



sanitation news

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DSNY ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

Special Edition

Mayor's Message



Each and every day, the dedicated men and women of the Department of Sanitation help keep our City clean. Whether it's collecting our trash, cleaning our streets, or plowing snow, 'New York's Strongest' are out there working for all of us. Today, we take a moment to say 'thank you' to those who sometimes go unrecognized for their important role in making New York City great. Just try to imagine life without them. Congratulations, Sanitation, for your unsung heroics.

– Michael R. Bloomberg

Commissioner's Message



It is with great pride that I welcome Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Sanitation families and friends to the Department's Annual Awards Ceremony. Today we congratulate Sanitation's best — uniformed and civilian workers alike — whose unflagging efforts make New York a clean, safe, and protected city — truly the Capital of the World.

– John J. Doherty

DSNY OATHS OF OFFICE



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Gary Falconer
Sebastian Grasso
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Dominick Madeo
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Thomas Giovinco
Victor Gonzalez
Frederick Grimaldi
Henry Krause
Roger Leahy
Keith Mellis
James McGovern
George Mclean
Charles Murray
Richard Moffatt
Shari Pardini
Benigno Pena, Jr.
Myron Priestler
James Proscia
Mark Ricci
Gerard Robson
Steven Shallash
Henry Wakie, Jr.

DSNY Employees of the Year Grand Prize Winners

These five Employee of the Year Grand Prize winners take exceptional pride in the performance of their duties. They have unselfishly placed the needs of the agency before their own. They serve as great role models of what truly dedicated employee should be. The Employees of the Year Grand Prize winners were:



General Superintendent I
Sebastian Grasso



Supervisor
William Troche, Jr.



Civilian
Filippa "Phyllis" Barcia



He's Perfect:

Sanitation Worker Loius Gagliotto, or Gags as his co-workers at Brooklyn 11 call him, was given an award for perfect attendance by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Commissioner John J. Doherty. Seventy-six-year-old SW Gagliotto started with the Department in 1957 and has served New York's Strongest for the past 46 years without ever being out sick. He epitomizes the dedicated responsible, and committed employee.



Sanitation Workers

Rodney Wright; Ruben Lopez

Giving Until It Helps:

Levada Rice received the Commissioner's Citation for her dedication as the Department's Blood Drive Coordinator since 1995. Ms. Rice has been with Sanitation since 1978. Ten years later, she became involved in the Department's Blood Drive. Over the years, Commissioner Doherty had taken notice of her work with the blood drive and asked her to become Sanitation's Department Wide Blood Drive Coordinator. It was a responsibility she gladly accepted. Since then, the Department has consistently been in the top five New York City donor groups and received 22 blood program awards. ➡



MEDALS OF HONOR

Gold Medal of Honor - This prestigious medal is given to the employee when he or she clearly risked their own physical safety to come to the aid of another employee or human being.

The Gold Medal of Honor was awarded to:



Sanitation Workers (SW) Robert Gravino and Lucien Rojas, Queens East 12, - While on recycling collection duties on April 5, 2002, Sanitation Workers Rojas and Gravino noticed smoke emanating from a two-family house in Queens. The Sanitation Workers notified their garage and the Fire Department. As they approached the house to warn residents of the danger, they saw three young children standing in a window oblivious to the fire's impending danger. SW Gravino entered the burning building, banged on the doors, and alerted the children and the other residents to leave the house. Meanwhile, SW Rojas scaled the backyard fence in an attempt to rescue an elderly man who was in the back room of the house. SW Rojas broke a rear window with a lawn chair to get air into the room. SW Gravino attempted to enter the room to rescue him but the heat, smoke, and fire proved too much. When the Fire Department arrived, everyone was out of the building except for the elderly man who was removed from the house and resuscitated by firefighters. Because of their combined heroic efforts, lives were saved. They are both recipients of the Department's most prestigious award: the Gold Medal of Honor.



