



# sanitation news

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March 2005

## COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE



It is with great pride that I congratulate the Department on its amazing efforts in tackling the major - and not so major - storms of the busy snow season. As the January 22nd blizzard covered the streets of New York City with 15 inches of snow, the men and women of DSNY worked tirelessly to clear the streets so that New Yorkers would be able to travel safely. Within 24 hours of the storm's onset, all 6,000 miles of roads had been plowed at least once. Through the cold temperatures, slick roads, and long hours, this Department once again flexed its muscles and showed everyone why we've earned the moniker of "New York's Strongest."

On another note, throughout the 75 years of DSNY's existence, this Department has continued to operate by its founding principles which are to promote a healthy environment through the efficient management of solid waste and the development of environmentally sound, long-range plans for handling refuse. With hundreds of recently hired Sanitation Workers and thousands of seasoned veterans, I am certain that the Department will continue to excel with the same dedication that it has exhibited over the past 75 years. Congratulations to all of you on a job well done!

## PARADES — PARADES

The DSNY Columbia Association presented actor and talk show host Tony Danza, son of the late Sanitation Worker Matty Iadanza, with an award for his contributions in promoting Italian-American heritage at the last Columbus Day Parade. Shown left to right are DSNY First Deputy Commissioner Michael Bimonte; DSNY Columbia Association President Joseph Siano; Tony Danza; NBC parade coverage co-host Maria Bartiromo; DSNY Columbia Association Vice President Ron Cohen; President of the Uniformed Sanitationmen's Association. Local 831, Harry Nespoli; and Commissioner Doherty. (See below left.)



(See above right) — The DSNY participated in the annual Saint Patrick's Day parade. Led by the Emerald Society Pipe and Drum Band, Sanitation employees, friends and family marched up 5th Ave during this much anticipated parade. Shown left to right are Supervisor Tom Walker, Marshal; Deputy Chief David Callery, Vice President of the Emerald Society; Mayor Bloomberg; Deputy Chief Tom Doyle; President of the Emerald Society.

## SEPTEMBER 11th RECOVERY PROGRAM

On September 11, 2001, and in the months following the attack on the World Trade Center, more than 1,500 DSNY employees answered the call of duty and assisted in the rescue and clean up operations at the World Trade Center site and the Fresh Kills Landfill.

The Department, along with the American Red Cross' September 11<sup>th</sup> Recovery Program, are working together to educate employees about the 9/11 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program. This program offers referrals to licensed mental health providers and financial assistance with the out-of-pocket costs of mental health and substance abuse treatment for those directly affected by the tragedy. Coverage is retroactive to 9/11/01, and eligible persons may choose the type of treatment that they feel best suits their needs with a licensed service provider.

"I am pleased that our department is working with the American Red Cross to help ensure that all DSNY employees who were involved in the clean-up efforts get the opportunity to learn about and enroll in this valuable program," said Commissioner Doherty.

"We want to ensure that DSNY employees know that symptoms they may be experiencing could be related to their service following the attack on the World Trade Center, and we want them to know that the Red Cross can help those affected access treatment," said SRP Executive Director Alan Goodman.


To enroll in the program, eligible DSNY employees may call 1-800-LifeNet (1-800-543-3638) 24-hours a day; Spanish Language LifeNet at 1-877-AYUDESE (1-877-298-3373); or Asian LifeNet at 1-877-990-8585.

Detailed information is available at [www.9-11mentalhealth.org](http://www.9-11mentalhealth.org).

## TODAY SHOW SHOWCASE

The NBC "Today Show's" Matt Lauer recently showcased the Department on the popular national morning show. Dressed in a full Sanitation Worker's uniform, Matt collected refuse for several hours in Brooklyn Heights. Paired with 19-year-veteran John Caddy, Staten Island 1, and his 19-year-old daughter, Danielle, Brooklyn North 2, Matt saw first-hand why DSNY is "New York's Strongest." With pleasant surprises along the way, including a visit from "Sesame Street's" Oscar the Grouch, Matt never lost his concentration and learned what a serious and dangerous job NYC Sanitation Workers have. Thanks Matt and the "Today Show" for showcasing New York's unsung heroes.



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|  | <p><b>Play Again</b></p>   |

## **MEDALS OF VALOR**

*During the Department's Annual Awards Ceremony for 2004, several well deserving Sanitation employees were presented with Medals of Valor for their courage and meritorious action. The highest, the Gold Medal of Honor, is a prestigious medal given to an employee when he or she clearly risks their own physical safety to come to the aid of another employee or human being. Described below are the 2004 winners of this prestigious award and their heroic tales:*

### **GOLD MEDALS OF VALOR WINNERS:**

**Sanitation Workers Pedro Solla and Vernon Maynard, Manhattan District 10** - While clearing refuse from an abandoned lot in Manhattan, Sanitation Worker Maynard smelled smoke coming from a nearby apartment building. At the same time, his partner, SW Solla, spotted the flames coming out of third-floor window. While his partner called 911, SW Solla went into the smoky building, ran upstairs to the third floor, and helped a dazed elderly couple who were staggering out of their burning apartment to safety. SW Solla continued to go through the building alerting the residents of the fire and guiding them downstairs. Firefighters on the scene applauded his life-saving efforts.

