



SEPTEMBER 11 SPECIAL AWARDS CEREMONY

VOLUME I

CIVILIAN

- Medal of Honor
(Individual and Team)
- Commendation Award
(Individual and Team)
- Exceptional Service
(Individual and Team)
- Special Citation

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CIVILIAN

MEDAL OF HONOR (CIVILIAN)

POSTHUMOUS OR MISSING SINCE SEPTEMBER 11

The following staff lost their lives or have been missing since September 11 and will be awarded the Civilian Medal of Honor.

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Real Estate Department

Elaine D. Duch.....

Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals

Pasquale Buzzelli.....

Genelle Guzman.....

World Trade Department

Leonard Ardizzone.....

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COMMENDATION AWARD (CIVILIAN)

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Ken Greene.....
Michael Guthy.....

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Anthony Giardinia (Contract).....

Engineering Department

Oswald Herrera.....
Paul Johnke.....
Gregory Reszka.....
Brian Stobbie.....
Gordon Tomea.....
James Usher (Contract Employee).....

Financial Services Department

Edward L. Jackson.....
Dennis Switaj.....

Law Department

Daniel D. Duffy.....
Stephen F. Kern.....

Office of the Inspector General

Michael Nestor.....

Operations Services Department

Gerry Cumminskey.....

PATH

John Incampo.....
Martin W. Murray.....
Don Parente.....

Port Commerce Department

Peter Zantal.....

Procurement Department

David Gutierrez.....
Anthony Sebro.....

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Paul Carris.....
Thomas Comerford.....
John D'Amore.....
Dean Mancuso.....
Boris Ozersky.....
Safwat Wahba.....

Treasury Department

Andrew Irving.....
Allan Svidro.....

Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals

Tommy Ficarutta (Contract Employee).....

World Trade Department

David Bobbitt.....
Victor Guarnera.....
Michael Hurley.....
Louis Mastellone (Contractor).....
Alan Reiss
Ray Simonetti.....
George Tabek, Jr.....
Frank Varriano.....
Audrey Williams.....

TEAM

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Chief Financial Officer

Peggy Zoch.....

Engineering Department

Morris Faitelewicz.....

Human Resources Department

Lillian Valenti.....

Law Department

James M. Begley.....

Darrell Buchbinder.....

Michael D. Driscoll.....

Office of the Secretary

Karen Eastman.....

Operations Services Department

James Martinsen.....

Henry Riveros.....

Procurement Department

Anthony Falabella.....

Kathy Leslie Whelan.....

Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals Department

John Drobny.....

World Trade Department

Tom Cancelliere.....

Jeffrey Gertler.....

Mak Hanna.....

Barbara Iannacone-Ramos.....

Richard Pietrusdzki.....

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Aviation

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Law Department

Hugh H. Welsh.....

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Joseph Kucich.....

Operations Services Department

Arlene Bogursky.....

Jack T. Gannon.....

Procurement Department

Lucy Foster.....

Technology Services Department

Bernard Bollettieri.....

Cynthia Horvath.....

Jitendra Mavadia.....

World Trade Department

William Hamann.....

Joseph Napolitano.....

TEAM

Engineering Department

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MEDAL OF HONOR (CIVILIAN)

POSTHUMOUS OR MISSING SINCE SEPTEMBER 11

Joseph Amatuccio, World Trade Department
Jean A. Andrucki, Treasury Department
Richard A. Aronow, Law Department
Ezra Aviles, Policy and Planning Department
Arlene T. Babakitis, Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals Department
James W. Barbella, World Trade Department
Margaret L. Benson, Engineering Department
Daniel Bergstein, Office of the Secretary
Edward Calderon, World Trade Department
Carlos Dacosta, World Trade Department
Dwight D. Darcy, Law Department
Niurka Davila, Technology Services Department
Frank A. De Martini, World Trade Department
William F. Fallon, Port Commerce Department
Stephen J. Fiorelli, Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals Department
Barry H. Glick, Treasury Department
Joseph F. Grillo, Treasury Department
Ken G. Grouzalis, World Trade Department
Patrick A. Hoey, Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals Department
Prem N. Jerath, Engineering Department
Mary S. Jones, Operations Services Department
Deborah H. Kaplan, Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals Department
Douglas G. Karpiloff, World Trade Department
Frank Lalama, Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals Department
Neil D. Levin, Executive Director
Margaret S. Lewis, Law Department
Robert H. Lynch, World Trade Department
Myrna Maldonado, Technology Services Department
Deborah Merrick, Engineering Department
Pete Negrón, World Trade Department
David Ortiz, World Trade Department
Nancy E. Perez, Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals Department
Eugene J. Raggio, World Trade Department
Francis S. Riccardelli, World Trade Department
Kalyan K. Sarkar, Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals Department
Anthony Savas, World Trade Department
Edward T. Strauss, World Trade Department
Lisa L. Trerotola, Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals Department

