

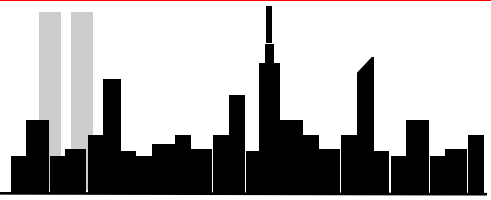
JUNE 2009

VIEW
P O I N T



Metro Tech

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT



FDNY Medal Day 2009



Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano join the members who received medals at the 2009 Medal Day ceremony

Although the weather was dreary, June 3 was a bright day for the FDNY as it celebrated its 140th Medal Day ceremony at Pace Uni-

versity Auditorium in Manhattan.

During the annual ceremony, 51 members and four companies received awards for the heroism they demonstrated at emergencies throughout the five boroughs.

“Each of these stories sounds like the tale of a Hollywood superhero ... and what these members do each day rivals anything you see in the movies,” Mayor Michael Bloomberg said.

The 48 medals were presented to one medical director, 13 fire officers, one EMS officer, one fire marshal, 25 firefighters, six paramedics, four EMTs and four fire companies.

“Despite adversity and physical challenges, you never flinched, you never grew weary and you never gave up,” said

Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. “Your acts represent the best traditions of this Department and all honor those who came before you.”

This year’s James Gordon Bennett Medal, one of the year’s top honors for firefighters, was awarded to Firefighter Anthony Romano from Ladder 142. The firefighter rescued a fellow member from a fire in Richmond Hill, Queens, on Feb. 26, 2008.

“This is unbelievable, I can’t believe it’s happening,” he said after the event, looking around the auditorium filled with several thousand FDNY members and their families. “What I did that day was what any firefighter would have done. I’m just glad it worked out the way it did.”

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FDNY Streamlining Dispatch to Keep Response Times at Historic Lows

One of the core measures of our success at the FDNY is our average response time to emergencies – and last year we had one of the most successful years in the history of the Department.

Response times to structural fires in 2008 averaged 4:12 – the fastest time in 14 years and the second-best year on record (we have 20 years of data and only in 1994 did we have a better response time, 4:08). Our EMS response time to life-threatening Segment 1-3 calls also was spectacular at 6:38 seconds, only one second off from our all-time best of 6:37 in 2006.

Last month we took another step toward improving response times with the introduction of Unified Call Taking (UCT) in New York City. By streamlining the process for answering 911 calls, firefighters – and, eventually, our EMT's and paramedics - will be able to respond to emergencies even faster than before, allowing us an even better chance to impact the lives of those we serve.

Under UCT, an NYPD call taker will collect information from a 911 caller and then electronically transfer that information to FDNY dispatchers. Under this protocol, callers give information just one time, to one person. This differs from the previous system, when an NYPD call taker would collect information and then initiate a conference call with FDNY, requiring the 911 caller to repeat critical information.

Every NYPD call taker has been trained in how to collect fire information from 911 callers, and in the future, UCT will be expanded to include calls requiring an EMS response.

A key element to this program is the creation of the first Public Safety Answering Center (PSAC 1) at 11 Metrotech Center in Brooklyn. The facility – which will be fully staffed in autumn – will combine the call-taking and dispatching operations of both the Police and Fire Departments.

A second backup center (PSAC 2) is planned for the Bronx, and construction will start later this year. Each of these facilities will have the capacity to support the entirety of the City's 911 operations, but we also will maintain our other centers throughout the city in the event of a catastrophic emergency.

The decision to centralize and integrate the city's call taking and dispatch operations will enable us to better

respond to the more than 1.5 million calls for assistance we receive each year.

Yet this is only the latest change we have made in an effort to respond to emergencies faster.

Last May, we launched the successful Expedited Dispatch pilot program citywide after it resulted in a significant drop in response times in Queens. With this program dispatchers assign fire units to an emergency as soon as the location and nature of an emergency is obtained from a 911 caller. If additional information is received from the original or subsequent callers, those details are relayed to units en route via apparatus radio. This program will continue under UCT.

Last year's initiative, combined with the new UCT protocol, will allow us to arrive at scenes faster than ever before – saving more lives and helping all of you do the work that's such a vital part of our mission at the FDNY.

* * *

This year's Medal Day was nothing short of astounding. As you flip through the Medal Day book and read the stories that earned each of the recipients their respective medals, it becomes clear why the FDNY is considered the best in the world.

Whether it was rescuing children from a multiple-dwelling fire, providing critical medical care to victims trapped in the 19-story crane collapse, searching for and rescuing victims of a gas explosion or rescuing a fellow firefighter whose life is in danger, each of the medal winners placed his or her life on the line to save another. For that the Department, and the City, are eternally grateful.

I also was pleased to see the extraordinary turnout of fire and EMS members supporting their friends and colleagues during the ceremony. The cheers that rang from the four corners of the auditorium were no doubt heartening for those accepting awards.



Commissioner's
— Message

A Night to Say Thanks

FDNY Foundation Honors its Biggest Supporters with Annual Humanitarian Awards



Above Left: (L to R) Colonel Jack Jacobs, former Fire Commissioner Thomas Von Essen, Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano, Honoree Kevin Burke, Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Chairman of the FDNY Foundation Steve Ruzow. Above Right: Honorees Arthur E. Imperatore, Sr. (far left) and Brian Williams enjoy the Humanitarian Awards, honoring individuals for outstanding and continuing service to New York City.

The FDNY Foundation honored Brian Williams, Anchor and Managing Editor of NBC Nightly News; Kevin Burke, Chairman and CEO of Con Edison; and Arthur E. Imperatore Sr., Founder and CEO of New York Waterways at the annual Fire Commissioner’s Humanitarian Awards on April 23, and raised close to \$1 million for the non-profit organization.

“This is a chance for us to honor people from all walks of life and thank them for

supporting the Department an all our first responders,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta during the event at the New York Hilton in Manhattan.

Presented annually, the Humanitarian Awards recognize individuals for outstanding and continuing service to the New York City community. James Cramer of CNBC served as the night’s emcee.

Receiving this year’s FDNY Service Recognition Award was the Fireproof Multiple Dwelling Wind-Driven Fire Pro-

ject Team, including Deputy Chief John Mooney, Battalion Chief Joseph Cunningham, Battalion Chief Gerald Tracy, Battalion Chief George Healy, Capt. Thomas Yuneman and Lt. John Ceriello from the Bureau of Training; Director of Grants Development Irene Sullivan and Videographer/Producer Kristin Eng.

