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Manhattan Box 33-1123, 80
Riverside Drive, May 13, 2005.
Incident for which FF Francis G.
Fee, Jr., received the Emily
Trevor/Mary B. Warren Medal.

photo by FDNY Photo Unit



MEDAL BOARD

Peter E. Hayden
Chief of Department

Salvatore J. Cassano
Chief of Operations

Michael Canty
Battalion Chief

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Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

It is a great privilege to host the FDNY's annual Medal Day ceremony, an event recognizing "the bravest" of the Bravest. Today we honor the extraordinary efforts made last year by Firefighters across New York City--men and women who are always ready to answer the call for help.

These medal winners are being honored for their exceptional courage. I am proud to note that their stories of heroism stretch from one end of the City to the other. One Firefighter dove into the frigid waters of the Kill Van Kull off Staten Island last December to rescue a woman. Two others helped recover an unconscious woman trapped by debris and surrounded by fire in the Morrisania neighborhood of the Bronx. Three others rescued several victims from a Jamaica, Queens, apartment fire. And the prestigious James Gordon Bennett Medal is being presented to a Captain who crawled through a room filled with flames to save a man in Borough Park, Brooklyn.

Hearing these stories of bravery and fearlessness, we can all rest easy knowing that Firefighters in every borough and neighborhood stand ready every day to protect the lives and property of all New Yorkers.

On behalf of the City of New York, I applaud today's medal winners and all members of the FDNY for the courageous work you do each and every day. Your commitment and dedication form the hallmark of a proud Department that is truly the best in the world. Congratulations to the medal winners and continued success to all.



Nicholas Scoppetta
Fire Commissioner

On Medal Day, the New York City Fire Department publicly recognizes what New Yorkers assume; when they call for help, Firefighters will respond. That response is as certain as day follows night. Firefighters perform acts of heroism every day and on Medal Day, we gratefully say, "Thank you" to all Firefighters for putting themselves at risk 365 days a year. And, we honor the bravest of the Bravest by recognizing individual acts of courage.

We honor individuals, but each Firefighter who will step forward today to receive a medal from the Mayor for a single action taken also will say that there are countless others who stood behind him at the fire scene. It is the team that gives Firefighters the confidence to do their job and take risks to protect and serve the people of New York City. Commitment to teamwork spans the Department's 141-year history and is the core of this Department. Hard work and training are its foundation; tradition and pride provide its direction.

Every year, the Department's oldest award, the James Gordon Bennett Medal, established in 1869, is awarded. For many years, the Gordon Bennett was the sole decoration for valor; hence, it is presented for the most outstanding act of heroism. And, as we do every three years, we award our highest service recognition awards--the Dr. Harry M. Archer Medal to an individual and the Lieutenant James Curran/New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal/Father Julian F. Deeken Memorial Medal to a company.

Throughout today's ceremony, in all five boroughs, runs will come in to engines, ladders, squads, rescues and the Marine Division. And, Firefighters will do what they have always done: they will go to work. Thank you for looking out for one another and for us.

We are a safer City because of you. Congratulations on a job well-done.



Peter E. Hayden
Chief of Department

Those of us fortunate enough to be New York City Firefighters know that we have the best job in the world. We are among the very few people who actually look forward to going to work each day.

Today is Medal Day, a day to which we all look forward. It is a day to applaud our Medal winners for their extraordinary heroics. Even more importantly, Medal Day is a day to celebrate the FDNY, for the bravery exhibited by our members on a day-in and day-out basis.

Since 9/11, FDNY has become a young, but still enthusiastic Department. While my career winds down, many of yours are just beginning. Always remember what an honor it is to represent the greatest fire department in the world. It is both a responsibility and privilege to do so.

God bless you all.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Hayden".

FIRST DEPUTY COMMISSIONER



FRANK P. CRUTHERS

DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS



MYLAN DENERSTEIN
Legal Affairs



MILTON FISCHBERGER
Technology &
Support Services



FRANCIS X. GRIBBON
Public Information



DANIEL SHACKNAI
Intergovernmental Affairs
& Management Initiatives



DOUGLAS WHITE
Administration

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONERS

CAROLINE KRETZ
Intergovernmental Affairs

MICHAEL VECCHI
Management Initiatives

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Fleet/Technical Services

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Bureau of Fire Prevention

STEPHEN GREGORY
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PAULETTE LUNDY
Equal Employment
Opportunity

JOSEPH MASTROPIETRO
Facilities

DONAY J. QUEENAN
Human Resources

STEPHEN G. RUSH
Budget and Finance

SUZANNE SEBERT
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DONALD STANTON
Technology
Development & Systems

BUREAU OF HEALTH SERVICES



Dr. Kerry Kelly
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

EMS OFFICE OF MEDICAL AFFAIRS



Dr. David J. Prezant
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

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Monsignor Marc Filacchione

Reverend Stephen Harding

Father Joseph Hoffman

Father Christopher Keenan

Rabbi Joseph Potasnik

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Chief of Operations



Michael C. Weinlein
Assistant Chief of Operations



Joseph W. Pfeifer
Deputy Assistant Chief of Operations



Joseph J. Ramos
Deputy Assistant Chief of Operations



John A. Coloe
Deputy Assistant Chief of Operations



James J. Manahan, Jr.
Deputy Assistant Chief, Bureau of Operations



Ronald R. Spadafora
Deputy Assistant Chief, Bureau of Operations



John Norman
Deputy Assistant Chief, Special Operations Command



Thomas R. Galvin
Assistant Chief, Chief of Training



Allen S. Hay
Assistant Chief, Safety and Inspection Services Command



Patrick M. McNally
Assistant Chief, Chief of Fire Prevention



Howard J. Hill
Deputy Assistant Chief, Assistant Chief of Fire Prevention



Louis F. Garcia
Chief Fire Marshal



Richard McCahey
Assistant Chief Fire Marshal

BOROUGH COMMANDERS



James E. Esposito
Deputy Assistant Chief Bronx (acting)



Edward S. Kilduff
Assistant Chief Brooklyn



Harold Meyers
Assistant Chief Manhattan



Robert F. Sweeney
Assistant Chief Queens



Thomas J. Haring
Assistant Chief Staten Island

SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND



Deputy Chief
William Siegel
Rescue Operations



Battalion Chief
James Dalton
Marine Operations



Battalion Chief
Robert Ingram
Haz-Mat Operations

DIVISION COMMANDERS



Deputy Chief
Richard E. Fuerch
Division 1



Deputy Chief
Thomas M. Jensen
Division 3



Deputy Chief
Kevin Butler
Division 6



Deputy Chief
James F. Mulrenan
Division 7



Deputy Chief
James E. Leonard
Division 8



Deputy Chief
Michael Marrone
Division 11



Deputy Chief
James A. DiDomenico
Division 13



Deputy Chief
John A. Acerno
Division 14



Deputy Chief
Daniel Butler
Division 15

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE COMMAND

CHIEF OF EMS COMMAND



John Peruggia



Jerry Z. Gombo
Deputy Assistant Chief of EMS Operations



John S. McFarland
Deputy Assistant Chief of EMS Operations

CHIEF OFFICERS



Charles Wells
*Division Chief
EMS Operations*



Mark Stone
*Division Chief
Logistics & Support*



Fredrick Villani
*Division Chief
Planning & Strategy*



Mark Steffens
Chief EMS Division 1



Frances Pascale
Chief EMS Division 2



Robert Hannafey
Chief EMS Division 3



Robert Browne
Chief EMS Division 4



James Booth
Chief EMS Division 5



Joel Friedman
Chief EMS Division 5



James P. Martin
Division Chief EMS Academy



Jace Pinkus
*Division Chief
Emergency Medical Dispatch*

THE ARCHER MEDAL

Special Order No. 180, which was dated October 4, 1920, reads as follows: “A medal, to be known as the ‘Harry M. Archer Medal’ has been donated by Dr. Herman L. Reis and is to be awarded every third year to such member of the uniformed force of the Fire Department as may have, during the three years preceding such award, been the recipient of one or more medals which are now given or may hereafter be given, to the members of the uniformed force. Such award shall be made by selection from among said medal winners during the said three years preceding such award for the performance in the judgment of the Fire Commissioner and the Chief of Department of the most meritorious service or act of heroism or bravery.”

Legends in the Fire Department of New York begin with members who win medals. Theirs are the stories of danger, fear, courage, honor and the greatest degree of self-satisfaction.

Firefighters are brave, dedicated and loyal. Respect comes in many ways to those who fight fires. The highest honor that can be bestowed on a New York City Firefighter is to be awarded the Doctor Harry M. Archer Medal. It’s reserved for the truly bravest of the brave!

1921 — Firefighter 1st Grade John Walsh (Hook & Ladder Company 1)	1960 — Firefighter 3rd Grade William V. Russo (Ladder Company 25)
1924 — Captain Edwin A.A. Quinn (Engine Company 14)	1963 — Firefighter 1st Grade Joseph E. Almon (Ladder Company 35)
1927 — Firefighter 1st Grade William G.R. Mitchell (Engine Company 18)	1966 — Lieutenant David Crowley (37 Battalion; Formerly Firefighter in Ladder Company 14)
1930 — Firefighter 1st Grade Michael McNerney (Hook & Ladder Company 12)	1969 — Firefighter 1st Grade Gene P. Dowling (Ladder Company 25)
1933 — Captain Albert B. Carlson (Engine Company 66)	1972 — Lieutenant Richard R. Hamilton (Rescue Company 2)
1936 — Firefighter 1st Grade Rudolph F. Musil (Hook & Ladder Company 12)	1975 — Firefighter 1st Grade Raymond G. McCann (Ladder Company 40)
1939 — Firefighter 1st Grade James P. Nevin (Engine Company 201)	1978 — Captain Frederick W. Gallagher (Rescue Company 2)
1942 — Firefighter 1st Grade Charles A. Merz (Hook & Ladder Company 168)	1981 — Lieutenant Howard R. Kennedy (Ladder Company 154)
1945 — Acting Deputy Chief John W. Heaney (Headquarters Staff)	1984 — Firefighter 1st Grade Kenneth Connelly (Ladder Company 111)
1948 — Firefighter 1st Grade Anthony L. Riccardi (Hook & Ladder Company 1)	1987 — Captain James F. McDonnell (Ladder Company 42)
1951 — Lieutenant Wilbur J. O’Donnell (Hook & Ladder Company 1)	1990 — Lieutenant William F. Maloney (Ladder Company 34)
1954 — Firefighter 1st Grade Victor F. Rossi (Ladder Company 120)	1993 — Firefighter Michael M. Dugan (Ladder Company 43)
1957 — Firefighter 2nd Grade Michael J. O’Driscoll (Ladder Company 28)	1996 — Lieutenant Albert J. Gonzalez, Jr. (Ladder Company 18)
	1999 — Firefighter Gerard J. Triglia (Ladder Company 132)
	2003 — Battalion Chief John J. Pritchard (41 Battalion; Formerly Captain of Engine Company 255)

Dr. Harry M. Archer Medal

FIREFIGHTER JAMES F. MILLS

Ladder Company 176

March 4, 2003, 2150 hours, Box 55-1658, 1636 Pitkin Avenue, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on May 9, 1993. Brother is FF Richard Mills, Jr., Engine 248; father is retired Captain Richard Mills, Sr., Ladder 166; and uncle is retired Deputy Chief Joseph Mills, Division 3. Member of the Emerald and Holy Name Societies. Cited for bravery once previously. Resides in Sayville, Long Island, with his wife, Susan, and their son, Griffin, and daughters, Taylor and Madison.



Pitkin Avenue is a major shopping street in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn. Among the renovations are alterations to these nearly hundred-year-old buildings. With the turmoil of the '60s and '70s, many of the building owners took drastic measures to ensure security. Many of these modifications have remained in place. Any veteran Firefighter who worked in that area will say, "A job on Pitkin Avenue is never easy."

At 2147 hours on March 4, 2003, Box 1658 was transmitted. Within two and a half minutes, the first units arrived on the scene and were met with a medium smoke condition emanating from numerous occupancies. 1636 Pitkin Avenue was a two-story taxpayer-type building, housing four separate stores. Lines were stretched and forcible entry began.

FF James Mills, the chauffeur of Ladder 176, positioned his apparatus and began assisting in opening roll-down gates. Some 22 minutes into the operation, FF Robert Petrarca of Ladder 120 transmitted a mayday.

FF Mills went down the stairs to the cellar, put his facepiece on and began following the line into the cellar. He encountered Engine 227 members, who were operating their line into a common hall that ran the length of the stores. There were many radio transmissions from the units, but most alarming was the transmission from the inside team of Ladder 120, stating they were nearly out of air.

After communicating with Engine 227, FF Mills, knowing full well that time was critical, proceeded to crawl toward the front of the cellar. Due to the complexity of this occupancy, most of the members were searching the cellar of the corner occupancy (jewelry store) and not the cellar where FF Petrarca was lost.

FF Mills began crawling into this cellar. This was not an open, orderly area; this was a Brownsville cellar, filled with many obstacles and debris, which had built up over many years. The sprinklers were operating, so the heat build-up was not intense, but a highly charged atmosphere of dense smoke and carbon monoxide permeated the cellar.

This low-heat atmosphere allowed FF Petrarca to go further into the cellar area. It actually put him in grave danger since he quickly became disoriented and crawled in the opposite

direction of the only stairway out of the cellar. The search rope of Ladder 120 ended at an unused staircase; ironically, this was the same point of the breach made later in the incident.

FF Mills, without the protection of a hand-line, began his search. No one realized the wall of the common hall did not go to the ceiling, which allowed the fire to cross into the cellar area where FF Mills had crawled, searching for the missing member. The only line (Engine 227) in the cellar was back at the stair area.

After searching for nearly six minutes and covering a distance of approximately 80 feet, FF Mills located FF Petrarca, who was face down and unconscious in two to three inches of water. FF Mills gave an Urgent message over his handie-talkie, notifying the Incident Commander that he had located the missing member.

Due to the stress and physical effort it took to make it to this point, the air in FF Mill's SCBA was so low his vibralert was going off, but he continued to transmit his location, while trying to drag the unconscious member--who weighed more than 200 pounds--toward the stairs. The air in FF Mills' mask ran out and he was forced to remove his facepiece. He, too, began breathing the contaminated and CO-heavy air.

Fortunately, members of Ladder 176 made a breach in the cellar wall, not too far from FF Mill's location. This allowed members of Rescue 4 to enter, locate and assist FF Mills with the downed member. Together, they dragged FF Petrarca to the breach. (The breach was about half the distance to the stair.)

Shortly after the removal of FF Petrarca from the cellar area where FF Mills found him, there was a collapse. Both Firefighters would have been buried under it.

FF Mills' act of bravery was accomplished under extremely hostile conditions. As Deputy Chief Daniel Butler wrote in his endorsement: "With all this going on, FF Mills may have left and communicated FF Petrarca's position once safe outside himself. Instead, he decided he would leave when they both left. This saved critical time for FF Petrarca and prevented more severe damage from lack of oxygen and the real possibility of his death." For his heroic actions, FF James F. Mills is awarded the Dr. Harry M. Archer Medal.--JTV



Medal winner FF James F. Mills (right) with his brother, FF Richard Mills, Jr., Engine 248 (left), and father, Captain Richard Mills, Sr., retired from Ladder 166.

photo courtesy of FF James F. Mills

THE JAMES GORDON BENNETT MEDAL WINNERS

The James Gordon Bennett Medal was established in 1869 and, for years, it was the sole decoration awarded for valor in the Fire Department of the City of New York. As a result of its seniority among medals, it is awarded annually for the most outstanding act of heroism after the consideration and deliberate judgment of the members of the Medal Board of the NYC Fire Department.

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|--|--|--|
| 1869--Lieutenant Minthorne D. Tompkins (L-1)
Captain Benjamin A. Gicquel (E-9) | 1911--Firefighter Richard J. Condon (2) (E-12) | 1958--Firefighter Nicholas Sharko (L-11) |
| 1870--Lieutenant Charles L. Kelly (E-9) | 1912--Firefighter Robert J. Boyle (L-10) | 1959--Captain Arthur J. O'Connor (SQ-4) |
| 1871--Firefighter Ambrose L. Austin (E-15) | 1913--Engineer of Steamer Seneca Larke (E-20) | 1960--Firefighter William V. Russo (E-254) |
| 1872--Lieutenant Thomas Henry (L-6)
Firefighter Thomas Hutchinson (L-1) | 1914--Firefighter John F. Mooney (1) (L-4) | 1961--Firefighter Joseph G. Peragine (L-14) |
| 1873--Battalion Chief William H. Nash (Bn-7)
Firefighter Alfred Conner (L-10)
Lieutenant Henry Schuck (E-34) | 1915--Captain Thomas W. Smith (E-2) | 1962--Firefighter Joseph E. Almon (L-35) |
| 1874--Captain William Mitchell (E-10) | 1916--Firefighter James T. Daniels (L-26) | 1963--Firefighter Lawrence F. Duenas (E-59) |
| 1875--Lieutenant James Horn (E-11) | 1917--Firefighter John Walsh (1) (L-1) | 1964--Firefighter David Crowley (L-14) |
| 1876--Firefighter Joseph McGowan (E-6) | 1918--Firefighter Patrick R. O'Connor (L-14) | 1965--Firefighter James E. Bowler (R-2) |
| 1877--Firefighter Thomas J. Dougherty (L-1) | 1919--Lieutenant Francis Blessing (R-1) | 1966--Firefighter Robert E. Farrell (L-31) |
| 1878--Captain Daniel J. Meagher (L-3) | 1920--Firefighter Timothy F. O'Leary, Jr. (E-15) | 1967--Firefighter Thomas D. Ferraiuolo (L-28) |
| 1879--Firefighter Paul Bauer (L-4) | 1921--Firefighter Frank J. Costello (L-12) | 1968--Firefighter Gene P. Dowling (L-25) |
| 1880--Firefighter John Levins (L-2) | 1922--Firefighter Jacob F. Ferber (E-239) | 1969--Firefighter James N. Tempro (E-217) |
| 1881--Firefighter Michael Connerford (E-12) | 1923--Captain Edwin A.A. Quinn (E-14) | 1970--Firefighter Charles Varner (L-55) |
| 1882--Firefighter John L. Rooney (L-10) | 1924--Hon. Medical Off. Harry M. Archer, MD | 1971--Lieutenant Richard R. Hamilton (R-2) |
| 1883--Firefighter William B. Kirchner (E-11) | 1925--Captain Thomas J. O'Toole (E-27) | 1972--Firefighter Steven C. DeRosa (L-102) |
| 1884--Firefighter John Binns (E-32) | 1926--Firefighter William G.R. Mitchell (E-18) | 1973--Firefighter Raymond G. McCann (L-40) |
| 1885--Captain Peter H. Short (L-1) | 1927--Firefighter Michael McNerney (L-12) | 1974--Firefighter Gilbert J. Murtha (L-108) |
| 1886--Firefighter Michael Brady (E-34) | 1928--Captain James A. Walsh (1) (E-234) | 1975--Firefighter Thomas J. Neary (L-31) |
| 1887--Lieutenant Samuel Banta (L-10) | 1929--Firefighter George W. Reilly (L-19) | 1976--Firefighter Martin McGovern (L-114) |
| 1888--Lieutenant William Quirk (E-22) | 1930--Firefighter Edward V. Conroy (L-1) | 1977--Captain Frederick W. Gallagher (R-2) |
| 1889--Firefighter William Reilly (L-12) | 1931--Captain Albert B. Carlson (E-66) | 1978--Firefighter James H. Battillo (L-152) |
| 1890--Captain Thomas J. Ahern (E-5) | 1932--Firefighter Vincent J. Hyde (R-3) | 1979--Firefighter John J. Pritchard (R-2) |
| 1891--Firefighter Patrick F. Lucas (E-30) | 1933--Captain Cornell M. Garety (R-1) | 1980--Lieutenant Thomas J. Neary (L-28) |
| 1892--Firefighter Patrick H. Aspell (L-4) | 1934--Firefighter Rudolph F. Musil (L-12) | 1981--Lieutenant Howard R. Kennedy (L-154) |
| 1893--Firefighter John Walker (L-6) | 1935--Firefighter George J. Wolken (E-60) | 1982--Firefighter Joseph H. Dirks (L-103) |
| 1894--Firefighter Denis Ryer (L-15) | 1936--Firefighter Joseph E. Smith (2) (E-211) | 1983--Firefighter Kenneth L. Connelly (L-111) |
| 1895--Firefighter William H. Behler (E-35) | 1937--Firefighter James P. Nevin (E-201) | 1984--Firefighter Robert Merkel (L-42) |
| 1896--Firefighter Martin M. Coleman (L-3) | 1938--Firefighter Charles G. Roscher (L-1) | 1985--Firefighter James A. Sollami (E-62) |
| 1897--Firefighter Patrick Desmond (L-14) | 1939--Firefighter Daniel J. Sullivan (L-3) | 1986--Captain James F. McDonnell (L-42) |
| 1898--Firefighter James Pearl (L-7) | 1940--Firefighter Charles A. Merz (L-168) | 1987--Lieutenant William F. Maloney (L-34) |
| 1899--Firefighter John Hughes (1) (L-14) | 1941--Firefighter Thomas F. Brennan (L-111) | 1988--Firefighter John J. McDonnell (L-28) |
| 1900--Firefighter William Clark (L-14) | 1942--Captain John W. Heaney (Hdq.) | 1989--Captain Richard Jacquin (L-59) |
| 1901--Firefighter Thomas J. McArthur (E-29) | 1943--Firefighter John Colgan (L-2) | 1990--Lieutenant Gerard M. Murtha (R-3) |
| 1902--Firefighter Richard Nitsch (E-35) | 1944--Firefighter Harvey W. Crook (R-3) | 1991--Firefighter William E. Jutt (L-22) |
| 1903--Firefighter Charles F. Douth (L-3) | 1945--Captain George H. Winter (L-3) | 1992--Firefighter Michael M. Dugan (L-43) |
| 1904--Firefighter James R. McAvoy (L-4) | 1946--Firefighter Arthur L. Speyer (L-24) | 1993--Firefighter Albert J. Gonzalez, Jr. (L-18) |
| 1905--Firefighter Michael J. Stevens (L-4) | 1947--Firefighter Anthony J. Riccardi (L-26) | 1994--Lieutenant John M. Fox (SQ-1) |
| 1906--Firefighter Cassimer C. Wodzicki (E-17) | 1948--Captain Patrick T. Green (R-1) | 1995--Firefighter Gregory J. Smith, Jr. (L-108) |
| 1907--Firefighter Michael Nicklaus (L-4) | 1949--Firefighter James S. Norton (L-163) | 1996--Firefighter Gerard J. Triglia (L-132) |
| 1908--Firefighter John T. Oakley (L-11) | 1950--Firefighter Wilbur J. O'Donnell (L-111) | 1997--Firefighter John K. Duddy (L-28) |
| 1909--Battalion Chief George L. Ross (Bn-7) | 1951--Firefighter Victor F. Rossi (L-120) | 1998--Firefighter Stan J. Sussina (R-1) |
| 1910--Firefighter John R. Harcke (L-12)
Firefighter Frank C. Clarke (L-24) | 1952--Lieutenant John F. McGlynn (L-10) | 1999--Captain John J. Pritchard (E-255) |
| | 1953--Firefighter Angelo Michelini (E-97) | 2000--Firefighter Stephen P. Fenley (L-78) |
| | 1954--Deputy Chief John T. Oakley (2) (Hdq.) | 2001--Firefighter John F. South (L-44) |
| | 1955--Firefighter Bernard F. Curran (E-92) | 2003--Battalion Chief James Marketti (Bn-48) |
| | 1956--Firefighter Michael J. O'Driscoll (L-28) | 2004--Firefighter James F. Mills (L-176) |
| | 1957--Firefighter William Von Diezelski (L-4) | 2005--Firefighter Victor J. Rosa, Jr. (L-138) |

James Gordon Bennett Medal/ New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal

CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER J. JOYCE

Engine Company 318

February 13, 2005, 0240 hours, Box 75-3447, 128 Bay 50th Street, Brooklyn



Appointed to the FDNY on January 21, 1990. Previously assigned to Engines 319, 283 and 285. Nephew, FF Gilbert Joyce, is assigned to Engine 257. Holds a bachelor's degree in Business Economics from SUNY at Oneonta. Resides in East Islip, Long Island, with his wife, Kim, and their son, Christopher, and daughter, Gillian.

It was a cold Sunday morning on the 13th of February when an electrical fire erupted in the basement apartment at 128 Bay 50th Street in Brooklyn. Sleeping inside this basement apartment were two occupants. One of them, Mr. Jurcharn Barmi, awoke to the flames and smoke and screamed for his nephew to get out. The nephew escaped, but in the confusion, the 73-year-old Mr. Barmi became trapped inside the basement apartment.

Engine 318, under the leadership of Captain Christopher Joyce, happened to be 10-8 (in service by radio) when they got the call and arrived quickly on the scene at approximately 0240 hours. Captain Joyce realized that since they were 10-8 and arrived so quickly, Engine 318 would be operating without the benefit of a ladder company during the critical early phase of fire operations.

On arrival, Captain Joyce observed a very heavy smoke condition at the rear of the two-story private dwelling. He immediately transmitted a signal 10-75 for a basement fire and ordered his members to begin stretching their hose-line.

As Captain Joyce made his way to the rear, intense smoke and flames shooting from the entrance door to the basement confronted him. At this time, he was approached by the frantic nephew, who informed him that his uncle was trapped somewhere in the apartment. Looking down at the fire and smoke venting from the apartment door and two basement windows, Captain Joyce realized that immediate action was

needed if the trapped victim was to survive this inferno.