Sanitation Worker Jarritt Scotti, Permit Inspection Unit, - While visiting friends in Astoria, Queens in April 2003, Sanitation Worker Jarritt Scotti heard people screaming that a little boy was drowning in the East River. Upon seeing the child, SW Scotti jumped in the river and rescued the child. A nearby U.S. Coast Guard launch removed SW Scotti and the child from the icy water. Because of his valor, the Department is proud to bestow Sanitation Worker Jarritt Scotti with the Gold Medal of Honor.

Supervisor Rocco Siclari, Bronx Borough Office, - While on duty, Supervisor Rocco Siclari stopped an attempted kidnapping and assisted the police in apprehending an assailant who stole a vehicle with two young children inside. Supervisor Siclari pursued the vehicle which struck a parked vehicle and stopped. Supervisor Siclari then drove his Sanitation vehicle in front of the vehicle to block it. The assailant left the vehicle and ran away. Supervisor Siclari immediately checked on the safety of the two children, removed them from the vehicle, and placed them temporarily in the care of a couple for safekeeping. After reassuring the mother that her children were safe, he joined the police in locating and apprehending the assailant. For his 'heroic' deed of placing the safety of children first, Supervisor Rocco Siclari is a recipient of the Gold Medal of Honor award.



Supervisor Michael Pergola, Brooklyn 14, - While driving on Ocean Parkway in October 2002, Supervisor Pergola noticed smoke coming from the upper floors of an apartment building. Before running into the building to warn the residents of the fire, he called the Fire Department. He noticed heat coming from one apartment and felt that the apartment's door was hot. As he opened the door, he was overcome by smoke. Despite the smoke, he entered the apartment and saw an 80-year old female with a disability, whom he rescued and carried out to safety. Supervisor Pergola exemplifies all the characteristics of a hero. He is the recipient of the Gold Medal of Honor award.

Silver Medal of Honor - This medal is given to the employee when he or she assumed probable risk to their physical safety to come to the aid of another employee or human being.

The Silver Medal of Honor was awarded to:

Sanitation Workers Patrick Carolan and Martin Baier, Queens East 13, - While on collection duties, the Sanitation Workers observed a woman being robbed by two assailants. SW Baier chased the assailants on foot followed by his partner, SW Carolan, who was driving the collection truck. The Sanitation Workers apprehended both assailants and held them for police custody. For their concern for the welfare of another human being, they are awarded the Silver Medal of Honor.

Civilian William Cooke, City Attendant, Bureau of Cleaning and Collection Operations, 125 Worth Street, - After observing that a car had careened into a crowd of pedestrians standing on the corner of Worth Street during the height of the lunch hour on July 8, 2002, Mr. Cooke dragged two pedestrians away from the area of two burning cars to safety. For putting concern for others before his own safety, Mr. Cooke is the recipient of the Department's Silver Medal of Honor.

Sanitation Worker Michael Bristol, Queens West Garage A, - When a van started rolling into the busy intersection of Queens Boulevard as the traffic light turned red heading towards pedestrians crossing, SW Michael Bristol jumped out of the truck, entered the van, and applied the emergency brake preventing the van from moving any farther. The van's operator was unconscious. SW Bristol called for emergency medical assistance and the van's operator was taken to the hospital. For reacting to a potentially harmful situation, Sanitation Worker Michael Bristol is awarded the Department's Silver Medal of Honor.

Sanitation Worker Gregory Williams, Queens East 12, - While on plowing duties during the first major snow storm of the 2003-2004 snow season, Sanitation Worker Gregory Williams noticed smoke and flames coming from the attic of a house along the route. After calling 911, SW Williams entered the burning building and assisted a woman out of the house. He also assisted a man who had jumped from the burning attic. He then helped both of them to safety as they waited for Emergency

Medical Service. Once EMS arrived, SW Williams resumed his plowing and cleared 40 curb miles of snow and ice. For his concern for his fellow human beings, Sanitation Worker Williams is awarded the Department's Silver Medal of Honor.

Bronze Medal of Honor - *This distinguished medal is given to the employee when he or she assumed possible risk to their physical safety to come to the aid of another employee or another human being.*

The Bronze Medal of Honor was awarded to:

Sanitation Workers Robert Meyers and William Murphy, Staten Island 3 - While on regular garbage collection, Sanitation Workers Meyers and Murphy saw smoke coming from a home along their route. The Sanitation Workers alerted the homeowner and then proceeded to extinguish the fire with a garden hose. For their quick thinking, Sanitation Workers Meyers and Murphy are recipients of the Bronze Medal of Honor.