Students from P.S. 89 in Elmhurst, Queens, received the Chief William Feehan Fire Safety Education Award for their commitment to the fire safety initiative.



***A Royal Welcome:** Prince Harry of Wales visited Engine 10/Ladder 10 in Lower Manhattan on May 29, after laying a wreath at the World Trade Center site during his first official visit to the United States. The Prince shook the hands of all the firefighters at the house, then toured the firehouse’s Sept. 11 memorial - dedicated to the six members they lost in 2001 - as well as the bronze World Trade Center memorial located on the side of the firehouse. Firefighters said they were impressed by his humor, kindness and graciousness during the short visit.*

New Home Sweet Home

Ribbon Cut on Newly Renovated EMS Station 8

A newly refurbished EMS Station 8 made its debut on May 26 in Manhattan.

“These are beautiful facilities that will be put to good use,” said Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano.

Located in the DNA Forensic Lab at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, just steps from Bellevue Hospital, the station supports five advanced life support (ALS) and five basic life support (BLS) units.

The 6,100-square-foot station includes administrative space, storage for basic and advanced life support ambulances, a decontamination bay, vehicle supply room, a room for the agency’s ambulance call report scanning system and fueling capability for ambulances. It also offers support facilities for the approximate 100 paramedics and EMTs assigned to the station.

The project was designed by the Perkins Eastman architectural firm and



Members of the FDNY, Medical Examiner's Office and Dormitory Authority of the State of New York State cut the ceremonial ribbon officially opening the newly renovated EMS Station 8 in Manhattan.

built by the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York State. Construction of the project started in 2001 and portions of the larger building were completed in 2007, while the EMS station was completed in the spring of 2009.

“This is a first-class facility that our

members can call home as they continue to provide their lifesaving work,” Chief of EMS John Peruggia said.

EMS Station 8 is one of the oldest EMS stations in the City, tracing its history to the 1870s, when the apparatus was pulled by horses.

Tribute to Tenure

Civilian FDNY Members Honored for Service

Civilian members of the FDNY were honored for their tenure on May 15, during the Employee Recognition Awards at Headquarters.

“Each of you makes for a stronger, better Department,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. “You keep the operation going and continue to make this the best fire department in the world.”

Chief of Operations Patrick McNally added: “Our first responders couldn’t do their job without the people in this building.”

During the ceremony, Associate Accountant Murry Rosen was acknowledged for his 45 years of service.

Also honored were seven members with 40 years of service, 14 members with 35 years, 14 members with 30 years, 65 members with 25 years and 234 members with 20 years of service to the City.

Among those recognized were Lenore



Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Chief of Operations Patrick McNally with a few of the honorees at the Employee Recognition Awards ceremony.

Koehler, Special Events Director; Sandra Trimarche, Office Manager; Carol Bell, Administrative Assistant to Deputy Commissioner John Benanti; Betty Jackson, Principal Administrative Assistant in the Audio/Visual Unit; and Regina Washington, Personnel.

Chief of EMS John Peruggia also was honored for his 25 years of service. He described his fellow award recipients as “a remarkable group of individuals.”

He was also one of the 14 members who were praised for educational achievement in the past year.

Moving Up

15 Members Promoted to the Rank of Fire Captain

It was a proud day for 15 members of the fire service as they were promoted to the rank of captain on May 28 at the Fire Academy.

“The Department appreciates the tremendous perseverance it took to get to today,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. “With every promotion ceremony our Department gets a little stronger, solidifying our position as the best in the world.”

Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano added, “The job of captain is the toughest job in the Department, but it can be the most rewarding. And the dedication and commitment it takes to pass this [promotional exam] shows your resolve.”

The members, who represent more than 245 years of experience, will be



Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano stands with the newly promoted members at the Fire Academy.

assigned to units throughout the city.

“Although it’s bittersweet to leave the members [at Ladder 156], this is like a

feather in the cap of my career,” said Capt. August Orlando, Jr.

Tribute to a Hero

Park Dedicated in Honor of Lt. John Martinson

Dozens of firefighters gathered at Staten Island’s P.S. 55 on June 5, as the school’s Double Nickel Playground was dedicated to honor Lt. John Martinson.

Lt. Martinson sustained fatal injuries while fighting a two-alarm fire at the Ebbets Field Houses in Brooklyn on Jan. 3, 2008.

“Thank you for the honor, acknowledgment and respect,” the Lieutenant’s wife, Jessica Martinson, said. “Now my children can tell everyone that this is their daddy’s park.”

Ms. Martinson attended the ceremony with her two children, John Patrick, 3, and Catherine Grace, 1; as well as Lt. Martinson’s mother, Iris.

The park is near the home in which Lt. Martinson was raised, as well as the home he was renovating for his family when he



Iris Martinson (far right), Jessica Martinson and 3-year-old John Patrick stand with Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano and FDNY Chaplain Reverend Stephen Harding unveil the plaque dedicating the park at P.S. 55 as the Lt. John H. Martinson Playground.

was killed. Firefighters from his firehouse completed the renovations.

Jessica Martinson said she often walked to the park with Lt. Martinson and their son.

“Here the memory of John Martinson

will never be forgotten,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta.

Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano added, “Children will play here for years to come and will remember him as a hero – not for how he died, but how he lived.”

Public officials attending the ceremony, including Council Member Vincent Ignizio, Council Member James Oddo and State Senator Andrew Laza announced during the ceremony that \$1.5 million will be spent to renovate the playground in Lt. Martinson’s honor.

“Through this, John Patrick and Catherine Grace will learn who their daddy was,” said Iris Martinson. “This is a very special honor for us.”

A Year of Water Rescues Lauded

Firefighters Honored by Life Saving Benevolent Association

Eleven firefighters were honored by the Life Saving Benevolent Association during their annual awards ceremony at the Seamen's Church Institute in Manhattan on April 14.

Eight New York City police officers also were honored during the ceremony that recognized outstanding water rescues.

"All of the recipients deserve high praise for their valor," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "We are grateful to the Life Saving Benevolent Association for, each year, acknowledging their heroic acts and dedicated service."

The Rev. David Rider, President of the Lifesaving Benevolent Association, added, "These are 19 people who deserve our thanks and admiration."

Firefighter Thomas Sullivan from



Members of Ladder 161 receive their awards from Rev. David Rider (right), President of the Lifesaving Benevolent Association.