Captain Joyce prepared for entry and proceeded down the exterior stairs. He quickly assessed the situation and noticed fire rolling across the ceiling. The room on his left was fully involved. Without the benefit of a hose-line nor the assistance of a ladder company, he quickly realized he would have to pass the fire if he was to locate the victim on the other side.

With high heat and limited visibility, Captain Joyce crawled on the floor past the fire room to the rear of the apartment, where he located the now-unconscious victim on the

floor. Shielding the elderly victim with his body, the Captain retraced his route back to the entrance door, staying under the heat and flames. At the entrance door, he was met and assisted by Lieutenant John Giakas of Engine 253.

FDNY personnel transported the badly injured fire victim to the burn unit at Staten Island University Hospital. Mr. Barmi was admitted with severe burns over his body and in respiratory distress. Although in critical condition, the victim was alive due to the heroic efforts of Captain

Joyce and the members of Engine 318.

The leadership and bravery exhibited by Captain Joyce exemplify what the New York City Fire Department is prepared to do every day for the citizens of New York City. It is for this reason that Captain Christopher Joyce is presented with the James Gordon Bennett Medal and the New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal on this Medal Day.--RMcC



Left to right are FFs Steven Donadio and Mark Gleason, Captain Christopher J. Joyce and FFs Sal Lupia and Rich Pyryt.

photo courtesy of Captain Christopher J. Joyce



Brooklyn Citizens Medal/ FF Louis Valentino Award

FIREFIGHTER ROBERT SCOTT HOURICAN

Ladder Company 168

February 3, 2005, 2019 hours, Box 75-2875, 1901 84th Street, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on February 1, 2000. Previously assigned to Engine 152. Brother, FF John Hourican, is assigned to Rescue 5. Member of the Emerald Society. Attending the College of Staten Island. Resides in Staten Island with his wife, Cheryl, their daughter, Megan, and son, Ryan.

Helaine Beever said good-night to her mother, Madeline Lefkowitz, and both retired to their respective bedrooms inside apartment 2K at 1901 84th Street in the borough of Brooklyn. Shortly after 2000 hours on this February 3rd evening, Ms. Beever heard the terrified screams of her mother. She ran into the foyer and encountered the horrific sight of her elderly mother engulfed in flames. She quickly ran into the hallway screaming for help. Neighbors dialed 911.

Ladder Company 168 was only two blocks away from the fire building when the dispatcher transmitted a telephone alarm. On arrival, the members of Ladder Company 168, along with the 42 Battalion, observed heavy smoke coming from eight windows on the second floor of the B-wing of this six-story multiple dwelling.

Lieutenant Jack Brunner, FF Albert Somma with the can and FF Robert (who goes by his middle name of Scott) Hourican with the irons quickly sized up the building and made their way to the second floor. Reaching the second floor, the inside team was met by thick, acrid smoke filling the entire hallway. There was also a high heat condition.

From their initial size-up of the first floor, the team knew the fire apartment was approximately 15 feet down the hallway on the left. Crawling on their hands and knees, FF Hourican and the inside team made their way to the open door

of apartment 2K.

It was at this point and without the protection of a hand-line that the inside team was met with high heat and zero visibility from the smoke. While FF Somma used his extinguisher to somewhat control the fire, Lieutenant Brunner and FF Hourican crawled past the flames to search for victims.

Crawling under the intense flames and feeling his way along the right wall, FF Hourican systematically searched the apartment until he came across the motionless body of the victim, more than 20 feet into the fire apartment. He quickly transmitted a signal 10-45. With FF Somma trying to contain

the fire, FF Hourican transported the victim through the flames now rolling across the ceiling of the entire apartment.

It was not until FF Hourican made it to the safety of the landing on the second floor that he turned Mrs. Lefkowitz over to CFR-D-trained members of the FDNY. He then returned to the fire apartment to search for more victims.

FF Robert S. Hourican's actions were performed under adverse and rapidly deteriorating

conditions without the benefit of a hose-line. FF Hourican's exhibition of courage, along with his quick and decisive actions during this fire, are the reasons why we are gathered here today to pay him honor with the Brooklyn Citizens Medal/FF Louis Valentino Award.--RMcC



Left to right are FFs John Wedlock, DeRall O'Brian, Scott Hourican and Joseph Larstanna, Lieutenant Jack Brunner and FF Mike Servino. *photo courtesy of FF Robert Scott Hourican*

Hugh Bonner Medal

LIEUTENANT KEVIN T. FLANAGAN

Ladder Company 28

June 28, 2005, 0701 hours, Box 75-1670, 2979 8th Avenue, Manhattan



Appointed to the FDNY on December 17, 1977. Previously assigned to Engine 61, Ladder 59, Rescue 3 and Ladder 42. Father, FF Thomas Flanagan, is retired from Rescue 3; nephew, Philip Spiro, is assigned to Ladder 34; father-in-law, Philip Spiro (now deceased), was retired from Ladder 50; and uncle, Wallace Bjorness (now deceased), was retired from Engine 220. Member of the Holy Name and Emerald Societies. Holds a BA degree in Physical Education from Herbert Lehman College. Cited for bravery on four previous occasions. Resides in Pearl River, NY, with his wife, Mary Ellen. They have two sons: Brian, 24, currently assigned to Engine 92, and Daniel, 22, who is awaiting appointment to the FDNY.

When the tone alarm shattered the morning calm of the firehouse known as *The Harlem Hilton* that warm and humid summer morning, the members knew that the run would be anything but routine. The housewatch Firefighter had announced that the alarm printout stated that a person was trapped in an apartment on the 22nd floor.

Ladder Company 28 turned out of quarters with Lieutenant Kevin Flanagan in command and FF (now Lieutenant) John Tobin behind the wheel. As the apparatus proceeded uptown, the dispatcher reiterated that a person was trapped. Lieutenant Flanagan reviewed in his mind what he knew about the company's destination--the Colonial Park Houses--a complex of four 30-story, 150-by-150-foot buildings.

When the company arrived at its destination, Lieutenant Flanagan and his forcible entry team boarded an elevator with the intention of taking it to two floors below the fire floor. However, the car stopped on the 17th floor and Lieutenant Flanagan decided to exit.

Hearing a report from FF Tobin that his survey of the building exterior revealed smoke pushing from the windows, the Lieutenant knew the situation was critical, so he raced to the stairwell and started his ascent. When he reached the landing between floors 21 and 22, he encountered a grandmother and several children. What caught Lieutenant Flanagan's attention was the fact that the woman was wearing only one shoe; clearly an indication that she had rushed from danger. The excited family members also reported that a little boy remained in the fire apartment.

With a renewed sense of urgency, Lieutenant Flanagan opened the door to the public hall on the 22nd floor. Because

the fleeing occupants had not closed their apartment door, there was a high heat and smoke condition present. Once the Lieutenant and his forcible entry team were able to enter the apartment, with FF William Poteus using his extinguisher to hold back the flames, Lieutenant Flanagan entered the flat, passed the burning fire and headed toward the rear bedrooms.

When he reached the most distant room, he searched until he located a 10-year-old child who was unconscious. He then dragged the victim back toward the front door. After receiving an assist from FF Victor Leeber, the



(Above) Left to right, FF John Tobin (now Lieutenant), Lieutenant Kevin T. Flanagan and FFs Paul Nigro and Ed Burwell (now Lieutenant). (Inset) Three generations of Flanagans--FF Brian Flanagan, Engine 92, FF Thomas Flanagan, retired from Rescue 3 and Lieutenant Kevin T. Flanagan, Ladder 28. photos courtesy of Lieutenant Kevin T. Flanagan



boy was brought from the hallway to the staircase, where he was turned over to the members of Engine Company 67 to assume patient care. Lieutenant Flanagan noted that Engine 67's CFR efforts were outstanding and that Engine Company 69 did an exceptional job stretching the first hose-line from the floor below the fire floor.

Lieutenant Flanagan led his team quickly and efficiently into a deteriorating environment. His personal actions of passing a severe heat, smoke and fire condition--without the protection of a covering hose-line to effect a lifesaving rescue--revealed his courage and tenacity. It is for these reasons that the Hugh Bonner Medal is awarded to Lieutenant Kevin T. Flanagan.--BDG



Emily Trevor/ Mary B. Warren Medal

FIREFIGHTER FRANCIS G. FEE, JR.

Rescue Company 1

May 13, 2005, 1418 hours, Box 33-1123, 80 Riverside Drive, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on July 5, 1992. Previously assigned to Engine Company 280. Two brothers in the FDNY: Lieutenant John Fee, assigned to Division 13, and FF Thomas Fee, assigned to Squad 270. Attended Nassau Community College. Teaches rescue operations for various fire service organizations. Member of the Holy Name Society, Emerald Society and FEMA USAR Team NYTF-1. Cited on three previous occasions. Resides in Freeport, Long Island, with his wife, Marcia, and their children, Allison, 19, and Ryan, 13.

A former Chief of Department constantly would advocate that companies should “drill until you drop.” That advice is followed continually by Rescue Company 1. So it was not surprising that the unit was out of quarters on a warm, sunny afternoon at a drill when they were directed to respond to a fire in an SRO hotel on the Upper West Side.

With FF Francis (Frank) Fee at the wheel, the apparatus moved uptown. While en route, there were numerous announcements on the Department radio, including the transmission of a second alarm. With reports of heavy fire on two floors and in the shaft, the members of Rescue 1 knew that they would be involved in arduous firefighting duty.

After they arrived, the company operated in several areas of the building. At one point, a retired FBI agent who was on the scene notified the Battalion Chief that a civilian was hanging out a window on the left side of the structure. Several members of Rescue 1 then were dispatched to effect a rescue of the dangling 53-year-old male.

Receiving his orders, FF Fee raced up the narrow stairway to the ninth floor. Once there, he exited into the public hall, which was extraordinarily hot and filled with inky black smoke. Fire had taken possession of apartment #8 and its open door allowed fire into the area directly in front of the adjacent apartment (#7), where the door was ajar and the victim located. FF Fee could hear cries for help, which were becoming weaker and weaker, emanating from the hostile environment in which the victim was trapped.

With no hose-line in place to protect him and time of the essence, FF Fee decided he had to act immediately. He made

his way through the heat and smoke along the hallway, went past the rolling flames and finally was able to enter the victim’s flat. Once inside, he shut the door behind him and proceeded to locate Mr. Wyatt, who by this time, was unconscious.

After venting the window and looking down, he saw that the aerial ladder that had been positioned outside could not reach his location. The Firefighter had no alternative other than to bring Mr. Wyatt into the public hall. FF Fee provided the victim with some air via his SCBA, summoned his remaining strength and dragged Mr. Wyatt to the door. Once there, he was met by Captain Thomas Hughes, Ladder 16, and FF Patrick Barry, Rescue 1, who assisted in bringing the victim back past the fire to the stairwell.

Mr. Wyatt, suffering from smoke inhalation, subsequently

was transported to St. Luke’s Hospital. His condition was so severe that eventually he was transferred to Jacobi Hospital in order to treat him for exposure to high levels of CO. Once Mr. Wyatt was in the hands of other members, FF Fee then rejoined his company in completing a search of the fire floor.

FF Fee not only operated alone in an extremely hostile

environment, but exhibited courage by passing through a heavy fire condition without the protection of a covering hose-line. His quick decision-making and actions--including removing his own mask and placing it on the victim--surely saved the life of another. FF Francis G. Fee, Jr., clearly demonstrated his bravery and upheld the highest traditions of his company and the FDNY. For these efforts, he is awarded the Emily Trevor/Mary B. Warren Medal --BDG



FF Francis G. Fee, Jr., in center with Rescue 1 members in front of apparatus.
apparatus photo by Joseph Pinto; photo of Rescue 1 members courtesy of FF Francis G. Fee, Jr.

Thomas E. Crimmins Medal

FIREFIGHTER JOHN C. GENNA

Engine Company 298 (assigned), Ladder Company 125 (detailed)

January 30, 2005, 0619 hours, Box 33-4369, 88-28 162nd Street, Jamaica, Queens

Appointed to the FDNY on October 1, 2000. Member of the Emerald Society. Holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Queens College. Previously recognized for pre-hospital saves. Recipient of the Firehouse Magazine Heroism Award and New York Rotary Club Heroism Award. Resides in Queens.



On the morning of January 30, 2005, as the Department coped with the line-of-duty deaths of three members the prior week, FF John C. Genna (detailed to Ladder 125) and the members of Engine 298 once again were called to protect life and property. At 0619 hours, Engine 315 and Ladder 125 were assigned second due to Queens Box 4369 for a reported fire at 88-22 162nd Street with people trapped. At 0621 hours, Engine 298 arrived as the first-due unit and transmitted a 10-75. Engine 298 also requested an additional engine and truck due to the heavy volume of fire and the presence of security bars on the first-floor windows.

Two problems immediately faced Engine 298. First, because of the previous week's heavy snow and mounting trash, the nearest hydrant could not be located immediately. A hydrant was found further down the block. The second problem was that Ladder 127, the second-due truck, notified Queens Dispatch they were unable to respond because of an apparatus problem. Thus, FF Genna and the members of Ladder 125 had to assume the first-due truck's role.

When Ladder 125 arrived at 0624 hours, they found heavy volumes of fire from exposure #1 on both the first and second floors, as well as a number of anxious residents and neighbors stating that people were trapped in the rear of the building. A quick size-up revealed that the members of Ladder 125 would have to find another way into the building to conduct searches.

Assigned the forcible entry position, FF Genna, along with Lieutenant Joseph Fericola, made their way to the rear of the building to find a point of entry. Reaching the rear of the building, the pair encountered a terrified civilian attempting to make his way down from the second floor via a civilian ladder and screaming there were other occupants trapped.

As the fire now was moving rapidly through the second floor, FF Genna quickly set up a portable ladder and following Lieutenant Fericola, climbed to a second-floor window, which was venting heavy smoke and heat. FF Genna entered the building and immediately encountered a high heat and smoke condition with zero visibility.

Without the benefit of a charged hose-line for protection, FF Genna began his search. Lieutenant Fericola, who also was conducting a search, found the unconscious body of Ms. Parbattie Seunarine, age 42, and radioed FF Genna for assistance.

At this time, Deputy Chief Paul Ferro of the 13th Division had arrived on-scene and radioed all members to vacate the building due to the worsening conditions. However, learning that members were undertaking a rescue operation, the Chief ordered interior operations resumed. Chief Ferro ordered members of Engine 303 to move to the rear of the building and stretch a hose-line to protect the ongoing rescue operation.

As fire began to enter through the bedroom doorway, FF Genna moved to assist Lieutenant Fericola. While moving deeper into the room to assist his Lieutenant, FF Genna found the motionless, burned body of Dhavindranauth Seunarine, age 43. FF Genna immediately radioed a 10-45 to Lieutenant Fericola and dragged this victim to the window in preparation for removal.

While FF Genna was working to rescue the second victim, Lieutenant Fericola discovered a third victim, Devindranauth Seunarine, age 13. Now additional assistance would be required. Luckily, FF Edward Cancro of Rescue 4 had ascended the portable ladder and

entered the room. FF Genna, with the assistance of FF Cancro, assisted in lifting the first victim out to Lieutenant Fericola, who carried her to safety. FF Cancro then lifted the teenage victim out the window to FF Genna, who carried him down the ladder to safety. While FF Cancro turned this victim over to EMS for medical treatment, Lieutenant Fericola ascended the ladder and removed the second victim.

In his report, Deputy Chief Ferro stated that he had arrived on-scene in time to witness the entire rescue operation. He noted that FF John C. Genna did an outstanding job under arduous conditions. Specifically, he wrote, "His perseverance, determination and bravery directly resulted in the saving of lives. He placed himself at risk in the finest traditions of this Department." The Fire Department is proud to honor him today with the Thomas E. Crimmins Medal.--DH



Left to right, Captain John Shoemaker and FFs John Genna, Hugh Diamond and Craig Gobbo (detailed to Battalion 50).

photo courtesy of FF John Genna



Thomas A. Kenny Memorial Medal

LIEUTENANT JOSEPH A. FERNICOLA

Ladder Company 125

January 30, 2005, 0619 hours, Box 33-4369, 88-28 162nd Street, Jamaica, Queens

Appointed to the FDNY on July 11, 1984. Previously assigned to Ladders 115, 160 and 138. Has two cousins in the Department: Battalion Chief Herbert Penner, currently covering in Battalion 7, and FF Michael Penner, assigned to Engine 79. Member of the Columbia Association. Resides in Levittown, Long Island, with his wife, Toni, and their daughter, Alexa, and son, Nicholas.

The Queens dispatcher turned out the companies for a reported building fire at 88-28 162nd Street on January 30, 2005, at 0619 hours. Ladder Company 125 was notified that there were numerous phone calls at this address reporting a fire in the basement and that they would be responding as the first-due truck.

Engine 298 arrived as the first-due engine and quickly gave the 10-75 for a cellar fire in the two-story, semi-attached, flat roof, private dwelling. Due to the heavy volume of fire and the presence of window bars, an extra engine and truck were requested.

When Ladder 125, commanded by Lieutenant Joseph Fernicola, arrived, they found heavy fire involving the cellar and fire showing at the first- and second-floor front windows. There were numerous hysterical civilians screaming that there were people trapped in the rear. After his initial size-up, it was apparent to Lieutenant Fernicola that although the front door was open, it would be impossible for his forcible entry team to gain entry. He then directed the LCC to position the apparatus and raise the aerial ladder to the roof for access.

The Lieutenant ordered a portable ladder taken to the rear for VES of the second floor and notified Lieutenant Robert Daly, Engine 298 (since promoted to Captain), that Ladder 125 would seek an alternate entry down the exposure #2 side and to the rear of the building. As they made their way to the rear, Lieutenant Fernicola noticed that fire was showing from the first- and second-floor front windows on the #2 side and all windows on the first and second floors on the side and rear were pumping heavy black smoke.

Arriving at the rear, Lieutenant Fernicola discovered Narvin Seunarine, age 15, coming down a flimsy, almost vertical civilian ladder from the second floor. Proper placement of this ladder was impossible due to a parked car and other obstructions. Once removed, the occupant was crying that there were more people trapped inside.

Urgency dictated that Lieutenant Fernicola and the forcible entry members ascend this civilian ladder to begin a search for these endangered people. FF John Fogus, Engine 298, first completed the removal of the injured victim to the street and returned to meet up with the Lieutenant and FF John Genna, detailed to Ladder 125. They climbed the ladder, donned their facepieces and entered the second floor. The floor was heavily charged and the

glow of the fire was rapidly extending out in the hallway.

Once inside, Lieutenant Fernicola was forced to the floor by the extreme heat and rapidly deteriorating conditions. Without the protection of a hose-line, he began his search. In an attempt to delay the spread of flames to the room and with fire beginning to roll over his head, Lieutenant Fernicola quickly crawled across the room to close the bedroom door.

Conditions now were so bad that when Deputy Chief Paul Ferro, Division 13, arrived, he began ordering all members out of the building. At this time, Lieutenant Fernicola found an unconscious and burned female occupant, Parbattie Seunarine, age 42.

The 10-45 was transmitted and removal was underway.

Chief Ferro, aware that a rescue operation was in progress on the second floor, ordered interior operations to continue. While dragging the victim, Lieutenant Fernicola found a second victim, Devindranauth Seunarine, age 13, and again transmitted a 10-45. Simultaneously, FF Genna informed him that he, too, had discovered an unconscious male victim, Dhavindranauth Seunarine, age 43, and would be attempting to remove him to the window. A



Lieutenant Joseph A. Fernicola and members of Ladder 125.

photo courtesy of Lieutenant Kenneth Burbulak, Engine 315

third 10-45 was given.

With the interior stairs burnt through and collapsing, the only option was to remove all 10-45s out the rear window. Help was requested at the rear by Chief Ferro. At the window with three victims, Lieutenant Fernicola and FF Genna began the arduous task of removing the victims to safety. Help came in the form of FF Edward Cancro, Rescue 4. He assisted the first victim onto the portable ladder to Lieutenant Fernicola, who then carried the victim safely to the ground. This process was repeated twice more with the Lieutenant carrying down another unconscious victim and FF John Genna carrying down the third victim.

Lieutenant Joseph Fernicola discovered two unconscious victims and either removed or assisted in the removal of four victims in total. The two victims found by him were burned and in respiratory arrest when removed, but both are alive due to his heroic efforts and determination. His actions and bravery were crucial in the rescue of three unconscious victims.

In the finest traditions of the New York City Fire Department, Lieutenant Joseph A. Fernicola is honored with the Thomas A. Kenny Memorial Medal.--TW

Walter Scott Medal

FIREFIGHTER JOSEPH M. PIGOTT

Ladder Company 78

January 26, 2005, 2316 hours, Box 0071, 219 York Avenue, Staten Island

Appointed to the FDNY on February 5, 1995. Previously assigned to Engine 310. Father, FF Thomas Pigott, is retired from the Department; and brother, Captain Thomas Pigott, Jr., is assigned to Engine 162. Member of the Columbia Association and Emerald Society. Attended St. John's University. Received a unit citation and was named "Firefighter of the Month" in September 2005 by the Staten Island Advance. Resides in Staten Island with his wife, Judy, and their daughters, Samantha and Victoria, and son, Joseph, Jr.



January 26, 2005, had been a somber evening at the quarters of Ladder 78 and Engine 155. The Department recently had lost three Brothers and several more were in critical condition from tragic fires in the Bronx and Brooklyn. With a funeral the next day, they were acutely aware of the dangers that fire can pose, but that didn't stop them from swiftly responding to every call. The recent snowstorm had blanketed the City with a foot of snow, which made responding a little more difficult.

At 2316 hours, the tone sounded and the computer rattled out a report of a fire at 219 York Avenue on the North Shore of Staten Island, just a few blocks from the firehouse. As both companies grabbed their gear and responded to the alarm, the dispatcher informed them he had received reports of an occupant trapped on the second floor of the three-story multiple dwelling.

As they pulled up in front of the fire building, FF Joseph Pigott, Ladder 78, saw flames lapping out of the second-floor windows in the front. He knew that as part of the forcible entry team, it was their responsibility to find and rescue the man trapped in this inferno.

A man ran up to the Firefighters as they raced into the building and screamed that the man was trapped in the living room. While Engine 155 started to stretch a hose over the snow-covered terrain, FFs Pigott and Thomas Donovan followed Captain John R. Graziano into the inferno.

As they climbed the stairs into the flames swirling around the apartment, they were armed with only a fire extinguisher can carried by FF Donovan. Captain Graziano directed him to use the can to knock down the flames as much as possible to allow for a quick search. Outgunned by the fire, FF Donovan still was able to push back the flames enough to help the other members locate the victim.

As Captain Graziano searched in the living room area, FF Pigott crawled past the flames lapping above and made his way to the rear bedroom. Once in the bedroom and protected

from the flames by a wall, the Firefighter was able to locate 38-year-old Thomas Marshall in a corner. Already burned over most of his body, Mr. Marshall had sought refuge from the flames before lapsing into unconsciousness.

FF Pigott quickly transmitted a code 10-45 to let everyone know he had located the victim. He realized that Mr. Marshall was severely burned and that it was essential to get him to a hospital quickly. He knew this meant entering the fire area again and he steeled himself for the task.

With the additional burden of carrying the victim, FF Pigott again crawled past the fire area, where he was met by FF Donovan, who helped in removing Mr. Marshall to safety. FF Peter Hyde, Ladder 78, also helped carry the victim down the stairs. As the



(Above) Left to right, FFs Dan Newman and Tim McCauley, Captain John Graziano and FFs Doug Huebler, Joseph Pigott and Robert Papa. (Inset) FF Joseph Pigott and Captain Thomas Pigott, Jr., flank their retired father, FF Thomas Pigott, Sr.

photos courtesy of FF Joseph Pigott



members of Engine 155 moved in with a charged line and began to extinguish the blaze on the second floor, FFs Pigott, Hyde and Donovan administered CPR and rescue breathing on the victim on the first floor until the arrival of EMS.

EMS personnel continued to work on Mr. Marshall as they transported him to St. Vincent's Hospital, where he was admitted in critical condition. Despite FF Pigott's heroic efforts and the best

efforts of the medical personnel, Mr. Marshall lost a two-week-long struggle for his life.

For his bravery in entering the fire area to find the victim and his tremendous efforts in his removal under adverse conditions, the Fire Department is proud to award the Walter Scott Medal to FF Joseph Michael Pigott.--JT

Addendum: FF Joseph Pigott's grandfather, also Joseph Michael Pigott, won the Walter Scott Medal as a member of the NYPD in 1939 (presented at the World's Fair) for his heroic efforts in January of 1938.

John H. Prentice Medal

LIEUTENANT JOHN A. DOOLEY (2)

Battalion 14 (assigned), Ladder Company 44 (detailed)

March 5, 2005, 0459 hours, Box 33-2922, 1711 Morris Avenue, Bronx



Appointed to the FDNY on December 9, 1985. Previously assigned to Engine 231 and Ladder 120. Father, Lieutenant John A. Dooley, is retired from Ladder 107. Member of the Emerald and Holy Name Societies. Attended Nassau Community College. Recipient of Firehouse Magazine Heroism Award. Resides in Deer Park, Long Island, with his wife, Asia, their sons, John, Patrick and Noah, and daughter, Rebecca.

On March 5, 2005, Ladder 44 responded first-due for smoke in apartment 5J at 1711 Morris Avenue. Arriving at the six-story, non-fireproof multiple dwelling, units observed a light smoke condition in the street. As Lieutenant John Dooley, commanding officer of Ladder 44, and his forcible entry team--FFs Louis Mancuso and Michael Mercurio--entered the lobby, they encountered numerous occupants coming down the stairwells.

