in the air and got ready for their first tour, EMT Small added, "Let's go out and be the best EMTs New York City has ever seen."



**Heroic Roof Rope Rescue:** On March 1, three firefighters saved the life of CherylAnn John, a 41-year-old tourist, who was found dangling from a window ledge while trying to escape an apartment fire in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. In a daring rope rescue more than 25 stories above the ground, Firefighter Joseph Donatelli of Ladder 132 was lowered from the roof by Firefighters Tim Rail of Engine 249 and Bill Hansen of Ladder 113. Later, they were reunited with their victim and her husband, Robert John, in the quarters of Engine 280/Ladder 132.

## A Neighborly Visit

### *Nine Montreal firefighters come to New York to learn about FDNY operations*

**T**hey traveled 329 miles to learn from the best.

Nine firefighters from the Montreal Fire Department (Sécurité Incendie Montréal) visited the FDNY on March 7, to study the FDNY's approach to fire suppression and emergency response.

"We are learning from [the FDNY's] technique, equipment and skills," Chief of Department (Directeur) Serge Tremblay said. "Montreal is a big city, and we hope to learn as much as possible from your experience."

The FDNY's Chief of Operations Sal Cassano, Deputy Assistant Chief John Norman and Captain Kevin Munnelly gave the visitors a tour of the new Fire Department Operations Center (FDOC) at 9 Metrotech.

"The men and women of the FDNY are some of the most highly skilled fire and EMS service members in the world," Chief of Operations Sal Cassano said. "So we are always happy to share this vast knowledge and experience with firefighters from other departments."

The Montrealers whispered and took notes as they watched FDOC personnel investigate a Hazmat incident and use their state-of-the-art mapping system. The visiting firefighters, which also included chiefs of operations, division chiefs and other fire officials, said they were impressed with the sophistication of operations in New York.

During their visit, the group also toured the audio/visual and photo units at Headquarters, as well as the Training Academy on Randall's Island.

President of the Montreal Firefighter Auxiliary, Steve Garnett, noted: "The FDNY is renown for special operations and hazmat work. We're hoping we will be able to implement many of the ideas we learned here."

In 2002, the Montreal Fire Department consolidated, incorporating the independent fire departments of 22 of its boroughs – much like New York City did more than a century ago.

Chief Trembaly said their Department is now facing the arduous task of reorgan-



*(Top) Firefighters from the Montreal Fire Department learn about FDNY Operations as they tour the new FDOC at Fire Headquarters.*

*(Bottom) Montreal Firefighters take a look at the FDOC's state-of-the-art computer system.*

izing and modernizing.

"We are at a crossroads with our fire department," he said. "We need to change our equipment and streamline the system. So we want to learn from the New York City Fire Department, to make sure we

make the right decisions."

The Montreal Fire Department includes 3,000 firefighters who protect more than two million of its citizens, responding to around 10,500 alarms each year.

# Ropes Training is Valuable... and Easy

*A 36-year veteran of the Department speaks out about PSS training*

*By Firefighter Vincent Tummino,  
Battalion 22, Staten Island*

After taking the ropes training course on February 17, I believe the new descending device is one of the best life saving tools we have. And, as a senior man with 36 years of experience and over the age of 60, I found the training to be not only very good but also extremely simple. In fact, it's safe to say that walking up five stories with full gear was the hardest part of the training.

I hope no one ever has to use the device, but if you are ever in a situation and need to bail out in a hurry, this new tool will no doubt save your life and minimize your injuries.

I remember years ago, when the old ropes were in service. Although the new system is similar in many ways, it is far superior due to the new descending device.

In the days leading up to my training session, I overheard several firefighters, who had already received the instruction, telling other members how difficult it was. They also mentioned that they came



*Firefighter Vincent Tummino, a 36-year veteran of the Department*

home with large bruises on their thighs and forearms.

I did not find this to be true.

No member should have any fear in

using this device. Nor should he or she worry about where to hook up and how to lean out the window to lower to a safe area. The instructors were very thorough and added confidence to each member as the training was being conducted.

To prevent the bruising they spoke of, I think members should be conscious about how much pressure they are applying to their legs and arms against the window jam.

The process is simple. You will hook on to an object or window sill using your left heel, as it will be doing most of the work in the escape. Then you will just hold with your left hand, lean out as directed and release your left leg. Once you are out, you release your left hand and you will be out with most of your body below the windowsill.

My ropes training session at the DOT included a few chiefs and aides from the 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. Between Battalion Chief Robert Miucco and myself, we have more than 73 years of service. And we both agreed; this is a remarkable, life-saving tool.