Marine 1 was awarded for a rescue of a man in the Hudson River on Sept. 3, 2008. He entered the water on a tether and rescued a man struggling under a pier.

"It's really nice to be honored," said

Firefighter Sullivan. "But I was just doing my job."

Firefighter John Rizzo, also of Marine 1, received an award for jumping in and rescuing a man injured while swimming in the Hudson River on July 18, 2008.

"It's an honor to be recognized," said Firefighter Rizzo.

Other firefighters honored in the ceremony were Battalion Chief Barry Brandes of Battalion 41; Lt. Anthony Smaldone, and Firefighters Thomas Dolan, Stephen LaRosa, Andrew Mastroberti, Carmine Pecoraro and Robert Scheer from Ladder 161; Firefighter Timothy Moynihan of Marine 1; and Firefighter Anthony Citera of Ladder 106. Each received a plaque marking their award and a bronze bar to wear on their uniforms.

Honoring A Hero

Firefighter receives Firemark Award from Liberty Mutual

Firefighter Charles Maloney of Ladder 18 received a Firemark Award for Heroism from Liberty Mutual on April 30 at the quarters of his Manhattan firehouse.

"This is humbling. I was very, very surprised when they told me I'd receive this," he said.

Firefighter Maloney, a 30-year veteran of the FDNY, received the honor for a rescue on March 22, 2008, when he helped save two people trapped in an apartment fire along the FDR Drive.

The officer on duty that day, Lt. Todd Heaney, said he was impressed, but not surprised, by the seasoned firefighter's intuition and skill.

"He's been doing this for 30 years," he said. "He knew exactly what to do, before I could even tell him."

Firefighter Maloney said he and the members of Ladder 18 saw a woman on the third floor, screaming and waving her hands over the child protection gates on the window as the smoke poured out from behind her.

The members of Ladder 18 put the bucket of the truck to the window and Firefighter Maloney tried to remove the bars of the gate, with no success.

When the woman collapsed, he said, "I knew one way or another we were going to get her out of there." So he broke the window over her head and slowly pulled her from above the gate. The opening was small and there was still glass around the window frame, and Firefighter Maloney shook his head remembering how badly she was cut.

"She must have needed 50 stitches," he said.

When she was finally freed and placed in the bucket, the Firefighter said she pointed to the window – she was a nurse's aide and the 90-year-old woman she cared for was still inside. Firefighter Maloney then returned to the window, crawled in and was able to quickly locate the woman in the small room. Another firefighter then helped him pass her back through the window to the safety of the bucket.



Firefighter Charles Maloney receives the Firemark Award from Liberty Mutual Sales Representative Matt Morse.

"It was a team effort – like a Swiss watch, for it to work, you need every part," he said. "I'm happy this [award] puts 18 Truck on the board, recognizing the great work of the firefighters in the house."

Lt. Gregory Prial and Firefighter John Haseney from Ladder 43 also received a Firemark Award for Heroism from Liberty Mutual on May 18. They were honored for the rescue of a woman in East Harlem on March 3.

Remembering Fire Patrolman Roma

FDNY Pays Tribute to Member of Fire Patrol Killed on 9/11



The bronze plaque dedicated to Fire Patrolman Keith Roma, who was killed at the World Trade Center on 9/11. (L to R) Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano; Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta; Arnold Roma, father of Fire Patrolman Keith Roma; and Chris Gill, President of the National Board of Underwriters.

The FDNY honored members of the Fire Patrol lost in the line of duty, unveiling two plaques that paid tribute its fallen members on May 13.

One of the plaques was dedicated for Fire Patrolman Keith Roma, who was killed at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

“We are delighted to honor the members of the Fire Patrol and commemorate the great work they did for the City,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta during the ceremony at FDNY Headquarters.

Chris Gill, President of the National Board of Underwriters, added, “We appreciate the importance of this day [for the FDNY].”

A wooden memorial plaque, listing the 32 members of the Patrol who were lost in the line of duty since 1803, will be hung at the Fire Academy. The Fire Patrol was disbanded in 2006.

Another bronze plaque, honoring Fire Patrolman Roma, was presented to the Patrol member’s father, Arnold Roma. The five-year member of the Fire Patrol was killed after making eight or nine trips

into the North Tower, helping people escape.

“This is the greatest moment since the most tragic thing that happened to [our family],” said Mr. Roma, who also served in the Patrol for two years. He described his son as laid back and kind. “He would do anything for you.”

Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano added, “These plaques recognize what the Patrol has done for us for the last 200 years. There was always a bond between the members of the Fire Patrol and firefighters, and we will never forget them.”

About the Fire Patrol

The Fire Patrol was created to protect property from water damage during a fire or emergency.

It’s history can traced back to 1803 when 63 merchants and residents in the downtown area formed an organization called the Mutual Assistance Bag Company.

The members would respond to fires and remove the building’s contents in bags to a safer location. One member

would remain at the scene to prevent looting. The Mutual Assistance Bag Company was a voluntary organization just as the fire department was at the time.

In 1835, the Association of Fire Insurance Companies took over the operation and employed four men at an annual salary of \$250 each, making it the first paid fire service organization in New York City.

Their duties were to attend to all fires occurring at night in the mercantile district. In 1858, a day force of two men was appointed.

The State Legislature granted a charter to the New York Board of Fire Underwriters in 1867, giving them the authority to “organize a corps of men who were employed to enter burning buildings and secure the property contained herein.”

All of the patrol’s quarters were owned and constructed by the Board of Fire Underwriters.

The service was disbanded in 2006, when three patrols were still in operation, located in Manhattan and Brooklyn.

EMS WEEK 2009



Members of the EMS Command outside the NASDAQ building in Times Square after ringing the closing bell on May 14.

EMS Week 2009 was filled with events promoting public safety and celebrating the lifesaving efforts of the more than 3,000 members of the FDNY's Emergency Medical Service.

Celebrations kicked off on May 16, as EMS members biked from Station 20 at Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx to Roanoke, Va., as part of the Annual National EMS Memorial Weekend.

To commemorate the Week, the Department hosted the annual Second Chance Brunch and EMS Week Competition. In addition, the Empire State Building was lit yellow, white and blue; members of the FDNY's EMS Command rang the NASDAQ closing bell, and EMS stations throughout the City hosted neighborhood gatherings.