Lieutenant Dooley and his forcible entry team made their way to apartment 3J on the third floor and observed heavy smoke pushing from around the doorjamb. The Officer opened the unlocked door and observed fire in the rear of the apartment. Lieutenant Dooley gave this information to Battalion 17, Battalion Chief James Keene, and transmitted a 10-75 for a working fire.

Ladder 44's forcible entry team donned their facepieces and prepared to conduct a primary search. Immediately, it was apparent to Lieutenant Dooley that the amount of rubbish strewn about the apartment was going to hamper operations. He described conditions as "Collyer mansion"-type.

Lieutenant Dooley knew that facilitating the engine company's advance of the hose-line would be crucial to a successful operation. He ordered members to clear debris from the apartment hallway to the main hall. The Officer was supervising this operation from halfway down the main hall of the apartment where it led to a bathroom.

Fire conditions were intensifying and fire was rolling across the ceiling above him. Lieutenant Dooley passed bags of garbage to FF Mancuso so he could gain access to the bathroom to make a search. As the Lieutenant turned to begin his search, he found an unconscious victim, 71-year-old Christine Brockington, lying face up on the floor.

Lieutenant Dooley transmitted a 10-45 to Chief Keene and then attempted to remove Ms. Brockington. Initial attempts to evacuate her proved fruitless. Lieutenant Dooley found that her legs were pinned under a mountain of debris that apparently had fallen and trapped her on the floor. He called for FF Mancuso for assistance, but even together, they were unable to pull her free from the debris.

Fire was intensifying above Lieutenant Dooley, so he ordered FF Mancuso to use the extinguisher above him to protect Ms. Brockington. He heard Engine 42's Officer call for

water, but the chauffeur informed him that water would be delayed, due to a frozen hydrant. FF Mancuso's extinguisher was out of water, so Lieutenant Dooley and FF Mancuso made another failed attempt to free Ms. Brockington.

Lieutenant Dooley was about to be engulfed in flame. Engine 42, which now had water, could not advance the hose-line due to the ongoing rescue. Lieutenant Dooley refused to leave Ms. Brockington, so he ordered FF Mancuso to instruct Engine 42 to operate the hose-line over him to push some of the heat and fire away from rescuer and victim. This procedure protected them from fire, but also subjected them to punishing conditions from scalding steam, the collapsing ceiling and hot water running down from the water runoff.

Lieutenant Dooley, in an attempt to protect Ms. Brockington, sacrificed his safety and used his own body to shield hers from these severe conditions.

He repeated his removal efforts, but again, was unsuccessful. Fire now had full control of the hallway ahead of him, the bathroom to his left and was rolling overhead. The Officer overheard reports of fire extending throughout the building and severe conditions everywhere. Conditions were such that at the doorway to the apartment, FFs Kevin O'Hagan and Mercurio went to the adjoining apartment and began to prepare to breach the wall. This was because conditions were so severe in the hallway where Lieutenant Dooley was, they thought he would be unable to escape via the front door. But again, Lieutenant Dooley requested that Engine 42 open their hose-line to protect his position

and again, he was engulfed in burning steam, debris and heat as the water poured down around him.

Lieutenant Dooley then made a final, desperate attempt to free Ms. Brockington. He removed more debris from her legs and with the help of FF Mancuso, he finally was able to free Ms. Brockington. She was immediately removed to the street and transported to the ICU burn unit at Harlem Hospital in extremely critical condition.

During this long and arduous rescue, Lieutenant John Dooley repeatedly put himself in harm's way to save Ms. Brockington. His actions undoubtedly saved her life and exemplify the finest traditions of the Fire Department of the City of New York. It is for these reasons that he is recognized today and presented with the John H. Prentice Medal.--CB



Lieutenant John Dooley operates at Manhattan Box 55-1714, 1214 St. Nicholas Avenue/170th Street.

photo by Matthew P. Daly

Henry D. Brookman Medal

LIEUTENANT KENNETH J. DURANTE

Ladder Company 58

January 4, 2005, 0425 hours, Box 75-3201, 1185 Lebanon Street, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on October 7, 1985. Previously assigned to Engines 204, 75 and 36. Member of the Columbia Association and the Emerald Society and secretary of the Company Officers Association. Attended the New York Institute of Technology. Recipient of two unit citations, one Service Rating A and the Thomas Elsasser Memorial Medal in 1996. Resides in Bullville, New York, with his wife, LuAnn.



The alarm bells rang at 0425 hours on January 4, 2005. The members of Ladder 58 and Engine 45 turned their apparatus onto Tremont Avenue in the South Bronx and immediately knew they were going to work. The radio transmissions from the Bronx dispatcher reported that there were numerous calls for a fire on the second floor at 1185 Lebanon Street.

Lieutenant Kenneth Durante was in command of Ladder 58 that night and on arrival, he recognized that he was dealing with a deadly situation. Fire was blowing out of two windows in the front and heavy smoke was pushing from several other windows on the exposure #4 side of the building.

Lieutenant Durante and his forcible entry team--FFs Jeffrey Ehret with the irons and Robert White with the can--proceeded into the building. In the lobby, Lieutenant Durante was informed by fleeing occupants that someone was trapped on the second floor.

When the rescuers ascended the stairs, the fire apartment was obvious to them. Blistering paint and smoke pushing from around the doorjamb of apartment 1K foretold the debilitating conditions that were awaiting them. FFs Ehret and White forced open the apartment door.

Lieutenant Durante and his forcible entry team immediately were forced to the floor by high heat, blinding smoke and flames rolling above their heads at the doorway.

The Lieutenant got down on his knees and sized up the interior conditions. He observed a room to his right fully involved in fire and the hallway immediately in front of him was engulfed in flames. Lieutenant Durante then crawled into the apartment to initiate a primary search. Due to the adverse conditions, he entered several feet only, at which point he found a door on his left.

Lieutenant Durante weighed the situation before him. There was a large volume of fire between him and his only exit. There was no hose-line in position to protect him or his forcible entry team if conditions should further deteriorate.

Additionally, he was receiving calls from units on the floor above that fire was extending to the third floor.

Lieutenant Durante knew there was only one thing to do. Without hesitation, he crawled into the doorway to his left and ordered FF White to try to hold the fire from extending past the already failing door. The Lieutenant felt his way through the blinding smoke in what turned out to be a bedroom. Conditions dictated that this search be done as quickly as possible. Heat was intensifying and the bedroom door was beginning to burn through.

Lieutenant Durante reached a bed on the far side of the room, made a quick sweep of the mattress and found a victim, 200-lb. Barry Frazier, lying unconscious on the bed. The Lieutenant pulled Mr. Frazier onto the floor and began to drag him toward the bedroom door. Due to the deteriorating conditions and the size of his victim, Lieutenant Durante called FF Ehret for assistance.

Unbeknown to Lieutenant Durante, FF Ehret already had crawled past the fire in the hallway and joined him in the bedroom. As they combined their efforts to effect this exhausting rescue, FF White told Lieutenant Durante that he was out of water and no longer could delay the fire advance.

Mustering all their remaining strength, Lieutenant Durante and FF Ehret hurriedly removed the motionless Mr. Frazier past the fire in the now fully involved hallway. The two rescuers shielded Mr. Frazier from the searing heat with their bodies, thereby minimizing his injuries as much as possible.

Mr. Frazier, with second-degree burns and smoke inhalation, then was removed to the waiting ambulance and transported to Jacobi Hospital. Lieutenant Kenneth Durante's heroic actions, operating in extremely dangerous fire and smoke conditions, are in the finest traditions of the New York City Fire Department. For his efforts, he is presented with the Henry D. Brookman Medal.--CB



Ladder 58 operates at Bronx Box 33-3092, 2451 East Tremont Avenue, July 15, 2005.

photo by Matthew P. Daly



M.J. Delehanty Medal

FIREFIGHTER CHRISTOPHER R. MANDEVILLE

Rescue Company 1

September 8, 2005, 0252 hours, Box 44-1312, 964 Amsterdam Avenue, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on July 9, 1995. Previously assigned to Engine Company 84, Squad Company 61 and Ladder Company 40. Cousins, James Hodgens, is assigned to Squad Company 41 and Bo Hodgens, is assigned to Engine Company 59. Member of the Holy Name Society, Steuben Association, NYC Fire Riders and the FD Marine Corps League. Active U.S. Navy Reserve corpsman attached to the USMC Fleet Marine Force 4th Medical Battalion. Cited on four previous occasions. Resides in Walden, New York.

It was close to three in the morning when the alert tones shattered the silence of the firehouse. As the computer-generated voice echoed special unit over the PA system, FF Christopher Mandeville already was headed for the apparatus. As Rescue Company 1 raced uptown to an alarm for a structural fire, FF Mandeville put aside his recollections of a fire he had fought earlier in the evening and his thoughts about an upcoming hunting trip to focus on the announcements coming from the Department radio. The dispatcher advised that numerous phone calls were being received reporting people trapped on the upper floors of a non-fireproof multiple dwelling.

Just minutes after leaving the firehouse, Rescue 1 arrived on the scene. FF Mandeville advanced down the block and, as he did so, mentally sized up the building. He observed an extremely heavy smoke condition pushing from the upper floors and blowing over the top of a six-story apartment house. Many residents were self-evacuating from all floors via the fire escapes.

As the members of Rescue 1 entered the building, the lobby was full of panicked children and elderly adults who were fleeing a fire that was burning in the entire stairwell and all the public halls. Debris had fallen on the staircase and several steps were missing, burned away by the intense blaze.

Shortly after their arrival, FFs Mandeville and Cummins were directed to rescue a victim from the fifth floor via the front fire escape. FF Sean Cummins proceeded to the fifth floor as FF Mandeville started past the black smoke emanating from a window on the fourth floor. While doing so, he could hear a faint voice coming from somewhere inside one of the residences. An elderly man came out and FF Mandeville inquired if anyone else was inside. However, the gentleman did not speak English, so the Firefighter decided it would be best to check additional apartments for any remaining occupants.

FF Mandeville moved to the nearby windows. Rather than trying to force the gates on one, he broke the glass on another, entered through the window and commenced a search, making his way to the front door. Reaching the door, he found it buckled and distorted due to the fire and heat; it had to be forced open.

Once he was in the flaming public hall, FF Mandeville heard an additional cry for help and immediately forced the door to an adjacent unit. Entering the flat, he found himself in an environment charged with inky black smoke. Without hesitating, he dropped to his knees and crawled forward.

Halfway through the living room, he located a semi-conscious woman. He grabbed her as best he could and, probing his way through the smoke, advanced toward the window. When FF Mandeville, with his victim in tow, made it to the window, not only was it secured with a gate, but two older women were huddled in a corner gasping for breath. Their desperate efforts to open the gate's locking mechanism had failed.

FF Mandeville took charge, forcibly removed the gate from the wall, opened the window and passed the three victims to members of Ladder Company 22, who were on the fire escape. The women were taken to the hospital for treatment and one was admitted with a respiratory condition and burns.

FF Mandeville operated at an incident that eventually took the life of one civilian and injured several others. Four alarms were required to bring the fire under control. During that time, he took quick and decisive action to perform the rescue of three people who surely would have perished.

For his courage in entering a dangerous and fast-moving fire condition without the benefit of a charged hose-line to save the lives of others, the M.J. Delehanty Medal is presented to Firefighter Christopher R. Mandeville.--BDG



Left to right, FF Glen Bullock, Lieutenant Tony Tarabocchia and FFs Chris Mandeville, Cosmo Diorio, Kevin Kroth and Rob Roderka.

photo courtesy of FF Chris Mandeville

William F. Conran Medal

CAPTAIN WILLIAM J. WALSH (3)

Squad Company 41

January 5, 2005, 0121 hours, Box 4764, 4145 Park Avenue, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on November 22, 1980. Previously assigned to Engine 280, Squad 1, Ladder 103, Ladder 161 and Engine 242. Member of the Emerald Society. Holds an Associate's degree from the City University of New York. Resides in Warwick, New York, with his wife, Kim, and their sons, Drew, Devin Lee and William, Jr.



Squad is a special company. It's a unit of highly trained, motivated and capable Firefighters who take on some of the most difficult tasks. Many Chiefs at fires look at the Squad as their ace in the hole. If things start to look bad, they say, "let's get the Squad in there." It was just such a situation in the early-morning hours of January 5, 2005, that the 17th Battalion played its ace in the hole.

At 0121 hours, Squad 41 was special-called to Box 4764 for a fire at 4145 Park Avenue. Due to the amount of debris in the two-story, wood-frame building, engine companies couldn't get their hose-lines past the large piles of garbage and ladder companies were having trouble performing searches.

Situations such as those described above are referred to as Collyer mansion-type conditions. This phrase is a reference to two eccentric brothers who lived in squalid conditions in a mansion. They had a fire in their home and eventually were found days later, buried in mountains of debris. It was just these conditions that required a special assignment for Squad 41. Their assignment was to find an alternate means of attack, because units were stalled at the front entrance.

Battalion Chief Kevin Corrigan, Battalion 17, ordered Squad 41's forcible entry team to the rear of the building to find an alternate entry. Commanded by Captain William Walsh, Squad 41 members made their way to the rear and were confronted with myriad problems. The rear door of the fire building was six feet off the ground. Apparently, there was a rear porch that had been removed, leaving the rear entrance above ground. Additionally, there was no doorknob, the windows were secured with wire mesh and steel gratings and the door was nailed shut.

Captain Walsh ordered FF Michael Leo to get a 10-foot A-frame ladder from Ladder 27, which was parked in front of the fire building. When FF Leo returned to the rear with the ladder, FF Andrew Braun, the irons Firefighter, ascended the ladder. While FF Braun forced the top of the door, Captain Walsh used his Officer's tool to pry open the bottom. Together, they were able to open the door, but this only gained them access to a mountain of debris. Garbage was piled from floor to ceiling, with heavy smoke pushing through every crevice in the mound of trash.

After pulling enough material from the top of the pile, Captain Walsh and his forcible entry team were able to climb over the rubbish to attempt a primary search. On entry, FF Braun found a 60-lb. pit bull inside the doorway and handed the dog out the rear door and down the ladder.

Captain Walsh continued the primary search and ventured deeper into the maze of unstable debris. Garbage was piled high on each side of a narrow path cut through the middle of the passageways. Heat was intensifying and conditions were deteriorating quickly. The fire was extending unimpeded throughout the trash-strewn apartment and without the protection of a hose-line, Captain Walsh soon would have to abandon his search.

The Captain encountered a waist-high wall and crawled over the barrier to enter the next room. Entering the room, Captain Walsh found the unconscious Victor Mendoza lying face up, not breathing and entirely covered in debris. The rescuer worked feverishly to free Mr. Mendoza from his entanglement in the trash. He then carried/dragged him to the partition wall where FF Braun met him. Captain Walsh lifted the victim up onto the wall and simultaneously, FF Braun pulled him completely over.

Captain Walsh could sense that conditions were becoming untenable. This feeling was reinforced when the Incident Commander ordered the evacuation of the building due to the fire conditions. With this knowledge in hand, Captain Walsh and FF Braun then quickly removed Mr. Mendoza back through the debris-strewn apartment. They were finally able to get him to the rear door and down the ladder.

At the rear yard, the victim was removed quickly to the street where the other members of Squad 41--FFs Michael Lindy, Owen McGovern and James Hodges--performed rescue breathing. Mr. Mendoza then was removed to an awaiting ambulance and taken to Jacobi Hospital for treatment in the hyperbaric chamber.

Captain William J. Walsh operated in extremely punishing and dangerous conditions, with no regard for his own personal safety. His actions are, therefore, befitting of recognition in the finest traditions of the New York City Fire Department. He is honored with the William F. Conran Medal.--CB



Captain William Walsh and the members of Squad 41.
photo courtesy of Captain William Walsh



Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia Medal

FIREFIGHTER JOHN V. KROCZYNSKI

Ladder Company 169

February 4, 2005, 1248 hours, Box 75-3355, 708 Banner Avenue, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on August 16, 1998. Previously assigned to Engines 65 and 207. Brother, FF Michael Kroczyński, is assigned to Ladder 83. Member of the Emerald and Pulaski Societies and Columbia Association. Holds a BS degree in accounting. Recipient of the Emerald Society Pipes and Drums Medal in 2005. Resides in Staten Island with his wife, Stacey, and their two daughters, Alexa and Gianna.

With frigid temperatures and a cold wind constantly blowing in from the ocean, early February is usually a quiet time in the Brighton Beach section of Brooklyn. However, around lunch time on February 4, 2005, FF John V. Kroczyński and the members of Ladder 169 received an emergency call that really heated up the day.

At 1248 hours, a report was received by Brooklyn Dispatch for a first-floor fire at Box 3355. Brooklyn Dispatch immediately directed units to this address with Engine 246/Ladder 169 arriving within three minutes to 708 Banner Avenue, a two-story, 25- by 60-foot, class three, multiple dwelling.

While Engine 246 was working to stretch a hose-line, FF Kroczyński with the irons, along with FF John O’Keefe with the can, followed Lieutenant Daniel McGuinness into the building’s public hallway where they encountered a heavy smoke condition. Without knowing which apartment was on fire, FF Kroczyński forced the door of the front apartment. Finding no fire inside this unit, the team proceeded to the rear apartment and forced that door.

Opening the door, the team was confronted by a high heat and dense smoke condition. Pushing forward to search the apartment, the inside team found a rapidly expanding fire and was forced to take a defensive position. FF O’Keefe opened the can in an attempt to hold back the fire, while FF Kroczyński notified Lieutenant McGuinness he was going to try to search the rear of the apartment.

FF Kroczyński, without the presence of a charged hose-line and only the can used by FF O’Keefe to protect him, bravely crawled past the fire and into the rear of the apartment where he heard the sounds of a victim. Crawling through high heat and zero visibility, he entered the rear bedroom and discovered the unconscious body of Ibiria Chaudry on the bed in the left corner of the room. FF Kroczyński immediately sent a 10-45 signal to Lieutenant McGuinness via his handie-talkie and requested assistance.

By this time, members of Engine 246 were entering the apartment and started to knock down the fire. Meanwhile, Lieutenant McGuinness and FF O’Keefe rushed to FF Kroczyński and assisted him in removing the victim from danger. Upon removal to the street, FF Kroczyński established an airway and assisted in administering oxygen prior to the arrival of EMS. Mrs. Chaudry then was taken to Coney Island Hospital and treated for smoke inhalation.

In his report of the incident, Battalion Chief Robert Glynn of

the 43rd Battalion stated, “In my opinion, had it not been for the determined and aggressive search by FF Kroczyński, Mrs. Chaudry surely would have died. He acted in the finest tradition of the New York City Fire Department.” Therefore, in recognition of this selfless act, the New York City Fire Department is proud to honor Firefighter John V. Kroczyński today by presenting him with the Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia Medal.--DH



Medal Day 2005--Emerald Society Pipes and Drums. FF John Kroczyński with Officers and members of Engine 246/Ladder 169. photo courtesy of FF John Kroczyński

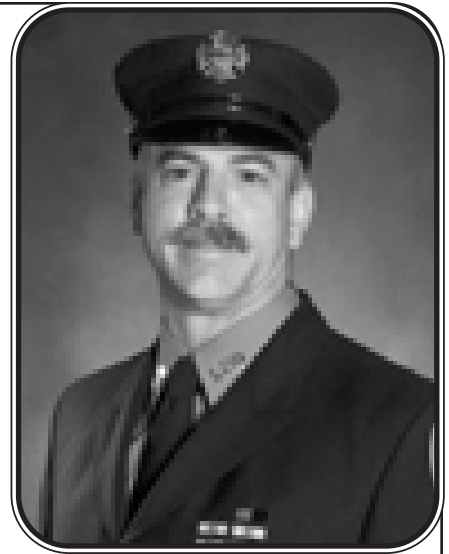
Chief John J. McElligott Medal/ Fitzpatrick and Frisby Award

FIREFIGHTER PAUL J. NIGRO

Ladder Company 28

August 4, 2005, 1749 hours, Box 75-1670, 2979 8th Avenue, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on July 16, 1989. Previously assigned to Ladder Company 161. Member of the Columbia Association and the Holy Name Society. Cited on four previous occasions. Resides in Manhattan with his wife, Jane, and their daughter, Ashley, 18.



The senior man not only has tenure in a company, but generally possesses a wealth of knowledge, ability and experience. Little did FF Paul Nigro know that all of these attributes would be put to the test in very short order.

The alarm sounded throughout the firehouse just as the night tour was about to start. FF Nigro quickly stepped into the apparatus and assumed his role of chauffeur. As he maneuvered the big rear-mount ladder truck up 8th Avenue, the Department dispatcher announced over the radio that there were reports of people trapped in an apartment on the 28th floor of a 30-story, 150- by 150-foot building within the confines of the Colonial Park Houses.

When the company arrived at the building, panicked civilians in the lobby told them that someone was trapped upstairs. It was at this time that the Chief of Battalion 16 advised them that there was smoke showing from the windows.

As Ladder 28 and Engine 69 personnel took the first available elevator (the fire service feature was out of order), FF Nigro started his climb to the roof. He soon heard an urgent handie-talkie message advising that the elevator being used had stalled and the members would be delayed reaching the fire floor.

All alone, FF Nigro exited the stairwell on the fire floor and entered the public hall where the smoke was banked down so heavily it was as though the lights had been turned out. FF Nigro, searching for the source of the fire, opened the door of the flat adjoining the fire apartment and found the occupants were "sheltered in place." Although they apparently were safe for the time being, they screamed that someone was still next door and trapped in the back bedroom.

FF Nigro then moved to the fire apartment and found the door ajar. He entered the hostile environment, passed the fire and started his search. Reaching the rear-most bedroom, he was able to open the door only a few inches because a victim, a 66-year-old obese woman, Mrs. Betty Harris, was up against it. Unable to open the door any further, FF Nigro removed the hinges and took the door down. As he reached the victim, he noted that she was gasping for air and was hooked up to a medical oxygen bottle.

Because there was no second means of egress and he was too high for the reach of an aerial ladder, FF Nigro knew that

he would have to drag the woman out the front door. This meant, once again, he would have to pass the fire. He quickly removed his facepiece and put it on the woman, shielded her with his body and pulled with all his might, while calling for assistance in her removal.

FFs Francis Moriarty (Ladder 28) and Nigro struggled to get Mrs. Harris into the public hall and breezeway. Handie-talkie reports advised them that EMS and CFR personnel would be delayed because of the elevator conditions. So FF Nigro continued administering oxygen until medical personnel could take over patient care. The victim, suffering from smoke inhalation, sub-



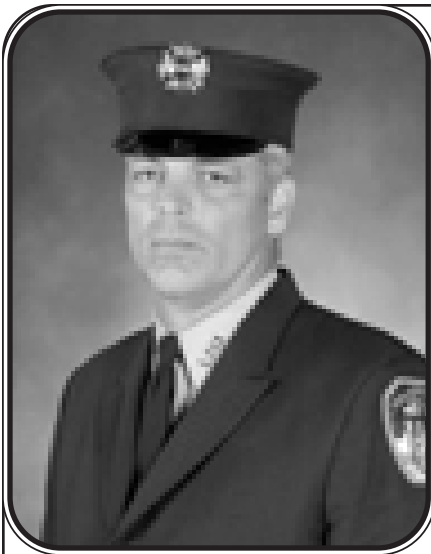
(Above) Lieutenant James Cassidy (Battalion 16) and FFs Mike Pucci, John Salva, Paul Nigro, Frank Moriarty and Brian O'Keefe. *photo courtesy of FF Paul Nigro* (Right) Ladder 28 operating at Box 75-1635, 230 West 147th Street on May 26, 2005.

photo by Matthew P. Daly



sequently was transported to the hospital. FF Nigro, with smoke inhalation and a shoulder injury, also was taken to the hospital.

FF Nigro had the knowledge and experience to react to the initial reports that members would be delayed to the fire floor; possessed the courage to enter an extremely hostile environment to effect a rescue without the protection of a hose-line; and gave up his facepiece to aid another person. For all these reasons and upholding the highest traditions of the FDNY, the Chief John J. McElligott Medal/Fitzpatrick and Frisby Award is awarded to Firefighter Paul J. Nigro.--BDG



Thomas F. Dougherty Medal

FIREFIGHTER JOSEPH W. HONAN

Ladder Company 111

February 17, 2005, 0513 hours, Box 75-0932, 363 Jefferson Avenue, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on September 25, 1982. Previously assigned to Engine 38, Ladder 51 and Engine 214. Member of the Emerald Society. Recipient of two unit citations. Resides in Brooklyn with his wife, Diamond, daughter, Lauren, and sons, Joseph and Johnathan.

Jefferson Avenue in Brooklyn is a residential neighborhood featuring many brownstone-type structures. The community's origin dates back to the late 1800s when these brownstones first were built as private dwellings. Brownstone buildings lined together in a row are among the most beautiful of all dwellings that the City's landscape has to offer.

The buildings on Jefferson Avenue are four stories in height with a cellar. Common to brownstones, the basement is the first floor and the interior is of combustible construction, while the exterior shell is made of non-combustible material. However, 363 Jefferson Avenue was converted from its original occupancy usage from a private dwelling into a multiple dwelling and now totals four apartments.

Significant brownstone firefighting procedures include the immediate ventilation, entry and search of the top floors. These actions are mandatory and considered to be critical at a structural fire in this type building. Because of the poor integrity of individual rooms and areas, the single open interior stair often becomes involved in fire and heavily charged with smoke. Ultimately, these factors allow for rapid build-up of heat and smoke on the top floors, which often traps occupants above the fire.