## **Visit From Russian Delegation:**

*On March 16, community and religious leaders from Russia met with FDNY chaplain Monsignor Delendick (fourth from left) to discuss the role of the clergy in the Fire Department. The question and answer session included inquiries regarding the spiritual guidance provided to FDNY members, hiring practices of the Department's clergy and a background on the chaplain service. The visit was part of a three-week international exchange set up by the U.S. State Department.*

# In the Borough:

## Manhattan Borough Update

*By Assistant Chief Harold Meyers,  
Manhattan Borough Commander*

As we leave the winter behind, the Manhattan Borough Command (MBC) and its units are busy as usual preparing for the increased workload of spring and summer. The borough is ever changing, and we are constantly working to meet the community's needs.

### St. Patrick's Day Parade

On March 17, the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade took place on Fifth Avenue. Citizens of New York and people from around the world who participated, including the FDNY staff and the other FDNY members, expressed that they enjoyed the parade.

As it took place, MBC units were working in the background to ensure a smooth and seamless operation, despite the increased crowds and traffic. Even before the parade took place, weeks of planning and meetings were scheduled to ensure that all the agencies and organizations involved coordinated their efforts to achieve a safe and enjoyable event. MBC thanks all the officers and firefighters involved for their hard work.

A special part of this year's parade was the participation of more than 50 officers and firefighters from the New Orleans Fire Department. The New Orleans contingent marched under the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) banner, and was a big hit with the crowd. Members of the FDNY who responded to New Orleans last fall following Hurricane Katrina formed a special bond with their brothers and sisters from the South, and hosted them while they were in New York. Many MBC firehouses also pitched in to make sure the NOFD felt at home in the City.

### Upcoming Special Events

As one special event is completed, others move up on the schedule. Planning for



*Assistant Chief Harold Meyers,  
Manhattan Borough Commander*

these events is an ongoing part of the duties of the MBC staff and the Manhattan Borough Special Events Coordinator. Some of the larger special events already on the calendar include the TriBeca Film Festival, Macy's 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks and Fleet Week. Additionally, the usual street fairs and fireworks, that are always a part of summer in Manhattan, are also progressing on schedule.

Manhattan is also the home to many events that the Fire Department schedules or participates in. Upcoming events include Family Day at the Intrepid, Medal Day at City Hall and the FDNY Foundation Humanitarian Awards Dinner at the New York Hilton.

### Training

As always, 2005/2006 was a busy year for training. Large-scale drills were held at many Manhattan locations, including

Penn Station and the Time Warner Center. Upcoming drills will involve a simulated fire in Macy's 34<sup>th</sup> Street store, as well as a fire in a large hotel in midtown.

The subway repeater system, which will greatly improve communication in subway stations, is also nearing completion. A new addendum to AUC 207 will detail operations when testing and training is completed.

March 2006 also saw a large multi-agency drill named Trifecta, which simulated a HazMat incident in Maspeth, Queens. MBC provided several specialized units at this event.

Manhattan units have also been participating in a number of hi-rise roof operation drills (AUC 269R) with NYPD helicopters. These drills utilize an Air Recon Chief (ARC) from Brooklyn flying in from Floyd Bennett Field, who hovers over the drill and interacts and communicates with the hi-rise roof teams, providing a very realistic training scenario.

### Firehouse Renovations

The MBC is also in the process of renovating a number of units in the Command. Engine 8 and Battalion 8 have moved into Engine 39 and Ladder 16's firehouse on East 68<sup>th</sup> Street while their quarters are rehabilitated. Ladder 2 has moved in with Engine 21 on 40<sup>th</sup> Street until the work on their East 51<sup>st</sup> Street firehouse is completed. And Engine 6 has recently moved back to a totally renovated firehouse on Beekman Street.

### 125th Anniversary Celebration

On April 13, Engine 44 celebrated 125 years protecting the Upper East Side with a gala ceremony at its quarters on East 75<sup>th</sup> Street. Hundreds of retired and active members and their families attended this event to celebrate the history of this unit.

# Manhattan

## A Station of Pros

### *Manhattan's EMS Station 4 awarded Unit of the Month for an unprecedented second time*

It was déjà vu as a crew from Manhattan's EMS Station 4 was awarded EMS Unit of the Month for the second time on March 10.

"Manhattan is a wonderful borough in its totality," said EMS Division Chief Mark Steffens. "Each of the stations has a dynamic personality and Station 4 stands out as a real gem. We live as a family. We celebrate our accomplishments together. It is not just going out to calls – it's answering all calls with compassion."