Second Chance Brunch

The FDNY EMS Command celebrated life at the 15th Annual Second Chance Brunch on May 19, reuniting paramedics, EMTs and firefighters with the victims of cardiac arrest whose lives they helped save.

"We're all in awe of what you do each day," said Deputy Mayor Ed Skyler during the event at the Fire Academy.

Tears of joy and embraces marked the ceremony, which enabled victims to thank the paramedics and EMTs who saved them.

"This event today brings into focus the important work our EMS members do each day," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "Because of the great work of our paramedics and EMTs, New York is considered one of the safest cities in the world."

Chief of Department Salvatore Casano added, "The capabilities of our members in the field are tremendous."

Among the survivors was Barbara Schroeder, who patted one of her rescuers, Paramedic Alex Lipsitt, on the arm as she spoke to him.

On Dec. 15, 2008, the 62-year-old woman felt ill while at home with her son.



The Empire State Building, in partnership with the New York City Fire Department, was illuminated yellow, white and blue for three nights starting May 15 in celebration of EMS Week 2009.



Barbara Schroeder embraces Paramedic Alex Lipsitt, the FDNY EMS member saved her life when she went into cardiac arrest in December 2008.

She took some aspirin as her son called 911. When Paramedic Lipsitt and his partner, Clifton Pennie, arrived, they began applying intravenous fluids and hooked her to a heart monitor.

Moments later, she went into cardiac arrest. The members used a defibrillator to shock her heart back to a normal rhythm and hooked her up to an electrocardiogram machine, which showed her heart blockage. Then, under a new FDNY protocol, they transported her directly to Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, which is equipped to perform a specialized procedure to open the blockage.

"It feels wonderful to be here. My heart is jumping!" Ms. Schroeder said.

Paramedic Lipsitt smiled and said, "It's so rewarding to see her happy and healthy now."

Another survivor was 4-year-old Nicholas Grande. On June 10, 2007, when he was

just 2 years old, Nicholas fell into a swimming pool while at a birthday party. Two of the other party-goers performed CPR on the boy, restarting his pulse, but he was having difficulty breathing.

EMTs David Goodman and Linda Avellino placed a mask over his face to pump air into his lungs as they made their way to Staten Island University Hospital, and when they arrived at the facility, he had regained consciousness.

"It was a very overwhelming experience," said EMT Goodman as he looked at the active boy. "It holds a special place in my heart."

Nicholas's mom, Samantha Grande, held her son and said, "It's amazing they do this day in and day out. I'm so grateful; it's hard to put it into words."

Chief of EMS John Peruggia added the event highlighted the difficult work members of the EMS Command do each day, noting, "We are there to help people in their time of need. Saving lives can be stressful, but it's rewarding."

EMS Competition

Outside a Brooklyn university, a professor is worried about his wife, who is being tended to by FDNY EMS members after she complained of chest pains and went into cardiac arrest.

Just steps away, other EMS members are identifying a hazardous substance and donning their Personal Protective Equipment as toxic smoke fills the area.

Luckily, none of it was real. It was all part of the 9th Annual EMS Competition held in Metrotech Commons on May 21.

"We're trying to evaluate how well our members do their job and protect themselves," Chief of EMS John Peruggia said. "And they all performed incredibly well."

The competition, sponsored by the Office of Medical Affairs, scored teams based on how well they performed a number of tasks, including reading an electrocardiogram, dealing with faulty equipment and ventilating a patient. Teams



Teams from Station 58 picked up the first place trophies for both ALS and BLS competitions

also were required to determine whether or not a patient should be transported directly to a hospital that can perform a specialized procedure to open a heart blockage.

"This competition shows you are the best," said Dr. David Prezant, Chief Medical Officer for the Office of Medical Affairs.

Many of the 27 competition participants said they felt it was a great way to assess their skills and ability to think under pressure.

"This was a challenging exercise and I think it really tested us," said EMT Thomas Siciliano of Station 58, who was team leader for the first place BLS team.

EMT Anthony Terranova agreed, noting that their training kicked in and they worked as a team: "We overcame our obstacles and worked together."

As they recuperated from the 30 minute skills test, their teammate, P.J. Derosa, added, "I think this really shows the city what we do every day."

First place winners for ALS also were from Station 58, including Lt. Michelle Robbins and Paramedics Juan Cortes and Sean McGrath. Paramedic McGrath, a first time competitor for the unit, said he was not nervous beforehand.

"We prepared for this and we all work together every day, so once you're in there and you start working, you just concentrate on what you do," he said.

Second place for the ALS competition went to members of Station 4 in Manhattan (Paramedics Feliks Granovskiy, Man Wai Law and William Meringolo) and third place went to members of Station 43 in Brooklyn (Paramedics Jane Corella, Matt Jachyra and Stuart Weinstein).

For BLS, second place went to the members of Station 4 (EMTs Ziaotian Bao, Miguel Perez and Peter Molinelli) and third went to members of Station 43 (EMTs Chad Ritorto, Christopher Russo and Robert Strafer).

All the winners received a cash prize for use at their stations, donated by the FDNY Foundation. All the participants also received tools and equipment donated by various EMS groups.

During the event the Command also unveiled a music video by Paramedic Farooq Muhammad and former Paramedic Christopher Marquart (now a firefighter at Engine 323), urging people to call 9-1-1 in emergencies.

Actor Randolph Mantooth, star of the 1970s television show *Emergency!* also was on hand to congratulate the winners.

New Leaders Learn from the Best

Seventh FDNY Officers Management Institute Class Graduates

Sixteen FDNY chiefs graduated from the Fire Officers Management Institute (FOMI) on May 1 during a ceremony at FDNY Headquarters.

Established in 2002, FOMI provides fire and EMS chiefs with a customized curriculum of leadership and management training, which includes presentations by experts from the corporate community, government and homeland security.

“So much of this course of study is about leadership – and it proves leadership cannot only be taught, but also learned,” said First Deputy Commissioner Frank Cruthers. “We are making an investment in you, because you are the future of this agency.”



Sixteen FDNY chiefs graduated from FOMI on May 1.

Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano added: “Our most valuable asset is you.”

As part of the course, chiefs created projects to enhance Department policy and strategy. This year’s projects addressed

issues such as the class 3 central alarm system, safety, rehabilitation sector analysis and fire and EMS best practices from around the world.

“I hope that now you will take the step and be the change you want to see in the world,” said Joann Baney, Faculty Director of FOMI (Columbia). “The work you do at the FDNY elevates us at Columbia.”