On February 17, 2005, Ladder 111 was given the heads-up by Fire Department dispatchers that they were going to work at a brownstone fire in which a civilian was trapped on the third floor of 363 Jefferson Avenue in Brooklyn. Firefighter Joseph Honan, a 20-year veteran, knew how bad these fires can be because of the open, unprotected stairs between floors.

On arrival, members of Ladder 111 entered the vestibule and were met by exiting civilians confirming that a young woman named Andres Pallidora was unable to get out of her upper-floor apartment. The members aggressively advanced up the stairs to their assigned positions on the third floor--the fire floor--and assumed first-due truck duties.

At the landing, Ladder 111's inside team--Captain Gennaro Bonfiglio and FFs Honan with the irons and Michael

King with the can, were met with a highly advanced, rapidly spreading fire that extended into the public hallway via an opened doorway. FF Honan, relying on his experience, instinctively crawled to the front of the apartment by the only means possible--the public hallway.

FF Honan used his tools and forced entry skillfully and unaided to the front room of the fire apartment. He was forced to lie flat on his stomach due to the high heat and pulsating smoke from a fully involved kitchen fire. The Firefighter advanced past the seat of the fire to reach Ms. Pallidora, now unconscious and severely burned.

Faced with a life-and-death decision, FF Honan knew his only chance to save the woman was to remove her quickly from the fire area. Unfortunately, this would require him to return to the fire area, dragging an unconscious victim past an advancing apartment fire.

Captain Bonfiglio, hearing the radio report of a found fire victim, immediately headed toward FF Honan's location, while FF King continued to use his water extinguisher in

an attempt to buy some time for the unfolding rescue. FF Honan relied on Captain Bonfiglio's voice to guide him back toward the doorway he initially entered. By shielding Ms. Pallidora from the heat with his own body, FF Honan tested his endurance by dragging the unconscious female fire victim past the seat of the fire and to a place of refuge in the public hallway.

Ultimately, the young woman was removed from the building by members of Rescue 2. Care was transferred to EMS and Paramedics successfully revived Ms. Pallidora, who was severely burned and in cardiac arrest.

As of this date, Ms. Pallidora still is receiving out-patient medical treatment at Cornell Burn Center as a result of second- and third-degree burns covering 70 percent of her body. Her life is looking brighter, however, as she makes a remarkable recovery, thanks to the unselfish and brave actions of FF Joseph W. Honan. He is presented with the Thomas F. Dougherty Medal.--PWB



Left to right, FFs Roy Nichols, Fred Saporito, Joseph Honan, Chris Hagen and Eric Wiener.
photo courtesy of FF Joseph Honan

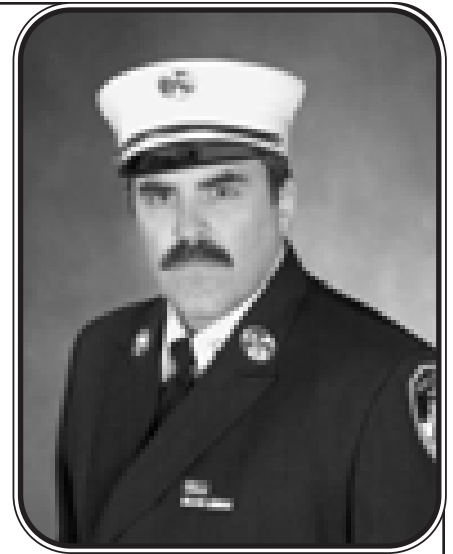
Albert S. Johnston Medal

LIEUTENANT LAWRENCE E. TOMPKINS

Ladder Company 120

May 5, 2005, 0752 hours, Box 75-1690, 393 Powell Street, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on August 19, 1990. Previously assigned to Ladder 7 and Squad 252. Member of the Emerald Society. Recipient of two unit citations and a Service Rating A. Resides in Manhattan with his wife, Joelle, and stepdaughter, Ersellia.



A fire in a fireproof multiple dwelling can be extremely hot and--depending on wind conditions and building air flow patterns--very difficult to extinguish. In the past 20 years, many factors have changed that affect FDNY firefighting procedures. Members no longer fight fires in residential buildings where the fire load is natural fiber-based. With the onset of the chemical age, properties of the average residential furnishings are, for the most part, petroleum-based. As Lieutenant Lawrence Tompkins of Ladder 120 would experience first-hand, the fire load has increased tremendously, resulting in higher temperatures and faster spreading fires.

As Brooklyn Box 1690 was transmitted for smoke from the second floor, the responding members of Ladder 120 instantly began to talk up an operational plan. They recalled the dangers of indiscriminate ventilation, as well as the potential for rapid fire and extensive heavy smoke development on the fire floor and floors above.

Arriving at 393 Powell Avenue on May 5, 2005, at approximately 0800 hours, members of Ladder 120 were met with a heavy smoke condition that completely obscured the lobby entrance to the fire building, a 25-story, fireproof multiple dwelling occupied predominantly by senior citizens. Instinctively, Ladder 120's outside team began to ladder the outside of the building as the inside team--led by Lieutenant Lawrence Tompkins--proceeded up the "A" staircase to the second floor where the fire was reported.

Traveling upward in a blinding smoke condition,

Lieutenant Tompkins was notified by radio that security personnel were confirming that a wheelchair occupant was still in the fire apartment. Arriving on the second floor, it became apparent what needed to be done--traverse a 40-foot hallway without the protection of a charged hose-line and rescue a trapped civilian occupant.

With little time remaining, Lieutenant Tompkins led his forcible entry team down the long hallway into the fire apartment, with the knowledge that an elderly victim was trapped inside. Entering the fire apartment, members of Ladder 120 were met with an advanced fire that had possession of the living room, foyer and entrance doorway.



photo by Joseph Pinto

Forced to go down flat onto his stomach, Lieutenant Tompkins pushed into the fire apartment. About 12 feet in, he came across Michael Spencer, who was unconscious and "on fire." Immediately after smothering the flames that were burning the clothes off Mr. Spencer's unconscious body, Lieutenant

Tompkins and the rest of Ladder 120's forcible entry team removed the critically injured victim to a safe area of refuge in the public stairway.

With burns over 40 percent of his body, unfortunately, the 79-year-old Michael Spencer did not survive his injuries. This fact in no way diminishes Lieutenant Tompkins' selfless act of bravery while encountering risk to his own life. For these reasons, Lieutenant Lawrence Tompkins is presented with the Albert S. Johnston Medal.--PWB



Ner Tamid Society/ Franklin Delano Roosevelt Medal

FIREFIGHTER EDWARD F. CANCRO

Rescue Company 4

January 30, 2005, 0619 hours, Box 33-4369, 88-28 162nd Street, Jamaica, Queens

Appointed to the FDNY on July 25, 1993. Previously assigned to Engines 271 and 48. Nephew, FF Jon Kappel, is assigned to Ladder 44. Attended Nassau Community College. Recipient of two unit citations. Resides in Ronkonkoma, Long Island, with his wife, Robin, and their son, Dominic, and daughter, Samantha.

Queens Box 4369 sounded for a fire in the basement of a private dwelling at 88-22 162nd Street. Due to numerous calls, Rescue 4 responded on the initial alarm. Engine 298 gave the 10-75 on arrival for the reported fire. As Rescue 4 arrived, an advanced fire condition was evident with fire showing from the basement and the first and second floors. The fire also communicated to exposure #4 via the front porch.

It was FF Edward F. Cancro's responsibility to get above the fire. Assigned as the forcible entry Firefighter, he first attempted to get to the floor above by way of the interior stairs. This proved to be impossible due to the fire conditions. As an alternate plan, he climbed a portable ladder at the rear, exposure #2 side of the fire building.

On entry, conditions were severe and there was no hand-line on the second floor. Visibility was zero and heat conditions were high. FF Cancro began a left-hand search of the rear bedroom, working his way to the bedroom door. Reaching the door, he then searched this area that led into the kitchen. The search continued into the next bedroom in the rear (exposure #4 side), where the Officer and members of Ladder 125 were operating.

FF Cancro continued the search of the bedroom while Ladder 125 moved a 10-45 unconscious victim toward the window. His search brought him back out into the kitchen. Fire was rapidly extending into this and other areas of the second floor. After making a quick sweep, conditions forced the Firefighter back into the original exposure #2 side--the rear bedroom.

At this time, fire conditions were so severe that Deputy Chief Paul Ferro of Division 13 began to order all members out of the building. When made aware that rescue operations were underway, Chief Ferro ordered interior operations to continue.

FF Cancro transmitted to Captain Gandiello that FFs and

victims were still in the rear bedrooms. From the window, FF Cancro verbally informed Chief Ferro that victims were still trapped on the second floor. He then requested a hand-line to be brought up the ladder to protect the Firefighters and victims. This would be the only way to gain access for extinguishment of the second floor as the interior stairs were involved in fire and now partially collapsed.

FF Cancro crawled to the door and opened it so Engine 303 could advance on the fire. He then crawled back into the exposure #4 side, rear bedroom. There, he made his way to the window, where he began the arduous task of removing the first unconscious victim, Parbattie Seunarine, age 42. He placed a girth hitch on the victim with his personal rope, lifted her onto the windowsill and passed her out to Lieutenant Joseph Fericola of Ladder 125.

Now concentrating on the second victim, FF Cancro began to drag Dhavindranauth Seunarine (who ultimately perished), age 43, to the window and passed him out to FF John Genna, detailed to Ladder 125. Physically exhausted, FF Cancro dragged the third victim, Devindranauth Seunarine, age 13, approximately five feet back to the window. He maneuvered him out the window to Lieutenant Fericola, who again was on the ladder to assist in removal. After completing the victim removals, FF Cancro continued to operate and search the second floor, working

forward to the front rooms with Engine 303.

Initially, FF Cancro operated on the floor above without the protection of a hose-line and continued to do so as this fire rapidly extended. His decisive and aggressive actions, combined with clear and accurate communications, were instrumental in the protection of the unconscious victims. Without his courage and determination, all of these victims surely would have perished.

FF Edward F. Cancro's actions were in the highest traditions of Rescue Company 4. It is with great honor that the New York City Fire Department awards FF Cancro with the Ner Tamid Society/Franklin Delano Roosevelt Medal.--TW



FF Edward Cancro with youngster he rescued at Queens Box 75-4457.

photo by Vic Nicastro

Third Alarm Association Medal

FIREFIGHTER JOSEPH WAKIE

Ladder Company 132

March 13, 2005, 0317 hours, Box 75-970, 579 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on November 14, 1999. Previously assigned to Engine 280. Father is retired Battalion Chief John M. Wakie. Member of the FDNY Football Team. Resides in Whitestone, Queens, with his wife, Lori, and their daughter, Ashley.



In the early hours of March 13, 2005, dispatchers at the Brooklyn Communications Office received a call for a fire at 579 Classon Avenue. Box 970 was transmitted. Within moments, the first-arriving units were on the scene and the 10-75 signal was transmitted. As Engine 235 was stretching their line, Ladder 132 and Engine 280 pulled up and immediately went to work.

The fire building was a four-story, non-fireproof multiple dwelling, typical of the many attached homes in the neighborhood. There was a heavy smoke condition coming from the front of the building, which indicated a fire in the lower floors. As the Officer and the forcible entry team approached the building, a civilian, Broderick Waldon, hysterically told the Firefighters his mother was still inside the building.

The Ladder 132 inside team immediately donned their facepieces and entered the building. Captain Robert Dimperio and FF Zachary Fletcher with the can proceeded down the hallway adjacent to the stairs. The Firefighter attempted to hold back the flames from extending up the interior to the upper floors by use of the extinguisher. FF Joseph Wakie, assigned to forcible entry, notified his Officer, broke off from the team and entered a doorway on the left side of the hallway to attempt a search for the missing woman.

Crawling on his hands and knees, FF Wakie entered a room, which was heavily charged with dense, acrid smoke and a moderate heat condition. After a quick search, he realized the fire was back further in the apartment. FF Wakie continued toward the rear. Crawling quickly toward the heat, he found a doorway, which led to a middle room, but the heat was so severe, FF Wakie now had to crawl on his stomach.

Realizing there was no line in position and only the extin-

guisher to hold back the fire, FF Wakie pushed himself a few feet into this highly heated room. From his position on the floor, he could see the flames burning freely in the rear room. Additionally, the flames now were entering the room he was in.

With very little visibility and an extremely high heat condition, FF Wakie used his hands and arms to locate a bed. Pulling himself up to search the middle of the bed, the heat

became severe, but he continued to feel around the mattress. His efforts were rewarded by finding the victim, Viola Waldon, who was face-down on the bed.

Due to the high heat condition, FF Wakie could not lift himself up, so he pulled the victim off the mattress and to the floor. He then gave the 10-45 code 2 signals to the Battalion and began to drag Mrs. Waldon toward the doorway through which he entered.

Once he got the victim through the doorway, he picked up her limp body and carried her to the interior hallway where FF Fletcher had come to assist him. Together, they removed Mrs. Waldon to the safety of the street where members of Squad 1 provided first aid until the arrival of EMS.

Mrs. Waldon was transported by EMS personnel to Kings County

Hospital with numerous burns to her back, arms and legs. She suffered severe smoke inhalation and was in a life-threatening condition.

Had it not been for the courage and tenacity of FF Wakie, this 83-year-old woman would have been another fire fatality. Pushing himself that extra yard under severe conditions, FF Joseph Wakie was quick to mention that the aggressive actions of Engines 280 and 235 facilitated the rescue. It is acts such as this that make FDNY Medal Day a fitting place to recognize the Bravest. He is presented with the Third Alarm Association Medal.--JTV



Ladder 132 in operation at 2004 blaze.

photo courtesy of FF Joseph Wakie



DEPARTMENT MEDAL

MEDALS OF VALOR



SUPREME SACRIFICE MEDAL



CLASSIFICATION OF ACTS OF VALOR CHEST INSIGNIA

CLASS "I" - VALOR INVOLVING "EXTREME PERSONAL RISK"

CLASS "II" - VALOR INVOLVING "GREAT PERSONAL RISK"

CLASS "III" - VALOR INVOLVING "UNUSUAL PERSONAL RISK"

SERVICE RATINGS CHEST INSIGNIA

5-11 SURVIVOR (28 STARS) SERVICE RATING "A" BRAVERY OR INITIATIVE AND CAPABILITY

5-11 RESCUER (15 STARS) SERVICE RATING "B" BRAVERY OR INITIATIVE AND CAPABILITY

5-11 COUNSELOR (8 STARS)

Fire Department City of New York



DR. HARRY M. ARCHER 1917



JAMES GORDON BENNETT 1839



EPIPHONIN CITIZENS 1838



CHIEF HUGH EGAN 1857



EMILY FREVOR MARY S. WARREN 1890



JOHN T. AINEY 1891



THOMAS E. CRAMWIN 1913



THOMAS A. KENNY 1919



WALTER SCOTT 1921



JOHN H. PRENTICE 1923



HENRY D. BROOKMAN 1921



MICHAEL J. DELAHARTY 1927



WILLIAM F. CONRAN 1927



MAJOR FIORELLO H. LA GUARDIA 1937



CHIEF JOHN J. MELLOROTT 1937



THOMAS F. DOCHERTY 1938



ALBERT S. JOHNSTON 1938



NARES TORND SOCIETY FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT 1946



BELLA STEEL 1947



THIRD ALARM ASSOCIATION 1950



VINCENT J. HANE 1943



BRUMER MEDAL 1952



FILARDI ASSOCIATION 1943



FRANK N. KISSEL 1942



COMMISSIONER EDWARD THOMPSON 1944



EMERALD SOCIETY 1985



CHIEF WESLEY WILLIAMS
VULCAN SOCIETY
1982

COLUMBIA
ASSOCIATION
1984

SUSAN
WAGNER
1984

HOLY NAME SOCIETY
BROOKLYN/QUEENS
1984

STUBBEN
ASSOCIATION
1984

HERSPANIC SOCIETY
MEMORIAL
1985

DR. J. W.
GOLDSMIDANZ
1991

CAPTAIN DENIS W.
LAKE MEMORIAL
1978

UNIFORMED FIRE
OFFICERS ASSOC.
1977

DR. ALBERT A.
CINELLI
1973

EDITH B.
GOLDMAN
1978

FIRE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION
1979

AMERICAN LEGION POST 349
MARK A. WOLFE MEM.
1979



SIGNAL 77
CLUB
1988

FIRE MARSHALLS
BENEVOLENT ASSOC.
1982

CHIEF ARTHUR J.
LAUFER MEMORIAL
1985

COMMUNITY MAYORS INC
EMERALD SOCIETY
PIPES AND DRUMS
1981

BN CHIEF FRANK T.
TUTTILMORDO
1982

COMPANY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION
1982

DR. JOHN E.
CONNELL
1982

CHIEF JOSEPH B.
MARTIN
1984

N.Y. STATE HONORARY
FIRE CHIEFS ASSOC.
1984

FEEL Y. HONOR
LEGION
1984

FIRE BELL
CLUB
1984

POLICE HONOR
LEGION
1984



FF DAVID J.
DE FRANCO
1986

LT. JAMES E. ZAHN
PETER L. TRONARD
1986

NY FIREFIGHTERS
BURN CENTER
1987

FF THOMAS R.
ELISSER MEMORIAL
1991

FATHER JULIAN
OEGEMEN MEMORIAL
1993

DEP. COMMISSIONER
CHRISTINE E. COCKE
1995

FF KEVIN C.
KANE
1995




PROBET. THOMAS A.
WYLE MEMORIAL
1995

CAPTAIN JOHN J.
DRENNAN MEMORIAL
1995

FF WILLIAM
FREDERICK MEM.
1995

FF LOUIS VALENTINO NY2 FIRE CHIEFS ASSOC
AWARD
SHELLY ROTHMAN MEM.
2004

UNIT CITATIONS

								
3-11 CAMPAIGN SERVICE	ENGINE COMPANY	LADDER COMPANY	RESCUE COMPANY	HAZ MAT COMPANY	FIRE MARSHALLS	MARINE COMPANY	SQUAD COMPANY	3-11 CAMPAIGN SERVICE (R)



Vincent J. Kane Medal

LIEUTENANT GREGORY J. PRIAL

Ladder Company 43

February 7, 2005, 0041 hours, Box 1348, 123 East 112th Street, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on September 5, 1981. Previously assigned to Ladder 7. Father, Phil Prial, is retired from Rescue 1; and cousin, FF Steve Brooks, is assigned to Ladder 112. Member of the Emerald and Holy Name Societies. Served with the United States Marine Corps from 1977 to 1981. Recipient of three Service Rating As and one Service Rating B. Resides in Warwick, New York, with his wife, Anne, and their daughters, Rebecca, Brigid and Jennifer, and sons, Terence and Danny.

Things were just beginning to settle down in the busy quarters of Ladder 43 and Engine 53 on Third Avenue in East Harlem. It was 41 minutes past midnight on February 7, 2005. At that moment, the stillness was shattered by the tone of the voice alarm. Ladder 43, under the command of Lieutenant Gregory Prial, was ordered to respond second due to a phone alarm at 123 East 112th Street.

As the Firefighters in their 100-foot rear-mount aerial cleared quarters, all felt they might have a job—a phone alarm at 0045 hours. That feeling was confirmed. As they rolled to a stop, the Officer of the first-due truck, Ladder 26, transmitted a 10-75.

The fire building was a 14-story, 100- by 100-foot class 1 multiple dwelling with fire on the fourth floor. At this time of the night with 84 apartments in the building, the life hazard was considerable.

Lieutenant Prial and his forcible entry team proceeded to the fifth floor and commenced searches of the stairwell, public hall and apartment 5E. Searches were negative, with only a light smoke condition. Finding no fire on the fifth floor, the forcible entry team dropped down to the fire floor and commenced a search of the public hall.

At this moment, Ladder 26 transmitted a 10-45 (victim found). Due to the size of the victim, Ladder 26's entire forcible entry team was required for her removal. This left the Ladder 43 forcible entry team to take over the remaining search of the fire apartment.

At this time, before a charged line was in position,

Lieutenant Prial entered the fire apartment as the woman was being removed. Reports on his handie-talkie indicated a woman at the window in the fire apartment, ready to jump.

Lieutenant Prial crawled under and past the heavy fire in the living room, down the hallway into a bedroom. He came upon Mallary Claudia, trying to climb out the window in a highly agitated state. He closed the bedroom door to buy some time, calmed Ms. Claudia and allowed her a few breaths from his SCBA.

A portable ladder was raised and the victim was taken care of by the Ladder 26 outside vent Firefighter. With this situation handled, Lieutenant Prial now re-entered the heavily charged hallway and continued his search. A charged line was not yet in place.

He then found 11-year-old Jeremy Paniogua in the bathroom, burned and unconscious. After transmitting a 10-45, the Lieutenant removed the youngster back through the fire area, protecting him with his own body before water was on the fire. The child—with severe burns and CO poisoning—was removed to Cornell Burn Center.

Lieutenant Prial entered the apartment without the protection of a charged line, crawled past the fire on two occasions and saved two

victims who were in grave danger of losing their lives. His actions were in the highest traditions of the New York City Fire Department. For these reasons, Lieutenant Gregory Prial is presented with the Vincent J. Kane Medal.--GAA



Lieutenant Gregory J. Prial operated at this three-alarm fire in the Bath Beach section of Brooklyn in 2004.

photo by John Fischetti, New York Daily News

Brummer Medal

LIEUTENANT MATTHEW J. KOMOROWSKI

Ladder Company 119

April 25, 2005, 0552 hours, Box 3969, 104 Ross Street, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on January 21, 1990. Previously assigned to Engine 9 and Ladder 6. Attended the New York Institute of Technology. Recipient of the Thomas R. Elsasser Medal, World Trade Center Survivor Medal, three unit citations and one Service Rating A. Additionally, he received the Bravest Award from Firefighters Quarterly Magazine. Resides in Massapequa Park, Long Island, with his wife, Jennifer, and their daughters, Hannah, 6, and Julia, 3.



On Monday, April 25, 2005, at 0552 hours, Ladder 119, under the command of Lieutenant Matthew J. Komorowski, and Engine 211 responded first-due to a phone alarm at 104 Ross Street in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn. As companies were leaving their Hooper Street quarters, they received a second source. Arriving at the building, Engine 211 gave the 10-75 for a fire in apartment 2N on the second floor of a six-story, class 1 building.

Arriving at the address, Ladder 119's rig stopped when a chain attached to two poles prevented the rig from proceeding. Lieutenant Komorowski and his inside team of FFs Tomislav Dadic with the can and Darrell Dennison with the irons got off their rig and quickly made their way to the fire building. When the three members reached the second floor, they were met with a heavy smoke condition and zero visibility.

Lieutenant Komorowski ordered his inside team to mask up and proceed down the long hallway. The Lieutenant used the thermal imaging camera to help guide his men to the fire apartment. They proceeded about 100 feet down the hall.

When Lieutenant Komorowski and the inside team reached the fire apartment, they opened the unlocked door and were met with fire to their right and fire rolling over their heads. The kitchen was fully involved and the fire was extending to a closet on the left, the hallway behind the kitchen and the living room/dining room, which was behind the kitchen to the left. Smoke also was pushing from all the windows in the rear of the apartment.

The three rescuers made an initial push into the fire apartment beneath and to the left of the fire area. Lieutenant Komorowski monitored the egress conditions and discovered that the fire had communicated behind the entrance to the apartment, thus potentially blocking the team's exit. As a result, he immediately ordered FF Dadic to use the can on the fire to protect the apartment's only means of egress so Lieutenant Komorowski and FF Dennison could continue a

deeper search into the fire apartment.

With Engine 211 still in the process of stretching the initial 2 1/2-inch line off the standpipe, water was not yet being put on the fire. Lieutenant Komorowski ordered FF Dennison to search to the right, while he proceeded to the left. FF Dadic protected the exit with the can. While conducting his primary search, FF Dennison found a child 15 feet into the apartment in the bedroom hallway behind the kitchen. Lieutenant

Komorowski immediately transmitted the 10-45 to Battalion 35 and let Battalion Chief John Molloy know it was for a child.

FF Dadic continued to hold back the fire so that FF Dennison could exit the apartment with the young victim. Lieutenant Komorowski continued his primary search while monitoring conditions with the thermal imaging camera. He then found a second victim in the living room/dining room, approximately 20 feet into the apartment. The Lieutenant immediately transmitted another 10-45 and alerted Chief Molloy that Ladder 119 had a total of two victims.

Lieutenant Komorowski ordered FF Dadic to assist him in carrying 13-year-old Yidel Matyas to an unexposed area outside the apartment. He then ordered FF Dadic and another member to take the victim outside so he could receive medical attention. After the two victims were removed from the fire apartment, Lieutenant Komorowski and FF Dennison returned to the fire apartment to continue their search.

At this time, Engine 211 had completed its stretch and was attacking the fire. As Ladder 119's inside team was making two

rescues inside the apartment, the outside team was effecting the rescue of three other victims. The two victims rescued by the inside team were transported to the hospital, but they did not survive.

For his actions in personally rescuing one child and supervising the rescue of another, Lieutenant Matthew J. Komorowski of Ladder 119 officially is recognized by the FDNY today with the Brummer Medal.--NG



Lieutenant Matthew Komorowski greets children in front of the *Spirit of Oklahoma* rescue truck, donated by the children of Oklahoma in 2002.

photo courtesy of Lieutenant Matthew Komorowski



Frank W. Kridel Medal

LIEUTENANT GEORGE W. SYMON

Battalion 37 (assigned), Ladder Company 157 (detailed)

August 13, 2005, 0740 hours, Box 22-3917, 600 East 23rd Street, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on July 9, 1995. Previously assigned to Ladder 3. Grandfather, Lieutenant George W. Symon, is retired from Ladder 114; father, Lieutenant George W. Symon, is retired from Ladder 108; and uncle, Battalion Chief Gordon Symon, is retired from Battalion 43. Holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from SUNY at Stony Brook. Resides in Staten Island.