*Silver and Bronze Medals of Valor and Distinguished Service Certificates were also awarded to those Department employees who clearly went beyond the call of duty to assist other employees or human beings. These awarded were:*

**SILVER MEDALS OF VALOR WINNERS:**  
**Sanitation Police Officers William Lugo and Luis Alvarez, Enforcement**

**BRONZE MEDALS OF VALOR WINNERS:**  
**Sanitation Workers Robert Horne and Patrick Crocitto, Manhattan District 3**  
**Sanitation Worker Dominick Cassar, Queens East District 8**

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CERTIFICATES:**  
**Sanitation Workers (SW) Brian O'Neill and Al Santapia, Brooklyn South District 14**  
**Sanitation Workers Pino Augello and Dennis Palazzola, Queens West District 4**  
**Sanitation Workers John Petrone and Wilfredo Medina, Bronx District 12**

### **COMMISSIONER'S CITATION:**

*The Commissioner's Citation is the highest award an employee can receive from the Commissioner honoring humanitarian acts.*

To the men and women at Brooklyn North District 3, who spearheaded collecting over \$6,000 from Sanitation Workers throughout the Department for the proper burial of "Baby Destiny Hope," the newborn baby girl whose body was found in the back of a collection truck in Bushwick last summer. Sanitation Workers Anthony Padro and Vernon Gonzalez found the baby in the trash while on collection duty; Sanitation Worker Frederick Johns was the driving force behind the fund-raising effort.



**Left to right: Commissioner Doherty; Sanitation Worker Anthony Padro; Sanitation Worker Frederick Johns; Tim Jaccard, President of AMT Baby Safe Haven; Sanitation Worker Vernon Gonzalez; and Mayor Bloomberg.**

## Collector's Items

***Our condolences . . .*** To the families of Sanitation Worker Patricia Hamilton, BK6A, on the loss of her mother, Patricia Hamilton; Sanitation Worker Angel Martinez, BK9, on the loss of his father, Luis Martinez; Sanitation Worker Herbert Crawford, Q12, on the loss of his father, Herbert Crawford; Sanitation Worker Santos Rodriquez, BX7, on the loss of his wife, Inez Marie Rodriquez; Kathy Spencer, Executive Secretary, Bureau of Legal Affairs, on the loss of her mother, Virginia Spencer; Patricia Sorrentino, PAA, Bureau of Public Information and Community Affairs, on the loss of her father, Pasquale Napolitano; General Superintendent Shari Breitbart-Pardini, BK5, on the loss of her mother, Victoria Breitbart; and Sanitation Worker Fredrick Johns, BK3, on the loss of his mother, Juanita Johns. Also to the families of retired Deputy Chief Robert Tarter, Q7; Sanitation Worker Louis Giuffreda, Q13; Supervisor Gregory Paul Vann, BK8; Sanitation Worker Rodney Page, Q10; Sanitation Worker Vincent Gugliemino, SI1; and retired Sanitation Worker Charles Lobasco, Q8. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. ***FYI . . .*** Nancy Riley is now the new Deputy Director of Human Resources. ***Kudos . . .*** To all who participated in the DSNY Billy Fund Christmas Toy Drive. This year, the department was able to provide 1500 children with holiday gifts. Thank you. We look forward to the next holiday season. ***Congratulations . . .*** To former General Counsel Frank Valentino on the birth of his granddaughter Julia Rose; Sanitation Worker Michael Marrero and wife, Carmen, on the birth of their son, Gabriel Michael; and Jack Lupton from the Sick Leave Unit on the birth of his granddaughter, Olivia. ***The Gift of Giving . . .*** The Department recently gave New York's smallest citizens 1,000 "Billy Bears," to keep them warm and comforted during this snowy season. The "Billy Bears" were donated to area day care centers, shelters, and after-school centers thanks to the DSNY Billy Fund.

## FOR COURAGE AND MERIT

Sanitation Workers William Whalen and Steven Urcinoli, Staten Island District 1, were presented with proclamations from Sanitation and Solid Waste Management Chair, Councilman Michael E. McMahon of Staten Island, for their courage and meritorious actions. While on collection, Sanitation Workers Whalen and Urcinoli observed flames shooting out of the window of a three-family home. Immediately, they entered the home and guided a woman, her two babies, and her pet to safety. Commissioner Doherty, numerous Council members, and the heroic Sanitation Workers' families were among those witnessing the presentation. Congratulations on a job well done!



## sanitation news

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