FOMI is a six-month program offered through Columbia University’s Picker Center for Executive Education. It is funded by the FDNY Foundation and is taught at Jack Welch Executive Training Center in Crotonville, NY.

“This program has provided a great opportunity for us,” Deputy Chief James Campbell said.

Understanding Terror

FDNY Members Graduate from West Point Counterterrorism Leadership Program

Thirty-three members of the FDNY graduated from the West Point Counterterrorism Leadership Program on May 20.

The program, which is celebrating its fifth year, focuses on research in the field of terrorism, counterterrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

“This is one of the most innovative programs in the nation available to first responders,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta during the graduation ceremony at FDNY Headquarters.

Retired General John Abizaid, Distinguished Chair of the Combating Terrorism Center, added, “It is an honor to work with the FDNY. The sacrifices you and your Department have made are an inspiration to those of us who fight for our nation.”

During the four-month course, the FDNY members studied works by political scientists, government officials, members of the armed forces and other experts in the field of counterterrorism, to gain an under-



Students from the fifth West Point Counterterrorism Leadership Program gather with Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano, Retired General John Abizaid, Lt. Colonel Reid Sawyer and Major Scott Taylor.

standing of the causes, ideologies and methods of terrorism.

The program also covered risks for, and specific threats to, New York City and how current world events shape these threats on a daily basis.

“This is a difficult course, but a worthwhile course,” said Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano. “We want to make sure we’re as prepared as we can be for the next attack.”

The graduates included members of the

fire and EMS service, who will share what they learned in the course with members in the field.

“The course offered an excellent background in terrorism and [terrorists’] motivations,” said Battalion Chief Dean Koester, who said he found the study of nuclear terrorism to be the most interesting.

Firefighter Raymond Pfeifer, who works as an aide to Chief of Counterterrorism and Emergency Preparedness Joseph Pfeifer, was the first firefighter to graduate from the program.

“This was really an eye opener,” he said. “The class puts you in the front lines, learning [the information] from the world’s elite.”

Director of the Combating Terrorism Center, Lt. Colonel Reid Sawyer, said he hoped the program enables FDNY members to, “think differently about the enemy, think about the threats of tomorrow.”

New Lung, New Lease on Life

Firefighter Who Received Lung Transplant Released from Hospital

Wearing a yellow surgical mask, Lt. Martin Fullam speaks quietly and takes deep breaths every few words. He looks feeble, but he says he's the happiest and healthiest he's been in years.

The brave Fire Lieutenant was released from New York Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia University Medical Center on April 29 after receiving a lung transplant.

"I truly think I'm the luckiest person in the world," Lt. Fullam said, as the crowd of firefighters and medical professionals cheered. "It stinks I got sick, but this is one of the happiest times in my life. I just want to say 'thank you' to everybody; this is not a road you take alone."

In 2005, he was diagnosed with polymyositis, an uncommon disease that causes inflammation in a patient's muscles.



Lt. Martin Fullam is cheered by firefighters from across the city as he leaves New York Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia University Medical Center with his family.

Doctors at the Hospital's Center for Lung Disease and Transplantation transplanted a lung in the spring of 2009.

"Thankfully he is a hearty guy who responded well to treatment," said Dr. Matthew Bacchetta, a thoracic surgeon at

New York Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia Medical Center. "I'm so happy to see him go home today."

Lt. Fullam worked at Battalion 6 when he retired in December 2008. During his 27-year career with the FDNY, he also worked out of Engine 14, and Ladders 87 and 111. He was one of the many FDNY members who responded to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

He was joined at the event by his wife, Patricia, and his daughters, Caroline and Emma (his daughter, Kelly, is away at college). His brother, retired Fire Lt. David Fullam, recalled a recent trip the two made to a county fair, remembering how his brother could barely walk.

He noted: "He's still not the guy he once was, but everyone can see a huge difference in the man here today. This is a great day."

Fire Safety Saves Three

FDNY Honors Girls Who Saved Family from Fire after Fire Safety Demo

Sisters Michele and Alyssa Corley learned essential fire safety skills during a presentation by the FDNY at their Staten Island school, P.S. 26, on April 28. Little did anyone know that this knowledge would be put to the test just hours later, when they had a fire in their home.

The girls were able to help their grandmother, Debbie Dixon, to safety during the emergency, and because of their courage, Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano swore them in as honorary fire chiefs on May 5.

"This is a great example of the effectiveness of fire safety education," Commissioner Scoppetta said during the presentation in their school's auditorium. "After everything they learned that day, [Michele and Alyssa] took charge and everyone got out of the home without injury. These girls got an A+ in fire safety."

At around 6 p.m. on April 28, Ms. Dixon smelled smoke in her home in the Travis neighborhood of Staten Island and went in search of her 7- and 9-year-old grand-



Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano swear in Michele (far right) and Alyssa Corley as honorary fire chiefs.

daughters in the room next to hers.

She said she was frantic and tried to grab shoes and other items before she left the house. Yet the girls remained calm and told her they had to leave the residence as quickly as possible and call 911. They led her down the hallway toward the door, told her to follow the wall and stay low – skills they had learned in the fire safety demonstration at school that day.

"It was the best lesson they ever learned in school," said Ms. Dixon. "They saved my life – all our lives. I am so proud of them."

Michele, who is in the fourth grade, said, "I was scared at first, but I did what we learned in class that day and we got out safely."

Her sister Alyssa, a second grader, agreed and said she was "so happy" to be honored by the FDNY.

The members of the FDNY Fire Safety Education Unit who taught the girls their life-saving skills in April returned for the ceremony, including Capt. Martin Cass and retired Firefighters Darrell Patterson and Ed Fitzpatrick.

The Unit also brought the Fire Safety House and gave students more information on how to keep their homes fire safe.

"When you see a story like this, you realize you really did make a difference," said retired Firefighter Patterson, who has performed these demonstrations for six years. "That's how you really know you are doing your job."

Firefighters Rescue Four from Fire in Queens

It was like a scene from a fast-moving action movie as firefighters from Ladder 126 and Ladder 127 rescued four people from a fire in Jamaica, Queens, on April 20.

“It was a joint effort and it feels good to know these people lived,” said Firefighter Jim Stewart from Ladder 126, an 11-year veteran. “Firefighters dream about a rescue like this their whole career.”

At 1:11 a.m. a call was received for a fire on 144th Street, with reports of multiple people trapped.