Due to their large size, elaborate construction features and unique internal features, the Queen Anne-type of structure presents a far more complex fire problem than the average private dwelling. Fires in Queen Anne dwellings are notorious manpower sponges, immediately absorbing every available hand due to the genuine possibility of portable ladder rescues and the number of areas that may have to be entered and searched. On August 13, 2005, at 0740 hours, the members of Ladder 157 and, in particular, Lieutenant George W. Symon, were reminded just how complex a fire problem this type dwelling poses to the Fire Department.

Firefighters, under the supervision of Lieutenant Symon, were dispatched for a phone alarm reporting a fire at 600 East 23rd Street, Brooklyn, for a fire in a three-story, wood-constructed Queen Anne-type private dwelling. On arrival, Lieutenant Symon noticed heavy smoke and fire pushing from several win-



Ladder 157 apparatus.

photo by Joseph Pinto

dows of the first, second and third floors, as well as the front door of the house. Additionally, members were confronted by frantic civilians informing them that there was a person who was unable to get out of his first-floor bedroom.

Denied entry into the fire building through the front door, Lieutenant Symon decided that the only chance for a rescue would be to go through the rear entrance, opposite the advancing hose-line. Entering the rear of the home, Ladder 157's inside team was met with high heat and zero visibility as they began their search for the trapped occupant.

After completing a rapid search of the first room in the rear of the house, Lieutenant Symon observed fire starting to

roll over at the ceiling level, further reinforcing the fact that time was running out. While concluding the search and telling his members that they were leaving the area, Lieutenant Symon found a bedroom without a door and instructed his members to leave as he alone made this last search for the victim.

Immediately upon entering this bedroom in rapidly deteriorating conditions, Lieutenant Symon found Charles Willhemsky, a 64-year-old man, unconscious on a hospital bed. With the opportunity for removal through the interior now eliminated due to the advancement of Engine 255's hose-line through the front door, the Lieutenant decided that the only viable option would

be to remove Mr. Willhemsky out the bedroom window.

Hearing the radio report of a found victim, FF Christian Neilsen Ladder 157, assigned the irons, found Lieutenant Symon removing the victim from the bed and assisted dragging the victim to the window. Roof FF Craig Gundersen, Ladder 157,

placed a portable ladder to the window. The unconscious victim then was removed out the window and down the ladder. Mr. Willhemsky was taken to Staten Island University Burn Center in critical condition. He remained hospitalized for an extensive period of time.

Due to the Lieutenant's selfless act of bravery, Charles Willhemsky recovered from his severe life-threatening injuries and is alive today. For his heroic actions, Lieutenant George W. Symon is presented with the Frank W. Kridel Medal.--PWB

Emerald Society Medal

FIREFIGHTER STEPHEN P. DUFFY

Ladder Company 16

**January 31, 2005, 1624 hours, Box 8429,
lower level of the 59th Street Bridge, Manhattan**

Appointed to the FDNY on January 2, 2000. Previously assigned to Ladder 173. Member of the Emerald and Holy Name Societies. Attended West Virginia University. Recipient of two unit citations. Resides in Tarrytown, New York, with his wife, Kate.



New York City Firefighters routinely respond and act bravely in many situations not involving actual fire-fighting. Such was the case when Ladder 16, under the command of Lieutenant William Schneider, cleared their East 67th Street quarters on January 31, 2005, at 1624 hours.

The Manhattan central office had reported a “jumper” on the Queensborough Bridge and first-due 16 Truck had the job of getting her down safely. Although their response was swift, heavy rush-hour traffic and motorists rubber-necking at mid-span seriously delayed their arrival at the incident. The rig was temporarily halted at the Queens-bound lower-level entrance.

FF Steve Duffy took the initiative and, after checking for halted traffic, exited the truck.

He grabbed his hand tools, crossed over the traffic divider and across three westbound traffic lanes to the northern pedestrian bicycle lane. He then looked over the rail and saw an injured woman lying on a flimsy, temporary work platform suspended 20 feet below the bridge roadway toward mid-span. She had jumped from the roadway, intending to hit the water several hundred feet below. However, her fall was broken by this platform.

FF Duffy then received instructions to proceed east, further onto the bridge and attempt to access the platform and the injured victim. Traveling another 100 yards onto the bridge, he came upon a workman’s ladder chained to a bridge girder. He knew the rig was far away and the woman could, at any second, roll off the platform and plunge hundreds of feet to her death in the East River. Without hesitation and showing much initiative and capability, he freed the ladder and lowered it from the roadway to the swaying platform.

After securing the top of the ladder, he bravely descended to the rickety platform, followed by FF Joseph Buchanan, also

of Ladder 16. The two members, with FF Duffy in the lead, then carefully inched their way toward the victim. There were numerous openings and breaches in the platform, causing a vertigo effect. One missed step could plunge FF Duffy from the swaying, unstable platform into the frigid river hundreds of feet below.

As they drew closer to the victim, the two Firefighters were faced with an injured person behaving erratically. FF Duffy realized she was an EDP (emotionally disturbed person), bent on suicide. To further complicate the situation, her lower extremities were precariously dangling off the edge of the platform.



Firefighter Stephen P. Duffy with other members of Ladder 16.

photo courtesy of FF Stephen P. Duffy

Knowing that at any moment she could inflict further harm on herself or, at worst, on all three of them, FF Buchanan attempted to initiate verbal contact as a distraction. FF Duffy then moved to her blind side and grabbed her while she was suspended almost half off the platform, hundreds of feet above the river. He then restrained her and attempted to console her as he awaited the arrival of the rest of his company to stabilize the work area.

When help arrived, FF Duffy, assisted by FF Buchanan, began medical care for her injuries and also administered oxygen. The

woman was showing signs of respiratory arrest and slipping in and out of consciousness as they packaged her and placed her in a stokes basket for lifting to the pedestrian roadway above. At this point, she was turned over to EMS after a job well-done.

For his valiant and successful lifesaving effort, FDNY is proud to award the Emerald Society Medal to FF Stephen P. Duffy.--GAA



Chief Wesley Williams Medal

FIREFIGHTER SHELDON L. GEORGE

Ladder Company 30

September 2, 2005, 0810 hours, Box 75-2445,
13 Clarke Avenue/Corona Avenue, Staten Island

Appointed to the FDNY on September 14, 2003. Member of the Vulcan Society. Cited on two previous occasions. Attended Texas A & M University. Resides in Manhattan.

Being a Firefighter is not what you do; it is what you are. And so, although he had fewer than two years on the job, when FF Sheldon George came upon a situation at the start of the 2005 Labor Day weekend, because of who he is, he reacted immediately.

On the beautiful morning of September 2nd, FF George, an off-duty member of Ladder 30, had been house-sitting on Staten Island and decided it was time to go out for breakfast. He hopped into his car and was traveling on Clarke Avenue toward Amboy Road. Just before reaching the intersection, he noticed a group of people off to his right, staring across the street.

As he came around a bend in the road and drew closer, he saw an out-of-control automobile approaching a gasoline station and heading toward one of two pumps that were in operation. After slamming into the first pump, the car hit the second pump, bounced along while overturning a number of times and finally came to rest upside down.

The outcome of the initial crash was an immediate explosion and fireball, with the resulting flames engulfing the pumps and another vehicle whose owner was filling its tank. FF George observed a person's arm hanging out of the window of the overturned car and realized that the driver was trapped.

Without a moment's hesitation, he stopped his car, exited

and ran to the overturned vehicle. Although there was an extremely heavy fire burning and gasoline continuing to flow, FF George managed to extricate the unconscious driver--Michael Garcia, a 26-year-old male.

As soon as the victim was freed from the car, FF George picked him up and carried him away from the inferno. As he was ready to lower the man, a second fireball erupted, hurling both rescuer and victim into the air and depositing them on the ground, almost 10 feet away. The Firefighter quickly recovered, picked himself up, once again hoisted the victim and carried Mr. Garcia to safety.

The victim started to regain consciousness as FF George administered first aid. Shortly thereafter, EMS personnel arrived and assumed patient care. Mr. Garcia was transported to Staten Island University Hospital for treatment.



Left to right, Ladder 30 Lieutenant James McCluskey and FFs Steve Murrell, Sheldon George, Keith Nicolliello and Matthew Gaughan and FF Patrick Cullingford, Engine 59.

photo courtesy of FF Sheldon George

The end of a tour does not mean that one stops being a Firefighter. Although he was off duty, FF George demonstrated his true grit by displaying extraordinary courage, which resulted in a life-saving rescue. His actions are all the more impressive because he accomplished them without any personal protective equipment or the benefit of a hose-line being in place. He acted decisively and

without hesitation. For these reasons, the Chief Wesley Williams Medal is presented to Firefighter Sheldon L. George.--BDG

Holy Name Society Medal (Brooklyn/Queens)

LIEUTENANT KEVIN A. GRIFFITH

Ladder Company 106

January 31, 2005, 1335 hours, Box 75-90, 122 Norman Avenue, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on June 1, 1983. Previously assigned to Engine 238 and Ladder 80. Member of the Emerald Society. Holds a bachelor's degree from St. John's University. Recipient of two unit citations. Resides in Howard Beach, Queens, and has a son, Ryan.



It was a cold Monday, the last day in January, and the snow from the previous week's blizzard still buried cars, narrowed roads and made driving hazardous. Ladder 106 had just gone 10-8 (in service by radio) from a 10-33 (odor of smoke) and was parked on the firehouse apron, readying themselves for afternoon AFID. Those plans were placed aside when over the radio, they were directed to respond to 122 Norman Avenue for a report of smoke on the top floor.

As soon as they turned west onto Norman Avenue, dark, black smoke was visible, rising above the top floor of a three-story row frame building. The fire already had self-vented and flames were blowing out of one window on the top floor. Lieutenant Kevin Griffith transmitted the 10-75.

The Lieutenant knew that Engine 238 was at education day and street conditions would slow down all responding units. This meant that Ladder 106 would be operating alone for a while. His outside team was ascending the aerial as Lieutenant Griffith and his inside team entered the building on the first floor. He warned them that until the first engine arrived, they would be without the protection of a hose-line and they should operate cautiously.

Occupants of the building were streaming out the door and one informed Lieutenant Griffith that there was an elderly woman trapped on the top floor. Reaching the top floor, the Lieutenant noticed that the door to apartment 3L was open, but that both doors to apartment 3R, the fire apartment, were closed.

After checking the rear door to apartment 3L for heat, he directed FF Steven Rueckheim to force it. Once the door was opened, they encountered heavy smoke banked down to the kitchen floor. Despite the fact that there was no protective line in place to cover their advance or retreat, Lieutenant Griffith led FFs Rueckheim and Jemel Donato into the blackness to search for the reported victim.

While advancing into the kitchen, it was necessary to push furniture out of the way as they searched. FF Donato was directed to wait by the door and FF Rueckheim was told to search the kitchen, while Lieutenant Griffith crawled forward through the kitchen and toward the front of the apartment. He

felt the heat intensify and soon both heard and saw the flames, now just six feet in front of him.

As the Lieutenant advanced toward the front room, he heard a tortured moan. He pushed on, probing around him and found Ms. Jean Gregorek lying face-down along the left wall, a few feet from the flames. Lieutenant Griffith transmitted the 10-45 signal, notifying Battalion Chief John Molloy, Battalion 35, that he had discovered a victim.

Lieutenant Griffith placed himself between the unconscious victim and the advancing flames. The woman was heavy. With great effort, the rescuer rolled the victim onto her back and began to drag her toward the hallway entrance.

Ladder 106 still was operating without the benefit of a hose-line and conditions rapidly were deteriorating. Over his radio, Lieutenant Griffith received a report that there was fire in the cockloft directly overhead. He called for help and continued to struggle, slowly moving the victim toward the safety of the public hall.

At the entrance to the kitchen, Lieutenant Griffith was joined by his inside team. The three of them managed to push and pull the victim through the kitchen, turn her almost 180 degrees and finally slide her into the comparative safety of the hallway. At this point, other hands helped bring the woman into the adjoining apartment where she was placed into a stokes basket and removed from the building to be resuscitated

by EMS personnel.

By the time Lieutenant Griffith had gotten the victim to the hallway, the front room was completely engulfed in flame. Engine 229 now was on the top floor and waiting for water. While they waited, Lieutenant Griffith again entered the apartment to search for any other victims. This search proved negative.

The members of Ladder 106 operated alone for several minutes at this fire, making an aggressive search without the benefit of having a hose-line in position to protect them. Lieutenant Kevin Griffith probed deep into the apartment to search and, without a doubt, Ms. Gregorek would have perished had he not done so. For these reasons, he is presented with the Holy Name Society Medal (Brooklyn/Queens).--FCM



Ladder 106 in operation.

photo courtesy of Lieutenant Kevin A. Griffith



Hispanic Society Memorial Medal

LIEUTENANT MICHAEL J. QUEVEDO

Division 3 (assigned, covering), Engine Company 16 (detailed)

April 13, 2005, 1204 hours, Box 697, track bed under northbound #6 train in East 33rd Street station, Park Avenue/East 33rd Street, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on July 9, 1995. Previously assigned to Engine 48 and Ladder 56. Grandfather, Battalion Chief John Quevedo (now deceased), is retired from the Marine Division; father, Battalion Chief John Quevedo, Jr., is assigned to Battalion 14; and brother, FF James Quevedo, is assigned to Engine 45. Holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from St. Thomas Aquinas College. Recipient of a unit citation and Service Rating B. Resides in Tappan, New York, with his wife, Laura, and their children, Michael, Jr., Millie, Thomas and Billy.

The New York City subway system moves thousands of passengers every single day, usually without incident. When an incident does occur, the FDNY responds to various calls for assistance when those passengers' lives are in jeopardy. Unique hazards exist in this environment and it is up to the members of the Fire Department to work around them in order to carry out their life safety mission. On April 13, 2005, Lieutenant Michael J. Quevedo, working in Engine 16, had to operate under the hazard of the 600-volt third rail power to save an injured person.

At 1204 hours, Engine 16, along with several other units, were assigned to respond to the subway station at Park Avenue and East 33rd Street for a reported man under a #6 train. Lieutenant Quevedo was the Officer on duty in Engine 16 and the unit arrived first on the scene. The Lieutenant oversaw placement of the apparatus, ensured that members brought the necessary equipment and established a hand-talkie relay.

When Lieutenant Quevedo proceeded to the station's platform, he determined that there was an accident on the northbound local track. As he investigated further, he found a male victim, 35-year-old John Bradley, under the third car of the #6 train. The Officer radioed Engine 16's chauffeur--to request via the dispatcher--that third rail power be removed and have the remaining members bring the CFR-D equipment to his location.

Further size-up by Lieutenant Quevedo revealed that the victim was suffering from multiple trauma, including an amputated lower left leg and a severe head wound. Miraculously, however, he was still conscious. Transit Authority personnel on the scene advised Lieutenant Quevedo that the deadly third rail power was still on.

By this time, Ladder 8 arrived, under the command of Lieutenant James Donohue. He was briefed by Lieutenant Quevedo. The Officers decided that due to the victim's severe, life-threatening injuries, urgent medical attention was needed and they would be forced to enter the track bed prior to power removal confirmation. FDNY policy regarding members entering a track bed prior to power removal clearly

states that this is to be done *only* in an extremely life-threatening situation.

Lieutenant Quevedo climbed down onto the track bed, crawled under the third subway car and made patient contact with the severely injured victim. This position is very dangerous because the individual car has four third rail contact shoes (two on each side). All four shoes are energized. The slightest contact with a shoe or its hardware means sudden death.

Lieutenant Quevedo needed assistance to place the victim on a backboard, so Lieutenant Donohue and FF Michael Merced, Engine 16, came down to the track bed. The three rescuers worked together to stabilize and secure the victim onto the backboard. Then, they maneuvered the patient to the



(Left) FF Michael Merced (left) assisted Lieutenant Michael J. Quevedo (right) underneath the train. (Above) The firefighting Quevedo clan--Battalion Chief John Quevedo (deceased), Lieutenant Michael Quevedo, FF James Quevedo and Battalion Chief John Quevedo, Jr. *photos courtesy of Lieutenant Michael J. Quevedo*

area between the third and fourth cars where the members of Ladder 8 were positioned on the platform. The victim was raised up from the track bed and placed onto the platform. On-scene EMS personnel then treated and transported the victim to Bellevue Medical Center.

Battalion Chief Stephen Redican, Battalion 6, wrote in his report that Lieutenant Quevedo displayed initiative and quick thinking at this incident. By entering the track area under the train prior to power removal, he placed himself in serious danger. For his act of bravery, Lieutenant Michael J. Quevedo is awarded the Hispanic Society Memorial Medal.--AP

Captain Denis W. Lane Memorial Medal

FIREFIGHTER SEAN G. CUMMINS

Rescue Company 1

September 8, 2005, 0252 hours, Box 44-1312, 964 Amsterdam Avenue, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on September 4, 1996. Previously assigned to Engine 5, Ladder 168, Engine 217 and Squad Company 1. Cited on two previous occasions. Is an EMT, Municipal Rescue Diver, Haz-Mat Specialist and an IAFF Hazardous Materials Instructor. Resides in Belle Harbor, Queens, with his wife, Maureen, and their children, son, Sean, 11, and nine-year-old twin daughters, Hanna and Tara.



F Sean Cummins not only serves his community as a New York City Firefighter, he serves his country as well. Since 1990, FF Cummins has been a member in one of three branches of our nation's armed forces. He has served as a U.S. Navy Seabee, a U.S. Army Paratrooper, a U.S. Navy Seabee Combat Instructor, in the U.S. Air National Guard Crash Fire Rescue and as a U.S. Air Force Loadmaster. He is unable to participate in today's Medal Day ceremony because, as a U.S. Army Airborne Civil Affairs Sergeant, he arrived in Iraq during April 2006 to continue his service to the United States.

It was said many years ago that the fire service is similar to the military; *fighting a war that never ends*. FF Cummins fought a battle in that war during the early morning of September 8, 2005.

Just before three in the morning, Rescue Company 1 turned out of quarters and raced uptown to a reported structural fire. The members knew that they were headed to a serious fire; the radio dispatcher reported numerous phone calls were being received. Additionally, the dispatcher alerted the responding units that people were reported trapped within a six-story apartment house. As the company arrived on-scene, there were many residents on the fire escapes, attempting to flee a very heavy smoke condition that was pushing from the upper floors of the building.

Rescue 1 Firefighters were operating on the lower floors and having a difficult time because the staircase landing had collapsed, making it impossible to advance upward. During this time, Battalion Chief William Bonasera, Battalion 11, directed the Rescue 1 Officer, Lieutenant Anthony Tarabocchia, to effect the rescue of a confirmed person trapped on the fifth floor. FFs Cummins and Christopher Mandeville were told to proceed via the

front fire escape. As they ascended, FF Mandeville stopped on the fourth floor to aid several victims and FF Cummins kept on climbing until he reached the fifth floor.

When he made his way through the heavy smoke to the fifth floor, FF Cummins entered an apartment window and commenced his search. As he crawled forward into the living room, he reached a bedroom. In front of the door, he found an 85-year-old female, Maria Estrada. Although the victim was conscious, she was unable to move on her own. Consequently, it was necessary for FF Cummins to pick Ms. Estrada up and carry her to the relative safety of the fire escape where other Firefighters brought her down to the street. As soon as this was accomplished, FF Cummins entered the public hallway.

Despite the extremely high heat, fire and smoke, FF Cummins searched two additional apartments, completed his tasks and once again climbed the fire escape in order to perform a search of the top floor. While there, he assisted other units in removing victims. At the conclusion of his actions, FF Cummins was given medical assistance by EMS personnel.

What FF Sean Cummins accomplished that day is best summed up by Chief Bonasera's comments in his report. The Chief noted, "...FF Cummins, knowing that this fire was extending and...heat conditions worsening, continued his search under great danger..." Clearly, had FF Cummins not been successful in removing Ms. Estrada, she would have lost her life.

This one battle had a successful outcome because FF Cummins, acting alone and without the protection of a hose-line, risked his life to save another person. His courage was exemplary and upheld the highest traditions of the Fire Department. Today, the Captain Denis W. Lane Memorial Medal is proudly presented to FF Sean G. Cummins.--BDG



(Left to right) Members of Rescue 1--FF Kevin Kroth, Lieutenant Tony Tarabocchia and FFs Sean Cummins, Glenn Bullock, Al Benjamin and Mike Anson.

photo courtesy of FF Mike Schunk, Rescue 1



Uniformed Fire Officers Association Medal

CAPTAIN JOHN C. RICE

Division 14 (assigned), Ladder Company 163 (detailed)

January 15, 2005, 1945 hours, Box 7322, 41-41 51st Street, Woodside, Queens

Appointed to the FDNY on March 15, 1986. Previously assigned to Tower Ladders 115 and 17 and Engine 91. Brother, Gerald T. Rice, is assigned to Ladder 128. Member of the Steuben Association and the Emerald and Holy Name Societies. Attended John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Recipient of a Service Rating A. Resides in Long Beach, Long Island.

A frequently heard phrase in discussions among New York City firefighters is that which describes “bread and butter operations.” Ladder companies position themselves for roof access and conduct routine entry and search operations. Engine companies stretch hose-lines and accomplish rapid extinguishment. Operations proceed smoothly and efficiently

However, the fact of the matter is that such responses--though easily visualized--are few and far between. Such was the case in the evening of January 15, 2005, in the Woodside section of northern Queens. Ladder 163, led by Captain John Rice, proved themselves up to the task of a challenging response that demanded initiative, rapid action and courage.

The teleprinter in quarters activated at 1945 hours. Response information on the ticket indicated that Engine 325 and Ladder 163 were first-due at a reported fire in a third-floor apartment at the address of 41-41 51st Street. Both companies arrived rapidly.

Captain Rice, a 20-year veteran of the FDNY and a seasoned ladder company Officer who was detailed to Ladder 163, immediately recognized the structure as possessing unusual characteristics. Specifically, this was a large-area, H-type edifice with wings that stacked front to rear, rather than the more typical side-to-side configuration. The implications of this condition--including difficulty in accessing the fire apartment and arduous, time-consuming hose stretches--were clear to Captain Rice.

Captain Rice and Ladder 163 FFs Nick Gonzalez (forcible entry) and Stephen Carron (extinguisher) entered the building and proceeded to the third floor. The apartment of concern, rapidly identified as apartment 3M, was located in the rear-most wing of the building. Conditions in the third-floor hallway included a moderate smoke condition despite the closed apartment door.

Captain Rice determined that an advanced fire existed within the apartment, transmitted a 10-75 and notified Battalion Chief Brian White, Battalion 45, of existing conditions. He then ensured that Captain James McDermott

(detailed to Engine 325) and other units on the scene were aware of the apartment location.

Fully cognizant of the 12-length hose-line “stretch” required to reach the fire apartment and aware of the risk associated with entry without hose-line protection, Captain Rice nonetheless determined that delay was unthinkable. His decision was based on the potential for victims within the apartment and pressurized smoke emanating from the apartment door. Instinct told him that survival time within the apartment was severely limited.



Captain John Rice and members of Ladder 116.

photo courtesy of Captain John Rice

The Captain led FFs Gonzalez and Carron into the apartment and immediately encountered high heat and zero visibility conditions. Time constraints associated with rapidly deteriorating conditions, including a detectable increase in ambient temperatures, were amplified by the presence of an unusual amount of clutter and debris throughout the apartment.

Search of the living room proved negative. Progressing deeper into the apartment,

Captain Rice was forced by the heat to a prostrate position. Despite the adverse environment and with great personal fortitude, Captain Rice proceeded down the apartment hallway and encountered a doorway that he suspected opened into a bedroom. Extending an arm and sweeping, he felt the legs of a victim who had been overcome by the smoke in the room of fire origin--the occupant of the apartment, Mrs. Phyllis Cutillo. He proceeded to pull Mrs. Cutillo from the bedroom and transmitted the 10-45 signal.

Simultaneously, Captain McDermott entered the fire apartment and, in response to the 10-45 signal, assisted Captain Rice in removing the victim to the third-floor hallway. Recognizing the advancing fire as a growing threat, FF Carron employed the extinguisher to protect the retreating Officers and prevent extension into the apartment hallway. Captains Rice and McDermott passed the victim off to a CFR-D engine company in the third-floor hallway.

Captain John Rice operated with calculated disregard for his personal safety to save the life of another. His courage and efforts are duly recognized with the Uniformed Fire Officers Association Medal.--JF

Dr. Albert A. Cinelli Medal

CAPTAIN ROBERT PAV

Ladder Company 110

May 12, 2005, 0650 hours, Box 75-0550, 417 Baltic Street, Brooklyn



Appointed to the FDNY on December 9, 1985. Previously assigned to Engines 305 and 214 and Ladder 111. Father, Captain Joseph Pav, is retired from Engine 304. Member of the Emerald and Holy Name Societies and the Company Officers Association. Cited for bravery on four previous occasions. Resides in Oceanside, Long Island, with his wife, Cheryl, and their children, Robby, Christopher and Ryan.

Residents of the borough of Brooklyn have come to know that when they sound an alarm for a fire or other emergency, the Fire Department of New York will respond in the shortest amount of time possible. Moreover, people have come to expect that the FDNY will handle the situation properly and professionally--with the protection of life as the top priority.

Such was the case with Ladder Company 110, when members were called to respond to an alarm for a fire at 417 Baltic Street. The combination of a great turnout, quick response and personal bravery exhibited by Captain Robert Pav proved responsible for saving a 73-year-old woman's life.