Sanitation Workers Christopher DiPeri and Michael O'Brien, Staten Island 3 - While on collection duties, Sanitation Workers DiPeri and O'Brien heard a woman yelling that she was being robbed by two assailants. The Sanitation Workers called the police and chased the assailants. The Police Department apprehended the assailants and the Sanitation Workers assisted in identifying the suspects.

Distinguished Service Certificate - *An employee may be nominated for this award when an employee is engaged in a good samaritan act that goes above and beyond the call of duty.*

Distinguished Service Certificates were awarded to:

Sanitation Police Officer Joseph Gomez, Sanitation Headquarters, 125 Worth Street - When a child in the lobby was experiencing seizures and was semi-conscious, Sanitation Police Officer Gomez called Emergency Medical Services, administered first aid to the child and monitored the child's condition while awaiting EMS.

Sanitation Workers Andre Cuevas and Norman Eskenazi, Manhattan 8A and 4A - As the Sanitation Workers were servicing a stop at St. Bartholomew's Church, they discovered a gun in the trash. They notified the Police Department which had an Emergency Services Unit nearby at the Waldorf Astoria where the gun was surrendered.

Unit Citation

When the Department gives a Unit Citation, it is for excellence due to a concerted team effort. The Units honored below represent the work of individuals who pooled their efforts to advance the Unit's and Sanitation's mission, which is to enhance the quality of life of a clean, safe, and well-maintained city. The Unit Citation award winners were:

Bureau of Cleaning and Collection

During the 'Blizzard of 03' the BCC Snow Battalion cleared and removed a



record breaking 24 1/4 inches of snow from the city's 6,300 miles of streets and highways using the Department's latest weapon against snow – the snow melter. At the height of the operation, 10 snow melters worked around the city to melt 600 tons of snow an hour each and safely drain it into the city's storm sewer system.

Support Services

This Department proved itself during the 'Blizzard of 03' working in the tandem with the BCC Snow Battalion. Support Services kept the 10 snow melters working so they could melt nearly 50,000 tons of snow.

Enforcement Division

In FY03, the Enforcement Division's Postering Unit cited nearly 25,000 violations of the poster law. Because of their diligent work, a record breaking \$550,000 in fines was collected by the Environmental Control Board. Another result was cleaner streets and a better looking city.

Collector's Items

Our Condolences . . . To the families of Sanitation Worker Keith Bridges, Sanitation Worker Jerry Pizzarello, Sanitation Worker Eva M. Barrientos, and Chief Jonah D. Holley. The DSNY expresses its deepest sympathy for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. **Congratulations . . .** To Newlywed Sanitation Worker **Anika O'Neal-Rose** and her husband Desmond Rose. The couple was happily united on November 9th. Also a belated congrats to **Patricia Perrone** from Public Information and Sanitation Worker **Anthony Sorrentino** who tied the knot in August. Also **RaSheena S. Huffman (Sheni)** from Human Resources graduated from the Police Academy in December 2003. We wish them the best! **Good Times . . .** Sanitation not only hustles and bustles on the streets of New York, but also on the dance floor. The Department had an array of gatherings and parties to attend over the holidays. The African American Benevolent Society hosted its Annual Dinner Dance and the Department hosted its Annual end of year Christmas Party at St. Andrew's Church. **Welcome Back . . .** All 508 Sanitation Workers who had been laid-off in May, have been brought back. **Great Work . . .** The Department's Annual Billy Fund Toy Drive was a success once again. Thanks to the Department, 2700 toys were collected and distributed throughout the City to needy kids. Keep up the great work! **FYI . . .** The book **Journey of Courage** is now available in bookstores. Our Department is highlighted in this collection of influential real-life stories about people in the community and how they have overcome trials and tribulations that may have affected them personally or their communities.

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Vito A. Turso
Deputy Commissioner

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