Firefighter Stewart was the chauffeur of Ladder 126, and had just set up the aerial ladder when he received a transmission from Firefighter Stephen King (also from Ladder 126), asking for assistance to rescue a man trapped on the third floor of the three-story home.

Yet since the fire building had a bay window on the second floor and was spaced only three or four feet from the neighboring house, the firefighters had trouble setting up the 24-foot portable ladder. So the firefighters said they improvised, with Firefighter King using all his weight to keep the ladder steady at a nearly 90-degree angle as Firefighter Stewart climbed to the top.

He said he smashed the window, but by the time he was ready to help the man onto the ladder, the victim had collapsed inside. That’s when Firefighter Stewart said his adrenaline kicked in.

“I reached across and was able to get to window sill and pull myself half way inside,” he said. “I felt his belt and just pulled him out. It was acrobatic.”



Deputy Chief James DiDomenico tells reporters about the rescue of four civilians from an early morning fire in Queens along with Firefighters Jim Stewart (front left), Anthony Sodano (front right) and Stephen King (second row, far right).

He positioned the semi-conscious man between him and the ladder, and slowly and carefully walked him down.

In the meantime, Firefighter Anthony Sodano from Ladder 126 was searching the second floor with Firefighter Michael McNally of Ladder 127. Firefighter Sodano said he heard Firefighter King’s initial call for someone trapped in the attic, and made his way up the steps to search for other victims.

“There was zero visibility, but I could hear someone breathing, gurgling,” he said. He located the unconscious man and called for help to remove him. With assistance from Firefighter McNally, the pair carried him to the window above the porch on the second floor and administered air as they waited for the aerial ladder.

They then heard a radio transmission saying there were more people trapped on

the third floor, so Firefighter Sodano returned to the attic and located two other unconscious victims.

Firefighter Dan Hickey from Ladder 126 helped him remove the first victim, and Lt. David Bengyak and Firefighter Michael Cullen from Ladder 127 removed the second.

“Although the fire was in the basement, [the house] had an open stairway, so it was like a deathtrap [in the attic],” said Firefighter Sodano, an 8-year veteran of the FDNY.

EMS members treated all four victims and transported them to area hospitals. The fire was placed under control at 1:38 a.m.

“It’s the best feeling, knowing you saved a life,” Firefighter Sodano said. “When you’re there, it’s crazy, almost surreal, but when you see the victims breathe, you breathe a sigh of relief.”

Firefighters Rescue Man in Harlem River

Firefighters made an early morning rescue of a man in the Harlem River on May 13.

“The members did fantastic job,” said Lt. Anthony Cordaro from Ladder 59. “They brought all the necessary tools, and operated quickly and decisively in treacherous conditions.”

At approximately 3 a.m. they were called to the waters near the 207th Street

Bridge and Fordham Road in the Bronx.

They located a man in the water approximately 200 yards past the bridge, clinging to a bulkhead.

Firefighters from Ladder 59 and Engine 43 lowered a 24-foot ladder to the bulkhead, yet since the man was suffering from hypothermia and possible shock, he was unable to climb the ladder on his own.

Firefighter Mike Farrell (assigned to

Engine 43 and working at Ladder 59) tied off and climbed down to help him, pulled the man to the ladder and helped him to safety.

“You don’t really think about it until later, but it’s a good feeling,” Firefighter Farrell said.

The man was treated at the scene for hypothermia and later transported to St. Barnabas Medical Center.

Hanging by a Foot

FDNY Members Rescue Boy Suspended by Elevator

A 7-year-old boy in the Bronx experienced a real-life nightmare on May 11, when his foot became trapped between an elevator car and the shaft, suspending him between the second and third floors.

"I could finish my career and never see anything remotely like this again," said Paramedic Moses Nelson.

FDNY members were called to an apartment building on Hunts Point Avenue in the Bronx at around 4:45 p.m.

Paramedics Nelson and Jason Saffon were the first to arrive. They said when they looked up the elevator shaft from the second floor, they saw the boy's head and arms dangling from the corner of the elevator.

The boy was scared, so Paramedic Nelson comforted him and spoke to him in Spanish.

"I asked how old he was, if he was hurt – anything to take his mind off it," Paramedic Nelson said. "I didn't know what I was going to do, I just knew I had to get his mind off the horrific thing that was happening to him."

Paramedic Saffon went to the third

floor to assess the boy's foot as members from Engine 94 arrived.

Firefighters Casey Reilly and Joseph March stayed with Paramedic Nelson, to make sure he did not fall into the shaft as he was helping the boy. Lt. Raymond Arcos walked between the second and third floors to oversee the job and Firefighter Eric Klauck went to the third floor to help remove the boy.

"I was shocked when we got there," said Firefighter Klauck. "There's always more tension when you need to rescue a child."

Soon firefighters from Ladder 48 arrived with airbags that would be used to distance the elevator from the boy's foot.

Lt. Robert Hauryluck and Firefighters Dominick Carone, William Mulhall, Joseph Mondì and Michael Waterman (assigned to Engine 94) went to the third floor as Paramedic Saffon returned to the second floor to help his partner.

When everyone was ready, Firefighter Klauck said they inserted the airbag in the space and inflated it slowly. The elevator moved less than an inch and the boy's foot slid out of the space and he dropped into

the arms of Paramedic Nelson.

"I was so surprised when I saw his foot fly down," Firefighter Klauck said.

Paramedic Nelson said the boy "kept saying, 'I want to go home.' He said his leg didn't hurt."

The boy was transported to Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center with a fractured tibia and a few cuts and bruises. When Paramedic Nelson visited him the next morning, the boy was sitting up and watching cartoons – and greeted his rescuer with a big hug.

The paramedic said he was thrilled everything worked so smoothly during the operation.

"There was flawless communication there and everyone did a great job," he said. "An hour after that job I was still trembling. There are few jobs that get my heart pumping and make me think, 'Wow, I did that.'"

Firefighter Klauck echoed the sentiments: "We have to work together or nothing gets accomplished. We all just kicked into work mode, we wanted to get the boy out quickly and safely."

FDNY Members Rescue Man Trapped Under Train

Just 10 minutes before a gas explosion leveled a house in Floral Park, Queens on April 24, firefighters from Ladder 116 were called to another major emergency, a man trapped under a train at Northern Boulevard and 36th Street in Long Island City.

"It's not something I have ever seen before, and I've been on the job 20 years," said Lt. William Kelly from Ladder 116. "It really was incredible. It was emotional, draining and there was a lot of adrenaline involved."