On the morning of May 12, 2005, the members of Ladder 110 responded to fire alarm Box number 550 from their quarters on Tillary Street. While en route to the Baltic Street address, the Department radio was coming alive with reports of people trapped.

Arriving at this 14-story, high-rise multiple dwelling, FFs Kevin Harvey with the extinguisher and Terence Brody with forcible entry tools, under the supervision of Captain Pav, made their way up to the 12th floor, the reported fire floor. Reaching the 12th floor, Ladder 110's inside team was met with a severe smoke condition, as well as a radio communication from Battalion Chief Jack Oehm, Battalion 32,



Ladder 110 apparatus.

that a woman appeared at a smoke-filled window, threatening to jump.

As Ladder 110 was forcing entry into the fire apartment

(apartment 12D) and Engine 226 was preparing an attack on the fire with a 2¹/₂-inch standpipe line, the members of Squad Company 1 were initiating a lifesaving rope rescue from the apartment directly over the fire apartment.

With little time to spare and a hose-line being stretched from the stairway, Captain Pav entered the fire apartment. Despite high heat and zero visibility, he was determined to save a life. Immediately on entering the apartment, the Captain was met with a free-burning living-room fire that was rolling over into the apartment hallway.

It was evident that the only way to get to the rear bedroom where the trapped occupant was located would be to crawl under and past the fire. After passing fire now being held back by FF Harvey with a fire extinguisher, Captain Pav was able to reach a rear bedroom and find Dorothy Bradford crouched behind the bed next to an open window. She was gasping for air. Removing his facepiece and putting it on the 73-year-old

victim, Captain Pav dragged her past the living-room fire and into an adjacent apartment for safe refuge.

Captain Robert Pav of Ladder Company 110 conducted his search and rescue without the benefit of a charged hose-line. He passed a heavy body of fire to effect his lifesaving rescue. The trapped occupant, 73-year-old Dorothy Bradford, is alive and well, thanks to the deliberate and

calculated actions of Captain Pav. For these reasons, he is presented with the Dr. Albert A. Cinelli Medal.--PWB

photo by Joseph Pinto



Fire Chiefs Association Memorial Medal

FIREFIGHTER LOUIS MANCUSO

Ladder Company 44

March 5, 2005, 0459 hours, Box 33-2922, 1711 Morris Avenue, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on May 17, 1998. Now a Lieutenant and assigned to Battalion 11. Previously assigned to Engines 39 and 10. Father, FF Nicholas Mancuso, is retired from Ladder 44 and served as president of the Uniformed Firefighters Association. Member of the Holy Name Society and Columbia Association. Recipient of a Service Rating A. Resides in the Throggs Neck section of the Bronx.

Early-morning fires in multiple dwellings generally are an indication that people are trapped and in need of assistance. Such was the case on March 5, 2005, at 1711 Morris Avenue, Bronx. The building was a six-story, 190- by 105-foot, non-fireproof, multiple dwelling.

At 0459 hours on that day, numerous phone alarms were received at the Bronx Fire Communications Office for a smoke condition on the fifth floor. This information was transmitted to the local firehouses, including Ladder 44 and Engine 42, the first-due units. A combination of a fast turnout, quick response and heroic action would be necessary to lessen the severity of injuries to any trapped occupants. Ladder 44 members, through training and experience, were up to the task.

Rolling up to the fire scene, Ladder 44, commanded by Lieutenant John Dooley, noticed smoke pushing out of windows on an upper floor. There was also a smoke condition in the street. Occupants were descending the fire escape.

As Lieutenant Dooley and FF Louis Mancuso, the search and rescue team, entered the lobby, they observed many occupants who had fled their apartments due to a hazardous condition on the upper floors. Experienced Firefighters realize that extreme heat conditions and blinding smoke are generated from fires in these kinds of structures. The members of Ladder 44 knew this would be a punishing operation.

Without delay, Lieutenant Dooley and FF Mancuso ascended the stairwell to search for the origin of the fire. At the third floor, they were forced to don their facepieces and self-contained breathing apparatus because of the heavy smoke condition. While moving along this third-floor hallway, they located the fire in 3J, a rear apartment in the A wing.

It was difficult to open the door due to obstacles--including a bicycle--behind the apartment door. As FF Mancuso entered the apartment to conduct a search for occupants, he noticed debris piled everywhere, in premises that only could be described as Collyer-esque. The team solved this problem--even with the blinding smoke--by removing some of the largest debris to the hallway and adjacent apartment. At this time, a charged hose-line was not in place. Engine 42 was in the

process of stretching a hose-line up the interior stairs.

The fire was in a rear bedroom and now lapping out into the apartment hallway. Ladder 44's outside vent Firefighter reported that fire was issuing out several windows of the fire apartment and threatening the fourth floor. Conditions were deteriorating. Additional alarms were transmitted.

While the team was crawling down the apartment hallway, they came across an elderly female victim. At this time, the fire began rolling across the ceiling above Lieutenant Dooley, FF Mancuso and the victim. They were faced with a very hot atmosphere, heavy smoke condition and non-existent visibility.

FF Mancuso used his fire extinguisher in an attempt to hold the fire in check, while Lieutenant Dooley tried to free up the victim's legs from the debris. After emptying his water extinguisher, FF Mancuso teamed up with the Lieutenant to remove the victim from certain death. They were experiencing some difficulty in dragging her to safety.

The fire was in possession of the bedroom, kitchen, bathroom and hallway at this time. Fearing a total flashover, Engine 42 was instructed to direct their hand-line over the rescuers to cool down the area. Once accomplished, FF Mancuso grabbed 71-year-old Christine Brockington under her arms and dragged her over the piles of litter in the apartment to the public hallway and awaiting EMS personnel. Ms. Brockington was admitted to Harlem Hospital with severe burns to her legs and arms, as well as respiratory burns.

Although conditions continued to deteriorate, the primary search by Ladder 44 was not complete. The Officer and Firefighter returned to apartment 3J, where they made a thorough search, while working alongside the advancing hose-line.

FF Louis Mancuso's courage and selfless actions in a dangerous situation without the protection of a charged hose-line helped save this woman. For his initiative, bravery and heroic actions without regard for his own safety, the Fire Department is proud to honor him with the Fire Chiefs Association Memorial Medal.--EB



Ladder 44 operates at an all hands fire at 1749 Grand Concourse on April 5, 2006.

photo by Matthew P. Daly

Fire Marshals Benevolent Association Medal

FIREFIGHTER KEVIN O. KING

Ladder Company 37

September 4, 2005, 0811 hours, Box 3531, 323 East Mosholu Parkway North, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on July 5, 1992. Father, Lieutenant Thomas King, is retired from Engine 38; uncles, FFs John King (Engine 75), Frank King (Engine 63) and Jack O'Meara (Ladder 41), Lieutenant William O'Meara (Rescue 3) and Captain Martin King (Engine 71) are retired; and cousins, Lieutenant Robert King is assigned to Ladder 26, Captain Chris King is assigned to Rescue 3 and FF Tom O'Meara is assigned to Ladder 49. Member of the Holy Name and Emerald Societies. Attended Westchester Community College. Resides in the Bronx with his wife, Alexandra, and their son, Kevin, and daughters, Ashley and Amber.



It is without dispute that Firefighters rush into harm's way to protect people they have never met. There are also times the individuals they attempt to rescue from the flames may not be innocent victims. On Sunday, September 4, 2005, while most were enjoying the Labor Day holiday and the final weekend of summer, FF Kevin O. King and the members of Ladder 37 saved a suspected criminal from fatal injury.

At 0811 hours, Ladder 37 received a call for a fire at 323 East Mosholu Parkway, apartment 5E, a five-story, 100- by 175-foot, class 3, non-fireproof multiple dwelling. Arriving at Box 3531, FF Sullivan, the outside vent Firefighter, reported heavy smoke was pushing from the top-floor windows on the exposure #3 side of the building.

The inside team--comprised of Lieutenant Anthony Tomesheski and FFs Josh Potter with the can and King with the irons--entered the building and went up the stairs. Reaching the top floor, the team encountered not only a medium smoke condition, but two police officers assigned to the Police Department's Emergency Services Unit. The officers, who were unable to gain entry into the apartment due to the growing smoke condition, stated they were on-scene to apprehend an armed murder suspect who was still in the fire apartment. Lieutenant Tomesheski immediately relayed this information to Battalion Chief John Joyce, Battalion 27, and added that the team was going to commence their search, knowing anyone still in the apartment was in grave danger.

At the apartment door, FF King checked and found it closed, but not secured. He opened the door and the smoke condition immediately increased. Without hesitation or the protection of a charged hose-line, the team crawled into the apartment to

search for potential victims. Quickly traversing down a 30-foot hallway, Lieutenant Tomesheski and FF Potter moved left, while FF King moved right.

By this time, the smoke and heat conditions were getting worse and fire was coming from both the kitchen and rear bedroom. Additionally, the bedroom fire was beginning to move into the living room. While Lieutenant Tomesheski and FF Potter searched the front bedroom, FF King crawled past the kitchen fire. His search proved negative, so he moved into the living room.

His efforts were rewarded as he found an unconscious victim near the window. He immediately radioed a 10-45 code. FF King then dragged the victim down the long corridor to safety. The victim, who had suffered smoke inhalation, was taken into custody by police officers on-scene and taken to the hospital for treatment.

In his report on this incident, Chief Joyce stated, "Firefighter King displayed intense commitment to duty by entering a fire apartment and searching without the protection of a hand-line in deteriorating conditions. It was without regard for his personal safety that he successfully rescued a known armed assailant." This sentiment also was shared by Acting Deputy Chief Michael Puzziferi, Division 7, who stated, "Firefighter King displayed an extreme commitment to the traditions of the Department...and removed a dangerous person from a possible mortal injury."

It is in recognition of this selfless act that the Fire Department of the City of New York is proud to honor

FF Kevin O. King today with the Fire Marshals Benevolent Association Medal.--DH



Ladder 37 apparatus.

photo by Joseph Pinto



Community Mayors, Inc./ Lt. Robert R. Dolney Medal

FIREFIGHTER TERENCE M. WALSH

Ladder Company 3

November 14, 2005, 1908 hours, Box 75-0497, 301 East 21st Street, Manhattan

Appointed to the FDNY on October 28, 2001. Father, FF Terry Walsh (now deceased), was a member of Engine 26; Uncle, Lieutenant Paul Geidel, is retired from Rescue 1; cousins, FF Gary Geidel was a member of Rescue 1, killed at the WTC, and FF Mike Geidel is assigned to Rescue 1; and brother, David Walsh, is a Proby in the Academy. Holds a BA degree in Psychology from Manhattan College. Cited once previously. Resides in Manhattan.

As a graduate of the first Fire Academy class after 9/11, FF Terence M. Walsh arrived at Ladder 3 in January 2002. He came at the low point of the company's 141-year history, similar to many firehouses around the City. Being the new guy is hard under the best conditions, but FF Walsh was not discouraged. With his quiet determination and character and some help from senior members, FF Walsh became a very capable Firefighter in a short time, culminating in his dramatic rescue on the evening of Monday, November 14, 2005.

Ladder 3, which protects the Manhattan neighborhoods of Union Square, the East Village and Alphabet City, was called as the second-due truck to a reported fire at 301 East 21st Street, shortly after 1900 hours. The company was out of the firehouse, returning from another emergency when the call came in, which expedited their response.

Ladder 3 did not expect to arrive well ahead of other units, but when they pulled up, the company had no choice but to assume first-due responsibilities. Thick, black smoke was seeping out of two windows on the fourth floor of the 10-story, corner building when Ladder 3 rolled up alone.

With reports of people trapped, the inside team of Ladder 3 (known as "Recon" since the 1960s because of the many Vietnam War veterans who were assigned to the house) raced up the stairs, each member carrying about 100 lbs. of equipment and gear. When the team--made up of FF Walsh (forcible entry), 10-year veteran FF James Andruzzi (can) and Lieutenant David W. Sharp (covering in Ladder 3 for the night)--entered the public hallway, they knew immediately that apartment 4H held the fire.

Under Lieutenant Sharp's supervision, FFs Walsh and Andruzzi quickly forced open the locked door. Dense smoke and heat funneled over their heads as they prepared for their next move. Knowing that every second counted for the sur-

vival of the trapped victim, the three determined rescuers crawled into the darkness.

In zero visibility, FF Andruzzi turned right into a large living room, while Lieutenant Sharp continued down the hallway and eventually found the source of the fire. FF Walsh, using the left wall as a guide, could feel the heat intensifying through his protective clothing as he crawled deeper into the apartment, closer to the source of the fire. He continued to the left, passing the fire, into a dining room, where he felt the body of Michael Dash, 59, who was unconscious on the floor.

Time was running out for Mr. Dash in the heat and acrid smoke, but FF Walsh's discovery was reason for hope.

After FF Walsh's call for assistance, FF Andruzzi also crawled past the fire to Mr. Dash's location. He protected FF Walsh and Mr. Dash as best he could with the limited stream from the extinguisher. This was hardly a match for the intense blaze, but it was the best they had in the absence of a hose-line. The two Firefighters then worked together to drag Mr. Dash to safety.

Dedication to FDNY is nothing new to the Walsh family. FF Walsh's mother, Margie,

became a registered nurse to support the family after his father, FF Terence M. Walsh, Sr.--who was a member of Engine Company 26--passed away. FF Walsh's cousin, FF Gary P. Geidel, Rescue 1, was killed in the line of duty at the World Trade Center. His other cousin, FF Michael G. Geidel, currently serves in Rescue 1. His brother, David J. Walsh, also will carry on the family tradition; he entered the FDNY Fire Academy in April.

Four-year veteran FF Walsh's bravery and sound search techniques under extreme conditions saved the life of Mr. Dash, who was treated for severe burns at the Cornell Hospital Burn Center. For his performance at Box 497, without the protection of a charged hose-line, FF Terence M. Walsh is awarded the Community Mayors Inc./Lt. Robert R. Dolney Medal.--SN



Ladder 3 in action.

photo courtesy of FF Terence M. Walsh

Battalion Chief Frank T. Tuttlemondo Medal

LIEUTENANT DANIEL J. WALSH

Ladder Company 172

January 2, 2005, 0000 hours, Box 10-77-2978, 1360 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on February 17, 1987. Previously assigned to Engines 250 and 248. Brother, Lieutenant Kerry Walsh, is assigned to Engine 28; uncle, Robert Yorks, is retired from Ladder 77; uncle, Robert Messinger, is retired from Ladder 84; and cousin, Vincent Yorks, is assigned to Engine 155. Member of the Emerald Society. Recipient of a Service Rating A and a Service Rating B. When detailed to FDNY Headquarters, was the Project Manager for the 2000 Medal Day Book and a Technical Editor for WNYF and The Bravest. Resides in Staten Island.



The first day of the New Year had been a relatively quiet one for Lieutenant Daniel Walsh and the members of Ladder 172. But as the new day began, a horror was growing that would challenge the fortitude of this seasoned Lieutenant and his company. They first received a phone alarm of smoke reported coming from a window at 1360 Ocean Parkway at midnight. Within minutes, they were pulling up in front of the 15-story fireproof multiple dwelling.

There was no sign of smoke in the front, so Lieutenant Walsh told his outside vent Firefighter, FF Chris Bruno, and LCC Frank Denver to perform an outside survey, while he entered the lobby with his forcible entry team of FFs Michael Hartley with the irons and John Diodato with the can. They were met by a resident reporting a smoke condition on the 10th floor. Taking the elevator to the eighth floor, they checked the layout and conditions on that floor and then on the ninth as they worked their way up the stairs.

On the 10th floor, Ladder 172's inside team was met by a heavy smoke condition. Lieutenant Walsh transmitted a 10-77 and began the search for the fire apartment. Feeling their way through the acrid black smoke, Lieutenant Walsh and the inside team located apartment 10H, where smoke and heat were pushing out from the sides of the closed door. They were delayed by a whole array of locks that they had to force in order to enter. As the door began to bend to their force, smoke and high heat pushed out toward them, making their task even more difficult.

The conditions were almost too unbearable to work in, but the Lieutenant noticed a chain-link latch on the door that meant someone was trapped in this inferno. With grit and determination, they continued to work until they forced the door open, only to be forced to the floor by the blaze that was engulfing the entire living room. The fire had been raised to blowtorch proportions by the wind blowing in through the broken living room window.

Lieutenant Walsh checked behind the door and then noticed a hallway to his right. Ordering FF Hartley to check the hallway, the Officer proceeded to the seat of the fire with FF Diodato. FF Diodato was able to push the fire back just enough for Lieutenant Walsh to find and slip into a doorway to his right, leading to the dining room. As he methodically searched for the victim that he knew had to be in there somewhere, he worked his way into the kitchen and then back into a hallway.

With precious minutes ticking away, the Lieutenant spotted another doorway. Opening it, he found 56-year-old Freida Schmetzler lying on the bathroom floor. The handicapped woman was unconscious under her walker and had been severely burned. Transmitting a 10-45 signal to indicate that he had located the victim, Lieutenant Walsh called for his forcible entry team to help him remove her to safety.

As the members of Engine 330 moved in with a line to extinguish the blaze, Lieutenant Walsh and the Firefighters were able to get Ms. Schmetzler to the floor below the fire and then into an elevator. As they began their descent, FF Hartley started CPR on the victim. Exiting the elevator, EMS personnel took over patient care.

EMS reported that Ms. Schmetzler was unconscious with no sign of a pulse. Her throat was so full of soot from the fire that she had to be intubated before they could restore a pulse and blood pressure. They transported her to Maimonides Medical Center and then she was transported to Jacobi Burn Center due

to the severity of her burns.

Were it not for Lieutenant Walsh's bravery and determination to locate the victim, she surely would have perished in the blaze. For the courage and perseverance he displayed in this rescue, the Fire Department is proud to present the Battalion Chief Frank T. Tuttlemondo Medal to Lieutenant Daniel J. Walsh.--JT



Lieutenant Daniel J. Walsh (center) and members of Ladder 172.
photo courtesy of Lieutenant Daniel J. Walsh



Dr. John F. Connell Medal

LIEUTENANT WAYMAN A. IRIARTE

Ladder Company 116

**April 25, 2005, 0144 hours, Box 1961,
under the subway at Roosevelt Island subway station, Manhattan**

Appointed to the FDNY on May 9, 1993. Previously assigned to Ladders 116 and 9 and Engine 33. Now assigned to Ladder 11. Brothers-in-law, Patrick Flynn, is assigned to Engine 286 and Thomas Flynn is assigned to Ladder 8. Member of the FDNY Soccer Team. Holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Queens College. Resides in Queens with his wife, Maureen, their daughters, Clare and Catherine, and son, Matthew.

New York City Firefighters do so much more than just extinguish fires. Firefighters are trained to respond to a variety of other emergencies, including confined space rescues. One kind of confined space rescue involves a person trapped under a train.

On April 25, 2005, at 0144 hours, Ladder 116 in Long Island City, Queens, received a run for a phone alarm to respond to Manhattan Box 1961 for a person trapped under a subway car in the Roosevelt Island station.

Arriving at the subway station, Lieutenant Wayman A. Iriarte of Ladder 116 asked a police officer on-scene about the location of the victim. Lieutenant Iriarte then told his company to bring air bags and cribbing. The Lieutenant spoke with Rescue Battalion Chief Don Hayde about the exact location of the victim. The Chief informed Lieutenant Iriarte that the companies still were waiting for confirmation from the FDNY dispatcher that the power to the tracks was off.

The train had run over the victim's feet. Lieutenant Iriarte walked through the train to a catwalk on the opposite side

where a transit worker informed him that power was still on. The Officer went down to the catwalk and began his size-up. He could see the victim, Michelle Carter, under the train. Both of her feet were severed around the ankles. She was conscious, but disoriented. Ms. Carter was trying to sit up, but was in danger of touching energized equipment under the train.

After seeing the victim's injuries and the position she was

in, Lieutenant Iriarte determined that an immediate rescue was necessary. He ordered FF Christopher DiMaria of Ladder 116, who was carrying two air bags and two wooden planks, to pass him the equipment. Lieutenant Iriarte used the air bags and wooden planks to shield the electrified third rail in order to minimize the risk of coming in contact with it.

Without regard for his personal safety, the Lieutenant crawled under the train--in between the energized equipment--and made his way across the train to the opposite end. There were many transformers located there. The victim was in a state of panic and on the other side of a transformer, which made the rescue more difficult and dangerous.

Lieutenant Iriarte instructed Ms. Carter to lie down with her head toward him. He then reached under the energized transformer with his left arm and pulled her safely to his side. During this period, his area of operations was approximately four by eight and four feet high.

FF DiMaria then joined Lieutenant Iriarte and they packaged the victim on a backboard for removal. A Paramedic

joined them and assisted in removing Ms. Carter from her extremely tenuous position. Ms. Carter was taken to Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan.

For his actions in rescuing a woman who was injured and trapped under a subway train, Lieutenant Wayman A.

Iriarte of Ladder Company 116 officially is recognized by the New York City Fire Department and presented with the Dr. John F. Connell Medal.--NG



Ladder 116 apparatus.

photo by Joseph Pinto

Fire Bell Club Medal

CAPTAIN MICHAEL J. BURKE

Engine Company 79

June 12, 2005, 1248 hours, Box 75-3525, 3006 Decatur Avenue, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on June 15, 1990. Previously assigned to Ladder 29 and Engine 47. Father, Captain Joseph Burke, is retired from Engine 81. Member of the Holy Name and Emerald Societies. Resides in Palisades, New York, with his wife, Sharon, and daughters, Erin and Kelly, and son, Timmy.



With the school year finally over, Sunday, June 26, 2005, was the real beginning of summer vacation for many. While families across the nation were heading off to the beach or just the backyard for a barbeque, Captain Michael J. Burke and the members of Engine 79 were far too busy for such enjoyment due to a fire at Box 3525.

At approximately 12:45 that afternoon, Captain Burke and the members of Engine 79, along with Ladder 37, were directed by Bronx Dispatch to respond to a report of smoke at 3006 Decatur Avenue, a five-story, 75- by 150-foot, class 3, non-fireproof multiple dwelling. While en route from their Briggs Avenue firehouse, additional information was transmitted, notifying them that the fire now was being reported on the top floor.

When Engine 79 arrived on-scene, the company could see heavy black smoke coming from several top-floor windows. Captain Burke immediately ordered his company's line stretched to that location and then went into the building with Ladder 37's forcible entry team to locate the fire apartment.

As Captain Burke and the team climbed up the stairs, they were met by fleeing building occupants who said there were trapped civilians in the fire apartment. Arriving on the fire floor, Captain Burke and the team proceeded to apartment E-7 and members forced the door.

As the door opened, Captain Burke and the entry team were met by high heat and a heavy smoke condition. Momentarily retreating into the hallway, Captain Burke and the entry team Firefighters dropped to their knees and donned their masks. The entry team moved back into the apartment to begin their search, followed by Captain Burke, who was looking for the fire's origin.

The Captain moved to his right, where he found fire emanating from the kitchen and beginning to move into the main hallway. Not realizing that this was the area of fire origin in the apartment, Captain Burke--without the benefit of a charged hose-line or protection from Ladder 37's can Firefighter--moved past the fire toward the right rear bedroom.

While searching for fire in this room, the Officer found an unconscious victim, Lorraine Garcia, near the rear bedroom wall next to a bed. Captain Burke immediately transmitted a 10-45 and then dragged the victim more than 25 feet past the fire to the apartment doorway. Reaching the door, he handed the victim over to FF Joseph Brady.

Ms. Garcia was in critical condition, suffering from CO poisoning and burns to her airway, back and shoulder. She was taken to the floor below and CPR was initiated. At this time, the members of Engine 79 had arrived on-scene with a charged hose-line and Captain Burke led his company down the hallway and extinguished the fire.

In his report of the incident, Battalion Chief Ralph Fago, Battalion 27, wrote, "Captain Burke passed the fire room

without the protection of a charged hose-line...Captain Burke's aggressive search for fire led him to the location of this victim and resulted in the saving of her life. Had this victim not been found in such a timely manner, she likely would have perished from her injuries."

Therefore, it is with great pride that we honor Captain Michael J. Burke for his heroic actions this day and present him with the Fire Bell Club Medal.--DH



Engine 79 apparatus.

photo by Joseph Pinto



Firefighter David J. DeFranco Medal

FIREFIGHTER THOMAS F. FEASER

Ladder Company 78

December 13, 2005, 1401 hours, Box 0023, Kill Van Kull waterway, behind 561 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island

Appointed to the FDNY on June 1, 1983. Previously assigned to Engines 34, 282 and 201 and Ladder 113. Recipient of one Service Rating A. Resides in Staten Island. Has three sons, Thomas, Mike and Steven.

December 13, 2005, was a bitterly cold day, with an air temperature of 24 degrees and a 10-mile-per-hour wind that made it feel much colder. There had been a snowstorm the night before that covered the City with a layer of ice and snow. This made ordinary travel hazardous and all emergency situations even more dangerous.

The last thing that FF Thomas F. Feaser of Ladder Company 78 on the North Shore of Staten Island planned on doing was going for a swim. He took the assignment at roll call, but didn't think he'd be utilized as a rescue swimmer on a day like this. However, his years on the Fire Department had taught him to always be ready for the unusual.

At 1401 hours, the members of Ladder 78 and Engine 155 received a telephone alarm reporting a woman drowning in the frigid waters of the Kill Van Kull. As they responded to the reported address of 561 Richmond Terrace, Captain John R. Graziano ordered FFs Feaser and his back-up swimmer, Joseph Pigott, to don their rescue swimmer gear while en route.