The crew of 01C3, including EMTs Michael Loscalzo, D.J. Freeman and Daniel Riccobono, were recognized with the award in a ceremony at their Lower East Side station.

Personnel are selected based on the number of runs they make, their morale and their teamwork, according to Chief of EMS John Peruggia.

And this award is also mark of distinction because it represents the first time in the award's history that two crews from the same station have been recognized with the honor. In June 2005, crew 04H1 was also named Unit of the Month.

"I believe excellence is infectious," said Captain Rosario Terranova, explaining why two of his crews were recognized with the award. "They see a lot of hard working people here and rise to the chal-



*(L to R) EMS Division Chief Mark Steffens, EMT Michael Loscalzo, EMT Daniel Riccobono, EMT D.J. Freeman, Captain Rosario Terranova and Chief of EMS John Peruggia celebrate crew 01C3 of Station 4 being awarded EMS Unit of the Month.*

lenge."

In addition, two of the honored members, EMTs Loscalzo and Freeman, both have begun paramedic basic training.

"We're both nervous, but very excited too," said EMT Loscalzo.

The third member of the noteworthy crew, EMT Riccobono, said he was sad to see his partners leave, but happy they were advancing their medical skills.

In fact, Station 4 has six members

training to be paramedics at this time, more than any other unit in the FDNY.

"It gives me great pleasure to publicly recognize the units that give us tremendous pride," Chief Peruggia said. "These individuals demonstrate why the FDNY's EMS are considered the City's 'Best.'"

Framed certificates and \$50 checks from the FDNY Foundation were presented to the honored members.

## This Month in FDNY History

### *Calcium lights first used at a multiple alarm fire 128 years ago this month*

In 1877, John J. Gorman of the Board of Fire Commissioners developed an idea for using calcium lights on fire apparatus. After much experimentation and testing, the first lights were installed on Ladder Trucks 1 and 9 in Manhattan.

They were first utilized at a multiple alarm fire on Fulton Street in March 1878.

The next day, newspapers raved about the new lights, and reported that the Chief

of Department "considers the calcium light one of the most important additions to the service in a long time and similar lights will be provided for all of the Hook and Ladder Companies."

In 1900, a contract was given to the LaFrance Fire Engine Company, to build three horse-drawn, steam-driven electric searchlight units. They constructed a single cylinder engine, directly connected to

a marine-type generator, with two dismountable, 9000-candle powered lights. The 400 feet of cable to feed these lights was then carried on two reels.

These horse-drawn steamer searchlights were in service at Engine 20, Ladder 24 and Ladder 68 (now 118) until 1916, when they were replaced by calcium lights carried on the water towers.

## A New Place to Call Home

### Ribbon is cut for EMS Station 54 in Queens

After the ceremonial ribbon was cut February 9, more than 100 EMTs and paramedics in south Queens had a new place to call home.

Members of EMS Station 54 welcomed distinguished guests and friends at the ceremonial opening of their new 6,000 square foot station on Merrick Boulevard in Springfield Gardens.

"This EMS station is different because it is community based," said First Deputy Commissioner Frank Cruthers. "It will provide a high level of care to the neighborhood and the security of knowing that they have a skilled team of paramedics, EMTs and officers looking out for them."

The new \$5 million facility houses five crews trained in Basic Life Support and one in Advanced Life Support, as well as two field supervisors.

The freestanding, state-of-the-art station has a separate decontamination area for disinfecting clothing and medical supplies, as well as a 2,500-gallon (below grade) fuel tank. It can accommodate six ambulances and provides off-street park-



EMS Station 54 in Springfield Gardens was officially opened February 9 by (L to R) Chief of Operations Sal Cassano, Chief of EMS John Peruggia, Chief of Department Peter Hayden, EMS Captain Charles Fraser and First Deputy Commissioner Frank Cruthers.

ing for its members.

Chief of EMS John Peruggia said the facility is also in a prime location, augmenting everything from tour changes to ambulance restocking. Previously, the sta-

tion had been housed at Queens General Hospital Center.

"This new facility allows our skilled EMTs and paramedics in south Queens to reduce their response time in order to more efficiently provide the level of pre-hospital care that distinguishes them as among the City's Best," Chief Peruggia said.

And the men and women of Station 54 have already established themselves as good neighbors. Even before the station officially opened, members assisted three patients – including one heart attack victim – who walked into the facility off the street.

"We have built a state-of-the-art facility which will enable medical care professionals to serve the community for decades," said David J. Burney, the Commissioner of the Department of Design and Construction.

The day was also made a little sweeter as Queens Borough President Helen Marshall issued a proclamation declaring it 'FDNY-EMS Station 54 Day.'