Firefighters received the call for a person under a train at 4:41 p.m. And when they arrived at the station, people were frantically waving firefighters to the R train platform.

The victim was under the first car of the train, and Lt. Kelly said when he shined his flashlight in the space between the platform and the train, he could see the man and a lot of blood.

Lt. Kelly said he talked to members of the MTA and asked the company chauffeur

to call dispatch about turning off power on the tracks.

He then assigned one firefighter to watch the train's conductor and the controls to ensure the train would not move. Then, before they knew the track power was off, he and Firefighters Rich LaRocca and Terence Drew jumped onto the tracks.

"It was incredible to see my guys jump down there like that, without hesitation," said Lt. Kelly. "It really was kind of moving."

They crawled on their hands and knees about three quarters of the way under the first car and located the person, who had received major trauma, including two broken legs and severe lacerations to the head and neck. Yet the firefighters said they were happy to find the victim was still alive and semi-conscious.

"We knew time was a critical factor in saving this guy's life," Lt. Kelly said.

They put him in a cervical collar and on a backboard. They then carefully

moved him the length of the subway car to the front of the train where they were met by members of FDNY EMS – including EMS Lt. James Furlong, Rescue Paramedics Kimberley Marshall and Mario Ramirez, and EMTs Pedro Acosta and Dennis Rehberger.

The EMS members then packaged the victim and transported him to Bellevue Hospital.

"They were very efficient," said Lt. Furlong. "It was a tough job, but they got it done."

Lt. Kelly credited their extensive training for why everything worked so well: "It sounds cliché, but since we train for many different situations like this, at a certain point you just know what you're supposed to do without thinking."

Yet there was no time for the members to discuss the rescue afterwards; after the train emergency, they were immediately sent to the scene of the gas explosion in Floral Park.

It's a Girl!

FDNY Members Deliver Baby in Manhattan

Jasai Victoria Webb made a very surprising and dramatic debut in Harlem on May 6. The baby girl was delivered at home by FDNY firefighters and EMTs.

And just hours later, the newborn, her parents and the FDNY members were reunited in the maternity ward at Metropolitan Hospital Center.

“Once we got there and we saw mom was ready to go, we knew we had to get our game on,” said Firefighter Edwin Dowling from Engine 35. “I didn’t have time to think, just react.”

Members received the call for a woman in labor at 10:46 p.m. When they arrived, they saw a 20-year-old pregnant woman, Fancy Powell, lying on the couch and in a great deal of pain.

Firefighters from Engine 35 and the

EMTs said they quickly realized they would not have time to transport Ms. Powell to the hospital, so Firefighter Dowling assisted the new mother with her delivery in the apartment. EMT Gary Tomas then clamped the cord and EMT Andrew Huyett suctioned.

“All our training came into place and everything went really smoothly,” said EMT Huyett.

Firefighter Dowling presented Jasai with a tiny Engine 35 t-shirt and flowers. The grateful mother and father, Dequan Webb, thanked the FDNY members for their assistance and proudly showed off their 7 pound, 9 ounce, bundle of joy – who was due on



Fancy Powell, holding her newborn Jasai, and Daquan Webb, are surrounded by the FDNY members who delivered her baby in Harlem. (L to R in uniform) EMT Andrew Huyett, FF Edwin Dowling, FF Chris Schickler, FF Jermaine Martin, Lt. Brian Larkin and FF William Vanname.

Mother’s Day.

“Everything happened so quickly, I was nervous and in a whole lot of pain,” Ms. Powell joked. “I guess she just didn’t want to wait until May 10.”

To the Rescue

Bronx Firefighter Saves Family from Fire

Firefighter Patrick Mataraza from Ladder 33 rescued three people from an early morning fire in the Bronx on April 21.

“We drill all the time for things like this, but you’re never really prepared for when it actually happens,” said Firefighter Mataraza, a six-year veteran of the FDNY. “But the adrenaline just kicks in.”

Firefighters were called at 4:57 a.m. for a fire on Davidson Avenue, with reports of people trapped.

When firefighters arrived, they saw people running from the building to the street and there were reports one person jumped from a second-floor window. Firefighter Mataraza said he also saw a couple and their young adult son standing at a second floor window with smoke pouring out around them.

The scene was all the more poignant for the firefighter when he realized the young man has Down Syndrome, like his own 5-year-old son.

Since the smoke was so intense, the parents started dangling their son out the window as Firefighter Mataraza set up the portable ladder.

He was able to stabilize the young man



Firefighters Patrick Mataraza (bottom row, far right) and Jay Prete (top row, far right) with members from Engine 75 and Ladder 33 in front of their rigs.

on the ladder, but since he was a bit combative, Firefighter Mataraza said he was worried the young man would fall if he climbed down the ladder so he moved him back to the window.

He guided the mother to the fire escape and she climbed down the rails to safety, giving the father and son more room to breathe at the window.

He then coaxed the young man and his father to the fire escape and held them there with the help of Firefighter Jay Prete from Engine 48 until they were able to

position the tower ladder bucket and remove them to safety.

The all-hands fire was brought under control at 5:48 a.m.

“This is what we get paid to do,” said Firefighter Mataraza about his first rescue. “We knew what we had to do and we did it.”

Yet he added that he is amazed at the connection he made between this family and his own, thoughtfully saying, “It gets more overwhelming the more I think about it.”

Firefighters Rescue Disabled Man in the Bronx

Firefighters from Ladder 59 saved the day for a Bronx man on June 5, rescuing him from a smoky fire.

"Rescues like this make the job worthwhile," said Lt. Joseph Ginley. "That's why we're here. We come to work to make a difference, and this time it worked out."

Firefighters were called to an apartment building on Buchanan Place at 3:03 a.m.

When they arrived, firefighters said they saw fire on the second and third floors.

Firefighters from Ladder 59 went to the floor above the fire and forced open the door. Lt. Ginley began his search, but said he had trouble due to the thick, black smoke and the apartment's clutter.

As he climbed over several bicycles, a mattress, piles of books and a television, Lt. Ginley found an unconscious man sitting about halfway through the apartment. The man was moaning, but disabled, so Lt. Ginley radioed for help.

"Your adrenaline is really flowing and you hope you can get help quickly," he said.