They knew that time was critical if they were going to save a life in this brutal weather. As the rescuers arrived at the reported address, they were waved down to the waterside by two EMS workers and two police officers, who had just arrived and seen the woman lying face down in the water.

As the Firefighters worked their way down a steep embankment of ice-covered rocks, just to reach the water's edge, they could see the woman bobbing in the swift-moving current in the area of a rickety, old, abandoned pier. As Captain

Graziano made his way out on the precarious structure, he could see the woman through an opening and knew that the current soon would carry her away. She was about 15 feet from the water's edge when FF Feaser reached that location.

Jumping down seven feet to the icy rocks below, the Firefighter swiftly entered the frigid waters without waiting to be tethered with a safety line. In the dangerous and icy waters, FF Feaser quickly swam out to the location and grabbed 55-year-old Li Yi Lu.



FF Thomas Feaser--still in his cold water rescue suit--talks to the media following the water rescue. *photo courtesy of FF Thomas F. Feaser*

Ms. Lu, who was fully clothed, was rapidly being pulled under by her now-waterlogged winter coat. The rescuer had to fight the four-knot current to get this now very heavy victim back to an area where other Firefighters were bringing a 20-foot ladder to the water's edge. At this point, Ms. Lu was unconscious and not breathing, but FF Feaser instinctively gave her a couple of quick rescue breaths. To his pleasant surprise, she began to breathe on her own.

Ms. Lu had been submerged in the icy water for more than 10 minutes and the men of Ladder 78 and Engine 155 wasted no time getting her onto the ladder. Working as a team, the rescuers were able to get her up the embankment to the waiting EMS personnel. Ms. Lu, in critical condition, was treated by EMS, who then rushed her to St. Vincent's Medical Center.

For his heroic actions in frigid and watery conditions, FF Thomas Feaser is presented with the Firefighter David J. DeFranco Medal.--JT

Lt. James Curran/NYFFs Burn Center Foundation Medal/Father Julian F. Deeken Memorial Medal

ENGINE COMPANY 298

September 6, 2004, 2339 hours, Box 75-2343,
150-82 87th Avenue, Queens

LIEUTENANT MICHAEL D. GOLINI

FF DANIEL C. MANDEL (ENGINE 303)

FF JAMES LAGATTOLLA

FF THOMAS E. CARBONE

FF FRANK R. TEPEDINO (LADDER 127)

FF HARRY F. SCHOPPMANN, III



Coordination and teamwork are key elements of fire-fighting. During the 6-x-9 tour on September 6, 2004, the members of Engine 298 proved how important these elements are when they were forced to operate alone at a raging house fire.

At 2339 hours, the engine company turned out, first-due to a reported fire in a private dwelling. Normally, the unit responds from its firehouse along with Ladder Co. 127 and Battalion 50, but on this night, Ladder 127 was out of service. The response assignment for the Box was two engines, one ladder and Battalion 50.

When Engine 298 arrived on-scene, they radioed a 10-75 to Queens dispatchers and reported fire showing from the second- and top-floor windows of a 2¹/₂-story private dwelling.

Besides the visible fire, the unit was faced with several trapped victims showing at the windows on the upper floors.

Engine 298 did what an engine company does best: get water on the fire to protect trapped victims and allow them to escape. Engine 298's chauffeur located and connected to a nearby hydrant as the other Firefighters stretched a 1³/₄-inch hose-line.

There were three victims huddled at the front attic window and one victim at the front, second-floor window. Intense fire--mirroring blowtorch-type conditions--was coming out of the windows on the exposure #4 side and seriously threatening the house next door. Engine 298 was faced with this tough situation by themselves, because the responding first-due Ladder Co. 125 was coming from a distance.

Engine 298's Officer, Lieutenant Michael Golini, called out to the trapped civilians in the attic and reassured them that a hose-line would be there shortly. He urged them not to jump. The civilians were out of reach of Engine 298's 24-foot

portable ladder. Lieutenant Golini then guided the man at the second-floor window from the sill where he was hanging. Fortunately, his only injury was a minor laceration.

Simultaneously, the hose-line was charged with water and the Firefighters aggressively attacked the fire that was at the side entrance leading to the second-floor stairs. They made a

strong push up the stairs to the second floor and faced punishing conditions. They operated the hose-line and searched the second floor as quickly as possible. The Firefighters knew it was imperative to get up to the attic to protect the trapped occupants who would have to be rescued via an aerial ladder.

The Firefighters made a tough decision. They had to bypass fire in the rear of the second floor, placing them in danger. Undaunted, Engine

298 members operated the hose-line up the fiery stairs into the attic, making their way to the trapped occupants.

Once again, the Firefighters performed many functions in the attic in addition to operating the hose-line. These functions included forcible entry, searching and ventilating to relieve the super-heated conditions, allowing for final extinguishment. The occupants--including one person who had climbed out and was straddling the roof peak--were removed via Ladder 125's aerial ladder. With tragedy averted, the three victims sustained only minor injuries.

Battalion Chief Charles Clarke of Battalion 50, who witnessed the superb actions of Engine 298, noted in his report "that their speed, coordination and teamwork, while initially operating alone, undoubtedly spared the civilians from death or serious injury." The Department is proud to acknowledge the heroic work performed by the members of Engine Co. 298 with the Lieutenant James Curran/New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal/Father Julian F. Deeken Memorial Medal.--AP



Engine 298 is a Seagrave 1000-gpm pumper.

photo by Fred Engelmann

Lieutenant James Curran/New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal

ENGINE COMPANY 283

July 2, 2005, 0722 hours, Box 2104,
200 Newport Street, Brooklyn

LIEUTENANT MATTHEW T. FERRIS (BATTALION 41)

FF MICHAEL A. O'NEILL

FF DELLON D. MORGAN

FF THOMAS M. MOORE

FF PETER J. FREDRIKSEN

FF SCOTT D. COLQUHOUN



July 2, 2005, was another warm summer Saturday morning in Brownsville, Brooklyn, when Engine 283, returning to their quarters on Livonia and Howard Avenues, received the ticket for Box 2104. It was a report of a structural fire at 200 Newport Street, apartment 12. Immediately jumping back onto their apparatus, Lieutenant Matthew Ferris and his Firefighters were off to the fire.

Approaching the fire building, the members of Engine 283 encountered an extremely heavy smoke condition venting from the top floor of this three-story, brick multiple dwelling. Lieutenant Ferris wasted little time in transmitting an urgent message for a code 10-75.

As the Lieutenant exited the rig, he ordered his Firefighters to stretch the 1³/₄-inch hose and called for the door Firefighter, FF Scott Colquhoun, to bring the forcible entry tools. Engine 283 was first due and alone on the fire scene at this time. With benefit of neither a second engine company nor a truck on the scene, stretching the hose-line through the numerous occupants who now were escaping the heat and flames of this fire was extremely difficult.

Arriving at the fire floor landing on the third floor, Engine 283 found the door to the fire apartment locked and immediately put their forcible entry tools and skills to work as they forced this door and gained entry. As a result of forcing the door, the hallway quickly filled with smoke and heat from the fire inside.

At this point, Lieutenant Ferris and his members began a dual operation. While FFs Dellon Morgan and



Engine 283 apparatus.

photo by Joseph Pinto

Thomas Moore “opened” the line on the raging fire, other members began a search for victims. Members of the company quickly discovered Jamal Dennis, age 10. FF Peter Fredriksen quickly removed the young victim through the flames to the safety of the street below. Lieutenant Ferris soon rescued another victim, Trini Dennis, age 12, and ensured that she was removed by other FDNY members to the street.

Advancing further into the fire apartment, the nozzle team of FFs Morgan and Moore continued to battle and get water on the fire. During this daring move to the rear of the apartment, two additional victims were discovered and removed.

At this time, FF Morgan, the nozzle man, suffered a knee injury, but refused to back out of the fire or surrender the nozzle. He continued operating the hose-line until all four victims were removed safely and the fire was extinguished.

Without a doubt, had it not been for the courageous and aggressive actions of Engine Company 283, all four victims surely would have perished in this fire. Fire Marshals later determined it had been ignited by candles in the master bedroom.

At this incident, the members of Engine 283 acted aggressively in rescuing four trapped individuals and expeditiously extinguishing this fire. Their efforts, both in saving lives and property, is the hallmark of this great Department. We commend these members and present them with the Lieutenant James Curran/New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal.--
RMcC

Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Medal

LADDER COMPANY 26

April 21, 2005, 0033 hours, Box 10-75-1320,
70 East 108th Street, Manhattan

LIEUTENANT RICHARD M. MURATORE

FF JAMES F. MCNAMARA

FF BRENDAN D. DELANEY

FF ROBERT E. LOPEZ, JR.

FF KEVIN B. EGAN

FF MICHAEL A. CALLAHAN



Of all the skills probationary Firefighters learn during their time at *The Rock*, teamwork is as important as mask confidence, ladder operations, stretching a hose-line or ventilation. In the early-morning hours of April 21, 2005, the members of Ladder 26 demonstrated why teamwork is so important in effective firefighting operations and saving lives.

At 0033 hours, the members of Ladder 26 (Lieutenant Richard M. Muratore and FFs Michael A. Callahan, Robert E. Lopez, Jr., James F. McNamara, Brendan D. Delaney and Kevin B. Egan) were assigned to a fire at Manhattan Box 1320. Arriving on-scene at 0036 hours, the members found heavy smoke coming from the fifth floor (exposure #2) of 70 East 108th Street, a 20-story, 200- by 100-foot, class 1, project-type multiple dwelling. Lieutenant Muratore immediately transmitted a 10-75 to Manhattan Dispatch and joined the other members of the inside team--FFs Callahan with the can and Delaney with the irons.

Rushing to the fifth floor (while FF Egan continued to the floor above to monitor conditions), the team found a medium smoke condition in the hallway with smoke pushing forcefully from apartment 5C--a four-bedroom unit. Lieutenant Muratore ordered FF Delaney to force the door and, after gaining access, the team encountered a high heat and heavy smoke condition. The main body of fire was in the kitchen, but moving was into the apartment's main hallway, effectively preventing anyone in the rear bedrooms from escaping.

Lieutenant Muratore ordered FF Callahan to open up the extinguisher so he and FF Delaney could pass the fire and begin their search. Passing the fire, the rescuers found two victims outside the second bedroom. These victims were quickly removed from the apartment and into the fifth-floor hallway. Then, they were passed off to members of the second-due truck and evacuated to safety.

After these victims were removed, FF Callahan notified Lieutenant Muratore that

the extinguisher was empty. Because other victims still might be in the apartment, the Firefighter was ordered to join in the search of the rear bedrooms.

Simultaneously, the Officer of Engine 58, who was waiting for a charged hose-line, monitored the fire advance from the kitchen into the hallway. While searching bedroom three, FFs Callahan and Delaney found two additional victims and immediately transmitted 10-45 signals. The first victim was found in bed and unconscious. Due to her size, it was extremely difficult to remove her. She eventually was transported to an area hospital in cardiac arrest and later expired. The second victim was found under her bed and was removed to safety.

While Lieutenant Muratore and FFs Callahan and Delaney were performing these rescues, FF Lopez was performing his perimeter search of the building. In the course of this search, he noticed an additional victim calling for help from bedroom four on the exposure #2 side of the building. The victim was at the window, dealing with a heavy smoke condition pushing out from the window.

Moving quickly, FF McNamara raised the aerial ladder. FF Lopez ascended the ladder, removed the window guards and entered the apartment. He was met with a heavy smoke condition and zero visibility, but rapidly found the victim. He quickly moved the victim to the window and turned him over to FF McNamara, who had climbed to the tip of the aerial. FF McNamara took the victim down the aerial and turned him over to EMS, who transported him to the hospital for smoke inhalation.

In his report of the incident, Deputy Chief Thomas Jensen stated, "Ladder 26's aggressive and coordinated efforts resulted in the rapid removal of several occupants who were trapped." Therefore, in recognition of their aggressiveness, dedication to duty and teamwork, the FDNY is proud to honor these members of Ladder Company 26 with the Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Medal.--DH



Apparatus of Ladder 26, the Fire Factory.

photo by Joseph Pinto



Deputy Commissioner Christine R. Godek Medal FIRE MARSHAL JOSEPH A. RICCA

BFI--Brooklyn Base

October 11, 2005, Box 33-2216, 2312 hours, 454 New Dorp Lane, Staten Island

Appointed to the FDNY on April 30, 1997. Previously assigned to Engine 161. Father, Fire Marshal Joseph Ricca, is retired; brother, FF Pat Ricca, is assigned to Engine 221; sister-in-law, FF Aisha Ricca, is assigned to Engine 224; brother-in-law, FF Steven Murphy, is assigned to Ladder 1; and cousin, FF Anthony Cafro, is assigned to Engine 158. Holds a BS degree from Wagner College. Resides in Staten Island with his wife, Lorraine, and their three children, McKenzie, Taylor and Joseph.

The emblem and shoulder patch of FDNY's Bureau of Fire Investigation (BFI) displays its founding year, 1854, the Scales of Justice and the Latin motto, *Veritas Ex Cineribus* (Truth from the Ashes). Fire Marshal Joseph Ricca, following in the footsteps of his Fire Marshal father and his unit's motto, successfully unraveled a gruesome arson/murder case. He wound up arresting two teenagers for callously setting fire to a vacant supermarket when they allegedly knew that a homeless man was still inside, unconscious or asleep.

FM Ricca's adventure began when he and his Squad 35 partner, FM Vincent Palmieri, responded to an eventual third-alarm fire that collapsed the roof and heavily damaged a former Waldbaum's market at 454 New Dorp Lane, in New Dorp, Staten Island, late Tuesday night, October 11, 2005.

Even as his fellow Firefighters were still battling the fast-moving, dangerous fire, FM Ricca located and interviewed witnesses. He was told that a man had been seen asleep in the rear. He notified the Incident Commander, who assigned Firefighters to conduct a search. Hampered by fire and collapse conditions, they found a man's body in the rubble. FM Ricca now knew he had a potential homicide case, which was confirmed later by the Medical Examiner's office.

FM Ricca was joined in the homicide investigation by NYPD Detectives Mark Alvarez, Arson/Explosion squad, and Steve Ferigno of the 122nd

Precinct detective squad. The Fire Marshal found additional witnesses and continued his intensive physical examination of the wrecked premises for clues to the fire's cause and origin and other important details, despite seven days of sometimes record rainfall.

Backed by comprehensive interviews and examination of all available forensic evidence, FM Ricca's bird-dog tenacity led to the arrest of the two teenagers, based on statements they made, which substantiated his fire scene examinations. Staten Island District Attorney Daniel Donovan's office charged the pair with first-degree arson and second-degree murder.

A 17-year-old teen, of Midland Beach, Staten Island, a high school special-education student, was accused of setting the arson fire at the market. The student, who reportedly stepped over the live victim, William B. Lowther, age 65, on her way out of the fire, was held without bail in Staten Island criminal court. She pleaded innocent and awaits trial while undergoing psychiatric evaluation. Her 14-year-old alleged boyfriend and accomplice was referred to Family Court.

FM Ricca's quick, dogged pursuit of truth and justice for a homeless member of society is a credit to his professional abilities and the FDNY he proudly serves. Therefore, Fire Marshal Joseph Ricca richly merits the Deputy Commissioner Christine R. Godek Medal, awarded annually to an outstanding Fire Marshal for investigatory skills.--RB and JM



Fire Marshal Joseph Ricca takes a break after sifting through potential evidence. photo by the FDNY Photo Unit

Firefighter Kevin C. Kane Medal

FIREFIGHTER TERENCE F. BRODY

Ladder Company 110

May 12, 2005, 0650 hours, Box 75-0550, 417 Baltic Street, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on July 15, 2001. Previously assigned to Engine 9. Grandfather, Lieutenant Jack Watt, is retired from Engine 228; uncles, FF John Watt, is retired from Ladder 110, Captain Ed Watt, is assigned to Ladder 81 and FF Mike Watt, is assigned to Engine 157; and cousin, FF Mike Brody, is assigned to Ladder 86. Holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Kean University. Resides in Bellerose, Queens, with his wife, Christine.



Firefighting is one of the most dangerous occupations in the world. Firefighters must enter burning structures. Once inside, they must search for victims, the source of the fire and then extinguish the fire. During this process, Firefighters are exposed to extreme heat, toxic smoke and debilitating fatigue. Ultimately, firefighting is a physically demanding job. Firefighters carry 80 to 100 pounds of equipment, such as rolled hose, sledge hammers, axes, hydraulic rams and pressurized extinguishers, into and around the fire scene to rescue people and put out the fire.

On the morning of May 12, 2005, the members of Ladder Company 110 responded to fire alarm Box number 550 from their quarters on Tillary Street. While en route to the Baltic Street address, the Department radio crackled with reports of people trapped.

Arriving at the 14-story, high-rise multiple dwelling, FFs Kevin Harvey with the extinguisher and Terence Brody with forcible entry tools, supervised by Captain Robert Pav, would have to extend their physical abilities almost to the breaking point as they were confronted with a fire on the 12th floor and a confirmed life hazard. They took the elevator to the 10th floor. After previous difficulty, the elevator opened. With time running out for a victim threatening to jump from a smoke-filled, 12th-floor window, the arriving rescuers began their painstaking run up to the fire floor, weighted down by a full complement of tools.

Arriving at apartment 12D, FF Brody's job was just beginning. It was time to force entry and make a search, while simultaneously pushing past the physical fatigue. As FF

Brody was forcing entry into the fire apartment and Engine Company 226 was preparing an attack on the fire with a 2¹/₂-inch line stretched off the building's standpipe system, the members of Squad 1 were initiating a lifesaving rope rescue from the apartment directly over the fire apartment.

With no time to spare and a hose-line being stretched from the stairway, Captain Pav entered the fire apartment with his inside team, in spite of the high heat and zero visibility. Immediately on entering the apartment, the Captain and FF Brody were met with a free-burning living-room fire that was rolling over into the apartment hallway.

It became quite evident that the only way to get to the rear bedroom where the trapped occupant was located would be to crawl under and past the fire. After passing the fire now being held back by FF Harvey with a fire extinguisher, FF Brody managed to reach a rear bedroom and find Jacqueline Bradford, age 35, crouched behind the bed next to an open window. She was gasping for air. The Firefighter told her to hold her breath as he shielded her with his body. They escaped past the living-room fire and into an adjacent apartment for safe refuge.

FF Terence F. Brody of Ladder Company 110 conducted

his search and rescue without the benefit of a charged hose-line. He passed a heavy body of fire to accomplish his lifesaving task. The young woman who had been trapped by fire is alive and well today because of the individual bravery of FF Brody. For these reasons, he is honored with the Firefighter Kevin C. Kane Medal.--PWB



FF Terence Brody of Ladder 110. photo courtesy of FF Terence Brody



Probationary Firefighter Thomas A. Wylie Medal

FIREFIGHTER DARRELL S. DENNISON

Ladder Company 119

April 25, 2005, 0552 hours, Box 3969, 104 Ross Street, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on December 5, 2004. Member of the Vulcan Society. Holds an associate's degree in computer technology from DeVry University. Served in the U.S. Navy from 1997 to 1999. Recipient of a unit citation and a Service Rating A. Resides in Jamaica, Queens.

On Monday, April 25, 2005, at 0552 hours, Ladder Company 119--with Probationary Firefighter Darrell Dennison on the irons--and Engine 211 responded first due to a phone alarm for 104 Ross Street in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn. As the companies were leaving their Hooper Street quarters, they received a second source.

Arriving at the building, Engine 211 gave the 10-75 for a fire in apartment 2N on the second floor of a six-story, class 1 building. Ladder 119's rig stopped when a chain attached to two poles blocked the apparatus from proceeding further. Lieutenant Matthew Komorowski and his inside team of FFs Tomislav Dadic with the can and Dennison got off their rig and quickly made their way to the fire building.

The inside team ran approximately 60 yards up the access road to the courtyard. When the trio reached the second floor, they were met with a heavy smoke condition and zero visibility. Lieutenant Komorowski ordered his Firefighters to mask up and proceed down the long hallway. The Lieutenant used the thermal imaging camera to help guide his men to the fire apartment.

When FFs Dennison and Dadic and Lieutenant Komorowski reached the fire apartment, they opened the unlocked door and were met with fire to their right and fire rolling over their heads. The kitchen was fully involved and the fire was extending to a closet on the left, the hallway behind the kitchen and to the living/dining room, which was behind the kitchen to the left. Smoke also was pushing from all the windows in the rear of the apartment.

FF Dennison and Lieutenant Komorowski made an initial push into the fire apartment beneath and to the left of the fire area. The Officer was monitoring the egress conditions and discovered that the fire had communicated behind the entrance to the apartment, thus potentially blocking the team's exit. As a result, Lieutenant Komorowski immediately ordered FF Dadic to use the can on the fire to protect the apartment's only means of egress so FF Dennison and he could continue a

deeper search into the fire apartment.

With Engine 211 still in the process of stretching the initial 2¹/₂-inch line off the standpipe, water was not yet on the fire. The fire apartment had a high heat condition and no visibility. Lieutenant Komorowski ordered FF Dennison to search to the right, while he proceeded to the left. FF Dadic continued to protect the exit with the can.

While conducting his primary search, FF Dennison found a young boy 15 feet into the apartment in the bedroom hallway behind the kitchen. Lieutenant Komorowski immediately transmitted the 10-45 to Battalion 35 and let Battalion Chief John Molloy know it was for a child. FF Dadic continued to hold back the fire with the can so that FF Dennison could exit the apartment with seven-year-old Israel Falkowitz.

FF Dennison passed under the fire area to remove the child from the fire apartment and once outside the apartment, he handed the child off to another Firefighter. As FF Dennison was removing the child, Lieutenant Komorowski continued his primary search, monitoring conditions with the thermal imaging camera. He then found a second victim in the living/dining room, approximately 20 feet into the apartment. Lieutenant Komorowski immediately transmitted another 10-45 to Chief Molloy and let him know that Ladder 119 had a total of two victims.

After the two victims were removed from the fire apartment, FF Dennison and Lieutenant Komorowski returned to the fire apartment to continue their search. At this time, Engine 211 had completed its stretch and was attacking the fire. As Ladder 119's inside team was making two rescues inside the apartment, the outside team was effecting the rescue of three other people. The two children rescued by the inside team were transported to the hospital, but they did not survive.

For his bravery and determination, FF Darrell Dennison of Ladder 119 officially is recognized by the FDNY today and presented with the Probationary Firefighter Thomas A. Wylie Medal.--NG



FF Darrell Dennison (bottom left) with members of Ladder 119. photo courtesy of FF Darrell Dennison

Captain John J. Drennan Memorial Medal

FIREFIGHTER MICHAEL MAZZIOTTI

Ladder Company 101

September 15, 2005, 1941 hours, Box 1336, Gowanus Canal,
below the northwest corner of the Hamilton Avenue bridge, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on October 28, 2001. Grandfather, Salvatore Mazziotti, retired from the Department in 1982. Attended New York University. Recipient of a unit citation and a Service Rating A. Resides in Staten Island.



New York's Bravest do so much more than just extinguish fires. Firefighters respond to a variety of other emergencies, including water rescues. On September 15, 2005, at 1941 hours, Ladder 101, "the Red Hook Raiders," received a radio alarm for a confirmed person in the water.

Arriving at the site--the Gowanus Canal, below the northwest corner of the Hamilton Avenue bridge--the Officer of Engine 279 informed Ladder 101 of the victim's location and stated that he was just speaking with the 51-year-old male, who was refusing all attempts to save his life. The Gowanus Canal is a deepwater canal approximately 250 feet wide and is used to supply a variety of industrial properties by barge.

Lieutenant Peter Acquafredda, the Officer of Ladder 101, sized up the victim's location, topography and current in the canal. The victim, Mr. Pinto, was floating approximately 60 feet from the bulkhead of the canal, between the bridge abutment and a large three-pile fender.

FF Michael Mazziotti donned the Stearns Immersion suit as the other members of Ladder 101 positioned ladders from the road to the point of operation. Three ladders were needed to reach the water. A 24-foot portable ladder was placed from the roadway to the gravel pile; a 20-foot portable hook ladder was placed from the gravel pile to the bulkhead; and a 12-foot portable hook ladder was placed from the bulkhead ledge to the water. The third ladder was set straight down into the canal. The bulkhead ledge where this ladder was placed was adjacent to a large, loosely tethered gravel barge. The barge's loose mooring allowed it to swing 20 feet in each direction, which made this area of entry into the water extremely precarious.

As soon as FF Mazziotti was secured with a safety line, he began to climb down the hook ladder into the canal. Since the ladder was directly against the wall of the bulkhead, FF

Mazziotti had to enter the water without the benefit of swim fins, making it more difficult to swim across the canal in the bulky suit.

FF Mazziotti swam across the choppy waters to the victim's location. He squeezed between the abutment and the fenders and was able to extricate Mr. Pinto, who was face down in the water. The rescuer quickly assessed the victim and determined that he was unconscious. He cradled his head out of the water. FF Mazziotti gave the signal to be pulled back to shore.

The members on the bulkhead ledge were able to pull FF Mazziotti and Mr. Pinto back to the ladder. Reaching the ladder, FF Mazziotti held Mr. Pinto--who weighed approximately 180 pounds--out of the water, while tubular webbing was secured around his chest. As the members on the bulkhead were preparing to remove the victim from the water, the 650-cubic-yard barge surged toward rescuer and victim, threatening to crush them.

FF Mazziotti held his position and assisted the members on the bulkhead by pushing Mr. Pinto up the ladder from below. When Mr. Pinto was safely out of the water, FF Mazziotti was able to escape the barge by quickly swimming back into the canal.