Since the 1996 merger of the FDNY and EMS, 16 EMS stations have been opened. The next facility, EMS Station 32, is scheduled to open in Red Hook, Brooklyn, this summer.



**Promoted to Captain:** Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta presided over a February 17 promotion ceremony at FDNY headquarters. Seven lieutenants were promoted to captain, including Edward Schollmeier, Kevin Lynch, Richard Mlecz, Christopher McArdle, Patrick Gleason and George Campbell.

## Calling All Volunteers

### *The Tribute Center asks FDNY members to help give tours of the WTC site*

**T**hey're looking for a few, good volunteers.

The Tribute Center, the visitor's center created by the September 11 Families Association, is searching for volunteers to serve as walking tour guides of the World Trade Center site.

Each guide will share personal stories and memories of September 11, 2001, and its aftermath.

"I can't begin to tell you how therapeutic it is for the loved ones of those lost," said Lee Ielpi, vice president of the September 11 Families Association. "The volunteers are a wonderful group of people who are dedicated to sharing their experiences."

Ielpi, a retired member of Rescue 2, lost his son, Firefighter Jonathan Ielpi of Squad 288 on September 11.

Located next to Engine 10/Ladder 10 on Liberty Street, the Center is conducting training through June and is set to open early this summer.

Volunteer guides are asked to commit eight hours per month, with each tour expected to last about an hour each.

"One of the best parts of the program is looking into the eyes of those who want to know more about [September 11] and



*Retired firefighter Lee Ielpi shares stories about his son, Firefighter John Ielpi, and other memories about the attack on the World Trade Center as he guides a tour of the site.*

what followed," said Iris Holohan, mother of Firefighter Thomas P. Holohan of Engine 6, who was lost on September 11.

## Same Charity, New Name

### *The Fire Safety Education Fund now known as FDNY Foundation*

**H**ave you heard? The Fire Safety Education Fund has officially changed its name to the FDNY Foundation.

The nonprofit supports fire prevention programs and the work of Fire and EMS personnel. And its Executive Director Christine Patterson said the change will help the charity more clearly define its mission.

She added that the streamlined moniker will also assist with fundraising initiatives and name recognition.

"I think it will mean great things for

the success of our organization and for the support we can provide to the FDNY," said Patterson.

Since August 2002, the fund has raised \$3.4 million for the Department. Since its inception the Fund has helped purchase vehicles and equipment, provide management training opportunities and offer translation services for fire safety education materials.

While the new name is already in use, it will officially be debuted at the May 3 Fire Commissioner's Humanitarian Award Dinner at the New York Hilton.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, contact Rachael Gygorcewicz at [RachaelG@tributenyc.org](mailto:RachaelG@tributenyc.org) or 212-422-3522.

Training sessions will be held:  
 April 21: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
 April 22: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
 May 19: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
 May 20: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
 June 23: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
 June 24: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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# One Parade, Three Reasons to Celebrate

(Continued from page 1)

firefighter's strength. He broke his legs, ribs and pelvis, and his skull detached from his vertebrae in the tragic Bronx fire last year.

When he was released from the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation in West Orange in September, he said that he and Firefighter Cawley vowed they would march in this year's parade. They wanted to honor the memory of Lieutenants Curtis Meyran and John Bellew, who died on January 23, 2005, as well as Firefighter Richard Sclafani who was killed in a separate fire the same day.

"It felt great to be able to do that...to honor them in that way," Firefighter Stolowski said at the end of the 42-block march. Then he added with a smile, "next year we're going to do it again, and I'm going to lose the cane."

Mayor Bloomberg, who marched with the two firefighters and Chief of Department Peter Hayden for several blocks,



added that he hoped to golf with them in the coming months.

Also joining the two firefighters along the parade route was Lieutenant Meyran's widow, Jeanette.

(L to R) Firefighters Brendan Cawley and Eugene Stolowski are joined by Chief of Department Peter Hayden as they march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.



**Queens Box 9820, March 13, 2006:** 89-28 Sutphin Boulevard. Fire spread quickly at a two-story brick 65x200 commercial in Jamaica, Queens. The all-hands was transmitted on arrival, and quickly spread to a fifth alarm. It took 50 units more than four hours to extinguish the fire that gutted five stores. Six firefighters, three police officers and one civilian were treated for minor injuries.



## VIEW

POINT

APRIL 2006

NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT

**FIRE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF NEW YORK**  
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BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201

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1865-2006

**A 141 YEAR HISTORY**  
OF COMMITMENT, COURAGE & COMPASSION