As he pulled the man to the front door, Firefighter David Daly heard the Lieutenant's call for assistance while he was operating outside on a ladder. The Fire-



Members of Ladder 59, who rescued a disabled man from a Bronx fire. (L to R) Firefighter Nicholas Brisotti, Lt. Joseph Ginley, Firefighter Thomas O'Shea, Firefighter David Daly and Firefighter Cody Baker.

fighter met the Lieutenant near the front door and the pair carried the man down the stairs to waiting EMS members, who transported him to Bronx Municipal Hospital Center with smoke inhalation.

"This was my first save like this," said Firefighter Daly. "It was a huge rush and I'm just happy we got him out in time."

Bravest Play Finest Role

Firefighters Apprehend Cell Phone Robbers in Manhattan

Firefighters Jason Porzse from Engine 24 and Adam Karabuber from Ladder 5 thought on their feet, chasing and apprehending a cell phone thief in Manhattan on May 29.

"It was just kind of reaction; we saw someone who needed help and went to help him," said Firefighter Porzse.

At around 6 p.m. firefighters were standing outside their quarters in Greenwich Village when they heard someone yelling for help.

A witness pointed out a man who had just stolen someone's cell phone.

Firefighters Porzse and Karabuber didn't hesitate, chasing the man four blocks and apprehending him near the

intersection of Varick and Charlton streets.

Lt. Richard Quinn from Engine 24 notified police as he and the other members followed on the apparatus.

While they waited for police, the perpetrator tried to pass cell phones to another man who claimed to be his brother. The firefighters blocked the hand off and police arrested both men in connection with the theft.

Police told the firefighters these men may be responsible for a string of cell phone robberies in the neighborhood.

"It's a great feeling to do something for the community that does a lot for us," said Firefighter Karabuber, a former police officer. "It's nice to give back."

Firefighters Rescue a Man from the Gowanus Canal

Firefighters from Engine 239 rescued a man from a car sinking in the Gowanus Canal on May 9.

The members were called to the scene at Bond and Degraw Streets in Brooklyn at 12:32 a.m. The vehicle had crashed through the guard rail and fallen into the canal about 40 feet from the shore.

Upon arrival, firefighters from Engine 239 saw a man submerged up to his neck in the water and waving for help.

Firefighter Richard Staiti removed his bunker coat and was secured to a tether by Firefighter Darrell Couch, who then entered the water up to his waist to ensure Firefighter Staiti was not pulled away by the strong current.

Wearing his bunker pants, but no diving gear, Firefighter Staiti swam to the victim and pulled him to shore.

Once they reached safety, the man indicated there were other victims in the car, so Firefighter Staiti returned to the car, broke a window and conducted a search of the vehicle and surrounding area.

Members of Squad 1 then arrived to assist with the search, which turned up negative.

This was the first water rescue for Firefighters Staiti and Couch.

FDNY Medal Day 2009

(Continued from page 1)

Two medals were presented to members who responded to the crane collapse in Manhattan on March 15, 2008. The first went to Dr. Dario Gonzalez, EMS Lt. Louis Cook, and Rescue Paramedics Marco Girao and Juan Henriquez, who applied crush medicine to two victims while they were still trapped under debris, saving their lives.

Members of Ladder 4 – Lt. Christopher King and Firefighters Edward Coyle, Louis Esposito, Patrick Moore, Daniel Squire and George Young – also were awarded for their work at the collapse, receiving the first-ever Company of the Year World Trade Center Memorial Medal. The award was created by families of 9/11 victims to honor the 343 FDNY members who were killed at the World Trade Center.

“To know we would be the first company to receive this medal was special,” said Lt. King.

Firefighter Coyle added, “This is a tremendous honor.”

Rosemary Cain, mother of Firefighter George Cain who made the Supreme Sacrifice on Sept. 11, 2001, said although the day was emotional, “it’s also a great day because this medal means the men and women killed on 9/11 will always be honored.”

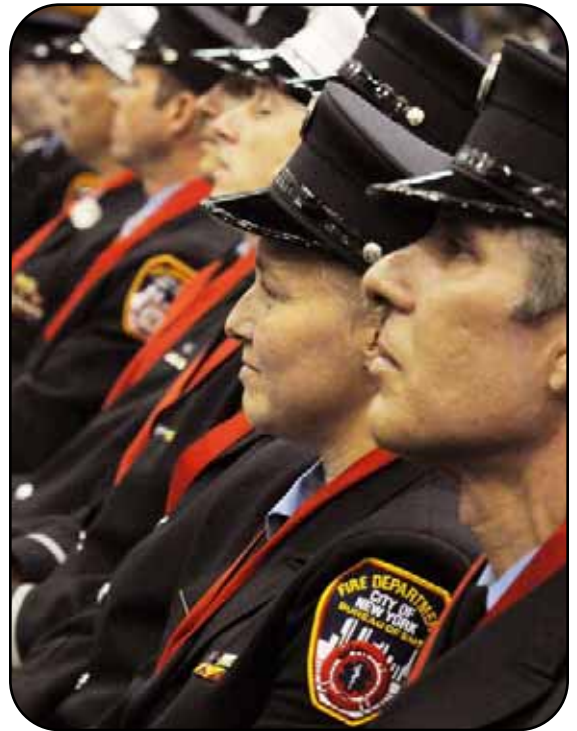
Another poignant moment in the ceremony occurred when EMT Adam Ruiz, brother of the late EMT Jason Ruiz, posthumously accepted the Jack Pintchik Medal on behalf of his brother, along with his brother’s partner, EMT Juan Rios. EMTs Ruiz and Rios rescued a woman from the subway tracks in Brooklyn on July 15, 2008.

Paramedic Juan Lebron, who received the Lieutenant Kirby McElhearn Medal along with EMTs Isaiah Baker and Rostantin Kruzowoy for rescuing a woman on the subway tracks in Brooklyn on Oct. 23, 2008, said he was overwhelmed to receive a medal in this year’s ceremony.

“I thought this would be a simple ceremony, but this is really special,” he said, smiling.

His words were echoed by Firefighter Charles Botti of Squad 18, who won this year’s Hugh Bonner Medal, the first for his company. On Jan. 14, 2008, he and other firefighters performed a high-angle rescue to save the life of a construction worker in Manhattan.

“Never in my wildest dreams did I think I’d receive a medal,” he said, standing with several members of his family after the ceremony. “It was a great, great day.”



The medal recipients listen intently during the Medal Day ceremony at Pace University auditorium. Fifty-one members and four companies were presented with 48 medals honoring heroism.



Surrounded by banners celebrating the medal winners, firefighters cheer for one of the recipients



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