As soon as the victim was on the ledge, the members began CPR. The initial assessment indicated that he had a pulse, but was not breathing. After FF Mazziotti climbed out of the canal, he assisted the other members in securing Mr. Pinto in the Stokes basket and hoisting the victim to waiting EMS personnel. Mr. Pinto was transported to Long Island College Hospital. FF Mazziotti was treated for exposure and vomiting.

For his actions, which were in the finest traditions of the FDNY, FF Michael Mazziotti is being honored today with the Captain John J. Drennan Memorial Medal.--NG



FF Michael Mazziotti is atop 101 Truck. Other company members are below.

photo courtesy of FF Michael Mazziotti

Service Rating A

FF Terence F. Brody, L-110	Lt. Wayman A. Iriarte, L-116	Capt. Robert Pav, L-110
Capt. Michael J. Burke, E-79	FF Daniel N. Jollon, E-6	Lt. Gregory J. Prial, L-43
FF James P. Campbell, L-156	FF Kevin O. King, L-37	Capt. John C. Rice, Div. 14
FF Edward F. Cancro, R-4	Lt. Matthew J. Komorowski, L-119	FF Louis S. Schaefer, SQ-41
FF Sean G. Cummins, R-1	FF John V. Kroczyński, L-169	Lt. George W. Symon, Bn-37
FF Darrell S. Dennison, L-119	FF Louis Mancuso, L-44	Lt. Lawrence E. Tompkins, L-120
FF Stephen P. Duffy, L-16	FF Christopher R. Mandeville, R-1	FF Joseph Wakie, L-132
Lt. Kenneth J. Durante, L-58	Lt. Robert A. Markardt, Bn-23	Lt. Daniel J. Walsh, L-172
FF Thomas F. Feaser, L-78	FF Michael Mazziotti, L-101	FF Terence M. Walsh, L-3
Lt. Kevin A. Griffith, L-106	FF Paul J. Nigro, L-28	Capt. William J. Walsh (3)
FF Joseph W. Honan, L-111	FF Thomas E. Nuccio, L-26	
FF Robert Scott Hourican, L-168	FF Gregory A. Patsos, SQ-252	

Service Rating B

BC Barry W. Brandes, Bn-41	FF Michael J. Fletcher, L-168	Lt. Richard S. Mlecz, L-45
FF John M. Carlson, L-168	FF Sheldon L. George, L-30	Lt. Steven Mormino, E-225
FF Daniel S. Cavanaugh, L-10	FF James C. Goodenough, L-59	FF Kenneth P. O'Connor, Jr., E-43
FF Jeffrey M. Christensen, E-155	FF Craig T. Gundersen, L-148	Capt. Robert Pav, L-110
FF Michael D. Clifford, L-175	FF Herbert P. Hickey, E-297	FF Christopher C. Perone, E-6
Lt. Michael M. Currid, Bn-11	FF Christopher P. Lane, L-176	FF Brian C. Pulsch, E-324
FF Tomislav Dadic, L-119	FF Brian R. Larney, L-58	Lt. Michael J. Quevedo, Div. 13
FF Thomas Davide, L-123	FF Steven N. Leible, L-21	FF John R. Schulken, L-176
FF Christopher DiMaria, L-116	FF Michael Leonard, E-266	FF Michael F. Schunk, R-1
Lt. James K. Donohue, L-8	FF Mark Levens, L-110	FF James J. Schwicke, L-103
FF Jeffrey M. Ehret, L-58	FF Michael J. Lyons, L-148	FF Raymond M. Seeley, SQ-270
FF Peter Fallucca, L-77 (2)*	Lt. Frank Macchia, L-159	FF Joseph J. Tarantini, L-138
Lt. Anthony F. Ferraro, Bn-21	Lt. Michael J. McMenomon, L-41	
FF Douglas Ferretti, L-47	FF Timothy W. McNamara, L-113	
FF Neil C. Fitzpatrick, E-157	FF Michael G. Merced, E-16	

** Recipient of two Service Rating Bs.*

UNIT CITATIONS

Ladder Company 3
December 18, 2004 Box 556

Squad Company 41
January 5, 2005 Box 4764

Engine Company 74
January 14, 2005 Box 1136

Engine Company 325
January 15, 2005 Box 75-7322

Engine Company 160
January 23, 2005 Box 460

Engine Company 152
January 23, 2005 Box 460

Ladder Company 81
January 23, 2005 Box 460

Ladder Company 159
January 27, 2005 Box 33-3335

Engine Company 64
January 27, 2005 Box 3015

Engine Company 303
January 30, 2005 Box 33-4369

Ladder Company 16
January 31, 2005 Box 8429

Engine Company 69
February 7, 2005 Box 33-1618

Ladder Company 30
February 7, 2005 Box 33-1618

Ladder Company 28
February 7, 2005 Box 33-1618

Ladder Company 54
February 23, 2005 Box 75-2690

Engine Company 96
February 23, 2005 Box 75-2690

Squad Company 270
March 1, 2005 Box 6042

Ladder Company 30
March 2, 2005 Box 1563

Ladder Company 110
March 3, 2005 Box 551

Ladder Company 77
March 10, 2005 Box 75-0064

Engine Company 15
March 16, 2005 Box 291

Engine Company 28
March 16, 2005 Box 291

Ladder Company 11
March 16, 2005 Box 291

Ladder Company 150
April 19, 2005 Box 6675

Ladder Company 114
April 19, 2005 Box 1466

Ladder Company 26
April 21, 2005 Box 75-1320

Ladder Company 119
April 25, 2005 Box 3969

Ladder Company 102
April 25, 2005 Box 3969

Engine Company 90
May 3, 2005 Box 3228

Ladder Company 41
May 3, 2005 Box 3228

Ladder Company 16
May 13, 2005 Box 33-1123

Engine Company 236
May 25, 2005 Box 1892

Ladder Company 18
May 30, 2005 Box 263

Engine Company 157
June 6, 2005 Box 22-0399

Engine Company 283
July 2, 2005 Box 2104

Engine Company 38
July 3, 2005 Box 4451

Ladder Company 51
July 3, 2005 Box 4451

Engine Company 71
July 7, 2005 Box 33-2517

Rescue Company 1
July 24, 2005 Box 0010

Ladder Company 15
July 24, 2005 Box 0010

Squad Company 1
August 1, 2005 Box 1260

Ladder Company 5
August 15, 2005 Box 322

Engine Company 69
September 11, 2005 Box 44-2342

Engine Company 292
September 20, 2005 Box 3127

Ladder Company 136
September 20, 2005 Box 3127

Engine Company 48
September 22, 2005 Box 3343

Engine Company 42
September 28, 2005 Box 2914

Engine Company 83
October 4, 2005 Box 2364

Engine Company 94
October 4, 2005 Box 2364

Ladder Company 48
October 4, 2005 Box 2364

Engine Company 262
October 19, 2005 Box 741

Ladder Company 157
November 4, 2005 Box 2416

Ladder Company 170
November 18, 2005 Box 75-2243

Engine Company 307
November 18, 2005 Box 7764

MEDAL AND AWARD DONORS

Dr. Harry M. Archer Medal

This medal was endowed in 1917 by Herman L. Reis, FDNY Medical Officer. The deed of the gift states the medal shall be awarded every three years to a holder of a James Gordon Bennett Medal during the preceding three years. Cash award of \$500 donated by The Kenneth H. Straus Fund of the Fire Foundation of New York. This organization was established in 1968 by a group of prominent New York businessmen, in the interest of rewarding our FDNY members who perform acts above and beyond the call of duty. (Page 11)

James Gordon Bennett Medal

In addition to the Bennett Medal, first awarded in 1869, the Commissioner Robert O. Lowery Award of \$600 is provided by the late Honorary Deputy Chief Bertram Brummer and his wife, Susie. The recipient also is awarded \$1000, donated by The Kenneth H. Straus Fund of the Fire Foundation of New York. The organization was established in 1968 by a group of prominent New York City businessmen, friends of the FDNY, in the interest of rewarding Fire Department members who perform acts above and beyond the call of duty. (Page 13)

Brooklyn Citizens Medal/ FF Louis Valentino Award

In 1896, a committee of Brooklynites endowed this medal "to be given to the most deserving Fireman in the Brooklyn Fire Department, as he shall be selected by the Fire Department of the City of New York." An award of \$500 is donated by The Kenneth H. Straus Fund of the Fire Foundation of New York. This organization was established in 1968 by a group of prominent New York City businessmen, friends of the FDNY, in the interest of rewarding Fire Department members who perform acts above and beyond the call of duty. The recipient also is awarded the Firefighter Louis Valentino Award, a medal endowed in 1998 by Diane Valentino and the Valentino family. The recipient also will receive a gift of \$300. (Page 14)

Hugh Bonner Medal

Endowed by the Reverend James Johnson, Fire Chaplain assigned to Grace Church, and named in honor of Chief Hugh Bonner, "a stalwart Chief of Department who preferred to rule by example." The medal first was awarded in 1897. In addition, an award of \$250 is made by the Joseph Reich Memorial Fund, a trust fund recognizing "outstanding heroic service rendered by members of the Department." This organization was established in 1968 by a group of

prominent New York City businessmen, friends of the FDNY, in the interest of rewarding Fire Department members who perform acts above and beyond the call of duty. (Page 15)

Emily Trevor/Mary B. Warren Medal

These sisters, in their deed of gift, wrote "...for the purpose of encouraging the members of the force in the exercise...of heroic endeavor under circumstances of special danger." Awarded for the first time in 1899. In addition, an award of \$250 is made by the Joseph Reich Memorial Fund, recognizing "outstanding heroic service, rendered by members of the Department." This organization was established in 1968 by a group of prominent businessmen, friends of the FDNY, in the interest of rewarding Fire Department members who perform acts above and beyond the call of duty. (Page 16)

Thomas E. Crimmins Medal

Mrs. May M. Burke provided in her will for the endowment of this medal in memory of her father, a contractor, builder, loyal New Yorker and the son of a volunteer firefighter. First awarded in 1912. Also awarded \$500, donated by The Kenneth H. Straus Fund of the Fire Foundation of New York. This organization was established in 1968 by a group of prominent New York City businessmen, friends of the FDNY, in the interest of rewarding Fire Department members who perform acts above and beyond the call of duty. Also awarded \$200 by Honorary Deputy Commissioner Dorothy Marks, in memory of the late Jeffrey S. Childs, great-great-grandson of Thomas E. Crimmins. (Page 17)

Thomas A. Kenny Memorial Medal

Honorary Deputy Chief William F. Kenny endowed this medal in memory of his father, a Battalion Chief who served in the Department, faithfully and conspicuously, from 1876 until 1903. It is given as a "perpetual token of zeal and enduring interest." First awarded in 1918. Recipient also is awarded \$500 by the Honorary Fire Officers Association, a line organization of the FDNY. (Page 18)

Walter Scott Medal

Colonel Walter Scott, a successful New York merchant, was intensely interested in the city's protective forces. In 1920, he endowed a medal for valor bearing his name, to be awarded annually to a member of the FDNY. Recipient also is awarded \$500, donated by The Kenneth H. Straus Fund of the Fire Foundation of New York. This organization was established in 1968 by a group of prominent New York City business-

men, friends of the FDNY, in the interest of rewarding Fire Department members who perform acts above and beyond the call of duty. (Page 19)

John H. Prentice Medal

This medal is the gift of Mrs. Marion Prentice Brookman in memory of her father. The medal is for "an act of intelligent bravery." First awarded in 1921. Recipient also is awarded \$1000. (Page 20)

Henry D. Brookman Medal

Mrs. Marion Prentice Brookman, in making this award possible, wrote, "...to help the authorities in installing into the Department the fact that the service rendered by the firefighters is of a character held in high esteem by the people and to perpetuate the old fealty and admiration held by the late Henry D. Brookman for the FDNY." First awarded in 1921. Recipient also is awarded \$1000. (Page 21)

M.J. Delehanty Medal

The founder and dean of civil service schools bearing his name endowed this medal in 1937, "to be awarded annually to a member of the Department whose distinguished service in the line of duty receives recognition by the Board of Merit of the Fire Department." Recipient also is awarded a \$200 savings bond by Honorary Assistant Chief Harvey Ball. An additional \$200 savings bond is donated by Honorary Battalion Chief James Palozzolo. (Page 22)

William F. Conran Medal

Honorary Chief Conran endowed this medal in 1937. His profession of fire protection engineer enabled him to improve the efficiency of firefighting appliances. Recipient also is awarded a \$500 savings bond, donated by Paul and Dennis Sanner, in memory of Frank Muller, FDNY. (Page 23)

Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia Medal

The Honorable Fiorello H. LaGuardia, while Mayor, frequently "turned out" at large fires. He had a keen interest in the problems of fire prevention and extinguishment. First awarded in 1937. Recipient also is awarded \$400 cash, donated by the Uniformed Firefighters Association (UFA). (Page 24)

Chief John J. McElligott Medal/ Fitzpatrick and Frisby Award

Named in honor of the late Chief and Fire Commissioner, Chief McElligott. He joined the Department in 1905 and retired in 1941 after a long and fruitful career. This medal was endowed by William F. Conran and first was awarded in 1937. Recipient is

awarded \$200 cash, donated by Honorary First Deputy Fire Commissioner Brian Mulheren, in memory of his father, Joseph A. Mulheren, a friend of the FDNY. Recipient also is awarded the Fitzpatrick and Frisby Award, a medallion endowed by the Fitzpatrick and Frisby Foundation, in memory of these two firefighters who made the Supreme Sacrifice. Also awarded \$250 cash by the Fitzpatrick and Frisby Foundation. (Page 25)

Thomas F. Dougherty Medal

Chief Dougherty served with the Department from 1888 to 1933 with distinction and honor. In addition to inventing the nozzle that bears his name, he was a colorful member of the Fire College faculty, where he specialized in teaching the technique and efficacy of ventilation. First awarded in 1937. Recipient also is awarded \$100 cash, donated by Honorary Deputy Chief Sidney D. Rosoff. (Page 26)

Albert S. Johnston Medal

Albert S. Johnston was a Captain in the New York Fire Patrol with a record of 50 years of faithful service. Ten years after his retirement in 1927, this medal was endowed by William F. Conran and may be awarded to a member of Fire Patrol. \$100 is awarded in memory of the officers and members of the NYC Fire Patrol who died in the line of duty, donated by Honorary Deputy Chief Edward Pospisil. An additional \$100 cash award is donated by Honorary Deputy Chief Stuart A. Foreman. (Page 27)

Ner Tamid Society/

Franklin Delano Roosevelt Medal

This medal was endowed by the officers and members of FDNY's Ner Tamid Society in honor of the late president. First awarded in 1946. Also awarded \$300 by former First Assistant Commissioner Robert A. Ungar. (Page 28)

Third Alarm Association Medal

The Third Alarm Association, a group of men interested in Fire Department activities, endowed this medal for valor in 1950. A \$200 cash award also is included. (Page 29)

Vincent J. Kane Medal

This medal is named in honor of the late Vincent J. Kane, labor leader and long-time President of the Uniformed Firefighters Association. It was endowed by the UFA before World War II. Also awarded \$400, donated by the UFA. (Page 32)

Brummer Medal

The late Bertram Brummer and his wife, Susie, have had a long-standing interest in the FDNY. Bertram, a member of the New York Stock Exchange, received training during World War II at the Fire Department

College and was assigned to Engine Company 44 in the Auxiliary Corps. In 1961, Bertram and Susie Brummer endowed this medal to be awarded annually for an act of bravery. First awarded in 1962. Recipient also is awarded \$850. (Page 33)

Frank W. Kridel Medal

Awarded by the Hotel Association of New York City to a member of the FDNY in recognition of an act of valor above and beyond the call of duty. In addition, \$500 is awarded by the Association. First awarded in 1962. (Page 34)

Emerald Society Medal

Endowed by the Emerald Society. First awarded in 1965. Also awarded a \$500 savings bond donated by the Society and \$100 donated by Sandy and Terry Sansevero. An additional \$100 is donated by retired Lieutenant James J. Finegan of Ladder Company 48. (Page 35)

Chief Wesley Williams Medal

Endowed by the Vulcan Society. First awarded in 1966. Also awarded a \$250 savings bond, donated by the Society, and \$100, donated by Dr. Jean D. Pratt in memory of her parents, David and Jeanette Small. (Page 36)

Holy Name Society Medal (Brooklyn/Queens)

Endowed by the Holy Name Society (Brooklyn-Queens) in memory of Chaplain Emeritus Very Reverend Monsignor Merrit E. Yeager. First awarded in 1967. Also awarded \$250, donated by the Society. (Page 37)

Hispanic Society Memorial Medal

Endowed by the Hispanic Society as "a memorial tribute to the 12 Brother firefighters who made the Supreme Sacrifice at the East 23rd Street fire on October 17, 1966." First awarded in 1968. Also awarded a \$200 savings bond, donated by the Society. \$100 is awarded in memory of the officers and members of the NYC Fire Patrol who died in the line of duty, donated by Honorary Deputy Chief Edward Pospisil. Also, a \$100 savings bond is donated by Joseph Rodriquez, Founding President, Hispanic Society, Ladder Company 54, retired. The recipient also is awarded a \$1000 savings bond by the Mendez family, in memory of Battalion Chief Anthony Mendez, and another \$1000 bond, donated by N.Y. Hospital. (Page 38)

Captain Denis W. Lane Memorial Medal

Endowed in honor of the late Captain Denis W. Lane. Established by the Honorable Joseph M. Lane and Ms. Joan M.

Lane. Captain Lane was appointed to the Department in 1913. A life-long member of the FDNY Anchor Club, he retired in 1958 after a long and dedicated career. Awarded to a deserving member of the uniformed force in recognition of an outstanding act of bravery. First awarded in 1976. Recipient also is awarded a \$500 savings bond, donated by the FDNY Anchor Club. (Page 39)

Uniformed Fire Officers Association Medal

Endowed in 1977 by the Uniformed Fire Officers Association "for an act of heroism and bravery performed by a fire officer at a fire." Accompanying the medal is a \$500 cash award, donated by the UFOA. (Page 40)

Dr. Albert A. Cinelli Medal

Endowed by the UFA in memory of Dr. Albert A. Cinelli, a longtime friend of the FDNY. Dr. Cinelli was responsible for founding both the Medical and Surgical Specialists Plan and the Surgical Assistance Fund. Serving without salary as the director of both programs, Dr. Cinelli won the admiration and respect of every member of the FDNY. In keeping with these thoughts, this medal has been dedicated to his memory. Awarded for the first time in 1978. Also awarded \$400, donated by the UFA. (Page 41)

Fire Chiefs Association Memorial Medal

The Fire Chiefs Association has endowed this medal to honor the memory of those chief officers of the FDNY who, from volunteer days to the present, have given leadership, inspiration, courage and, sometimes, their lives, to the development of the finest firefighting force in the world. First awarded in 1979. Recipient also is awarded \$300, donated by the family of Deputy Director of Dispatch Operations, Joseph E. Higgins, Jr. (Page 42)

Fire Marshals Benevolent Association Medal

This medal was endowed in 1980 by the Fire Marshals Benevolent Association, to be awarded to a member of the uniformed force for performance of an outstanding act of valor. Recipient also is awarded \$200, donated by William B. Norden. In addition, \$200 in savings bonds are donated by retired FMs Jim McSwigin and Charlie Wagner, in memory of FM Terry Cullen. (Page 43)

Community Mayors, Inc./ Lt. Robert R. Dolney Medal

This medal is sponsored by the Community Mayors, Inc., and is dedicated to the memory of Lieutenant Robert R. Dolney, who gave his life so that others might live. The Community Mayors organization, dedicated to helping handicapped children, will present this medal annually to a member

of the Department who performs an act of bravery in attempting to save the life of a firefighter. However, if an act of this nature does not occur during the year, it then will be presented to a member who performed an outstanding act of heroism. First awarded in 1981. Recipient also is awarded \$300, donated by Dominick Della Rocca. (Page 44)

Battalion Chief

Frank T. Tuttlemondo Medal

This medal is endowed by the members of the 44th Battalion in honor and memory of their late, beloved Chief, who served the Brownsville area of Brooklyn most of his firefighting career and gave his life to save his men. The medal was designed by Firefighter George Guinan, formerly of Ladder 120. It is presented annually to a member of the Department who performs an act of bravery and courage in keeping with the highest traditions of the FDNY. Also awarded \$200, donated by the members of the 44th Battalion. First awarded in 1982. A \$200 cash award is donated by retired Assistant Chief Matthew Murtagh on behalf of Fire Tech Promotional Courses. (Page 45)

Dr. John F. Connell Medal

Awarded since 1983 in honor of the late Dr. John F. Connell, adopted in 1923 by Engine 2, in what was then Hell's Kitchen. With encouragement of firefighters who became his substitute fathers, he received his medical degree. He attended thousands of fires, treating firefighters and civilians without a thought of personal recognition. Endowed by his son, the late John F. Connell, Jr., and first awarded in 1983, the award continues from Rosemary Connell, the widow of John F. Connell, Jr. Included is a \$250 award. (Page 46)

New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal

The New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association, Inc., founded in 1950, is an independent, non-profit and tax-exempt organization, dedicated to promoting the interests of the firefighters of the State of New York. The active Association is affiliated with the New York State Professional Fire Fighters Association and is celebrating 50 years of volunteer service to the Firefighters of New York and their families. The medal, which first was awarded in 1984, is presented every year to a firefighter who has performed with valor. This medal is dedicated to honoring all firefighters who have performed with valor. With this medal, a check for \$1000 also is awarded and donated by the members of the New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. (Page 13)

Fire Bell Club Medal

The Fire Bell Club, the oldest and largest such group in the New York City area,

consists of individuals, both in and outside of the fire service, who have an interest in the FDNY. The Fire Bell Club awards this medal bi-annually as an expression of their admiration and appreciation of the camaraderie that has existed between the FDNY and the Club since its founding in 1939. First awarded in 1984. Also awarded \$300, plus an additional award of \$200 from Honorary Deputy Chief John Davis, a member of the Fire Bell Club. (Page 47)

Firefighter David J. DeFranco Medal

In honor of the memory of Firefighter David J. DeFranco for his dedicated efforts on behalf of the Department. This medal, awarded for a water-related rescue, is presented, along with a \$200 cash award, by the David J. DeFranco Memorial Scholarship Fund. (Page 48)

Lieutenant James Curran/ New York Firefighters

Burn Center Foundation Medal/

Father Julian F. Deeken Memorial Medal
Presented every three years to a unit that received the Lieutenant James Curran/New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal during the previous three years. Endowed by Honorary Deputy Chief Peter Horowitz, each recipient receives a \$200 savings bond. The bond is provided by former Fire Marshal James McSwigin, in memory of the family of Detective Terence L. McSwigin, who perished in a fire on February 3, 1987. Also, a \$100 cash award is donated by Honorary Deputy Chief Stuart A. Foreman. (Page 49)

Lieutenant James Curran/ New York Firefighters

Burn Center Foundation Medal

The New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation is an organization committed to the goals of quality burn care and fund-raising endeavors. Similarly, the FDNY is engaged in safeguarding and improving the quality of life for city residents. It is this semblance of purpose and collaborative spirit that is deserving of recognition. With this in mind, the New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation awards a medal to the most worthy of units in appreciation of "a concentrated super effort based on teamwork." Proceeds for this endowment, as well as a \$100 savings bond for each recipient, are provided solely through the generosity of Honorary Deputy Chief Peter Horowitz, in memory of his father, Samuel Horowitz. (Page 50)

Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Medal

Endowed by the Uniformed Firefighters Association, this medal is named in honor of Firefighter Thomas R. Elsasser, a 20-year veteran of the FDNY, whose firefighting career was cut short in 1990 by his

untimely death. Firefighter Elsasser was a major contributor to UFA charity sporting events. In addition to the medal awarded to the unit, each member receives a medal and \$100, donated by the Thomas R. Elsasser Memorial Fund. (Page 51)

Deputy Commissioner Christine R. Godek Medal

Established and presented by Honorary Deputy Commissioner Dorothy W. Marks and (now-deceased) Honorary First Deputy Commissioner Shelly Rothman in honor of Christine R. Godek, the first female Deputy Fire Commissioner of the FDNY. Presented annually to an outstanding New York City Fire Marshal for unusual display of initiative, improving techniques, resourcefulness and capability in the investigation of arson. Also awarded \$100 by Dr. Jean D. Pratt, in honor of the Juvenile Firesetters Program. A \$350 cash award also is donated. (Page 52)

Firefighter Kevin C. Kane Medal

This medal has been established in honor of Firefighter Kevin C. Kane, who made the Supreme Sacrifice in the discharge of his duties, protecting life and property on September 13, 1991. This medal is awarded annually to a member of the Department who performs an act of outstanding bravery and courage as deemed by the Board of Merit. Also, a \$400 cash award is donated by the Kane family in memory of both Kevin and his father, Assistant Chief Edward J. Kane. (Page 53)

Probationary Firefighter Thomas A. Wylie Medal

This medal is endowed by the members of Ladder Company 18 in honor of their fallen Brother, Probationary Firefighter Thomas A. Wylie, who gave his life assisting in the rescue of more than 20 civilians at a fire in Chinatown. The medal is awarded annually to a Probationary Firefighter who distinguishes himself as Tom did in his brief career. The medal depicts his caricature of a "Can Man," the traditional position of a "Proby." Also awarded \$200, donated by the members of Ladder 18 and Battalion 4, in memory of Dan Franco, Engine 17/Ladder 18. (Page 54)

Captain John J. Drennan Memorial Medal

Endowed by the Viking Association of the FDNY in memory of Captain John J. Drennan, who sacrificed his life in the line of duty. This medal is awarded to members of the Department who perform acts above and beyond the call of duty. A \$200 cash donation also is awarded. (Page 55)