MEDAL OF HONOR (CIVILIAN) - CONTINUED

POSTHUMOUS OR MISSING SINCE SEPTEMBER 11

Supplemental Staff

John Fisher

Rosa Gonzalez

Susan Miskowicz

Nancy Muniz

Pablo Ortiz

Judith Reese

Simon Weiser

Louie Williams

Retired Employee

Edward T. Keane

**CIVILIAN
MEDAL OF HONOR
(Individual and Team)**

SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM NOMINATION FORM

Nominee Name: Nelson J. Chanfrau

Department: Operations Services Department

Award Category: Medal of Honor (Civilian)

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

On the morning of September 11, 2001, Nelson Chanfrau responded to the World Trade Center after receiving notification that an aircraft had crashed into Tower One. Shortly before arriving at One World Trade, the second aircraft impacted Tower Two. As Nelson entered the lobby of building one, a massive evacuation was in progress, and it was evident that all life safety systems for the complex were severely impaired. At the lobby Fire Command Station, senior Port Authority Police personnel briefed Nelson and a fellow Risk Management staffer, Gerry Cummiskey, that the entire complex was under attack and that firefighters were having difficulty gaining access to the upper floors. With complete disregard of his own personal safety, Nelson assumed Risk Management's on-site command.

In order to assist in the orderly evacuation of the complex, Nelson re-positioned from the One World Trade Center lobby to the Concourse area by the PATH escalators. Gerry Cummiskey assisted Nelson in the PATH Plaza area helping evacuate people to the street and prohibited them from entering the PATH station. While working here Tower Two suddenly collapsed at 10:05 a.m., which threw the area into darkness and filled the air with dust and smoke making breathing difficult. Nelson Chanfrau was trapped in the smoke-filled Concourse amidst the structural debris, collapsed ceilings and shattered store windows. And, to make matters worse, Gerry Cummiskey was now missing. As the dust started to subside Nelson began looking for Gerry but could not locate him. After many minutes in this disorienting environment, Nelson was finally able to locate an exit and make his way to Vesey Street. On Vesey Street Nelson met with PAPD Inspector Tim Norris, and they both re-entered the Concourse attempting to locate Gerry Cummiskey. While inside the Concourse an individual was found buried in the rubble, which they dug out, but he could not walk, and he was then carried to the Vesey Street doors. As Tim Norris and Nelson approached the doors, Gerry Cummiskey met

the group and then went out to the street to get additional equipment. As Nelson and Tim exited the doors, Tower One collapsed at 10:29 a.m.

When Tower One fell onto West and Vesey Streets, Nelson was buried for the second time that Tuesday morning. Once he could establish visual reference Nelson picked himself up, dusted himself off, and he immediately and relentlessly initiated a search for his coworker Gerry Cummiskey, who was now missing. After locating his colleague, who was trapped beneath a vehicle, Nelson was only then made aware that he had a head injury from flying debris.

Gerry Cummiskey and Nelson Chanfrau made their way to West Broadway where Nelson was attended to by an EMS ambulance for his head injury. After being stabilized Nelson was transported to the HT NY Plaza by a HT electrical supervisor and was then transferred to a PAPD vehicle to be expedited to the Saint Francis Hospital Emergency Room for treatment where he received 60 stitches for his head wound. After signing himself out of the ER with a severe head wound, back injuries, fractured ribs, fractured foot and numerous cuts and burns, Nelson Chanfrau immediately returned to duty and reported to the Emergency Operations Center at the JSTC to lead Operations Services' rescue and recovery efforts.

Nelson Chanfrau represents the essence of the American spirit and the Port Authority. Although he had sustained injury, Nelson picked himself up and sought out his missing coworker and then carried on with his duties after receiving medical attention. Actions such as Nelson's are what inspire us all during the most trying of times. In recognition of his heroic actions and subsequent leadership activities, we nominate Nelson J. Chanfrau for the Port Authority's Medal of Honor.

**Please return this form to Denise Means, 225 Park Avenue South, 18th Floor,
New York, NY 10003 no later than April 2, 2002.**

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Elaine D. Duch

Department: Real Estate

Award Category: Medal of Honor (civilian)

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

On September 11, 2001, at 8:46 am, Elaine Duch, a Senior Administrative Secretary in the Director's Office of the Real Estate Department, was in the elevator vestibule on the 88th floor of One World Trade Center. She had left her work station to greet a messenger with a long-awaited, large delivery of documents related to the net lease of the complex on July 24. When the first plane crashed into the north façade of the building, Elaine was engulfed in flames caused by the jet fuel that had ignited. She ran back into the Real Estate Department's offices, where two of her colleagues frantically extinguished the flames from her burning clothes. Elaine suffered third degree burns over more than 75% of her body. The messenger she was to meet perished.

While other staff, some of whom also perished and are honored today for their bravery, scouted out and cleared a passage for evacuation, Elaine, with life-threatening injuries and in serious shock, waited courageously with her colleagues. Elaine made her way down the entire 88 flights of stairs and out to Vesey Street with assistance from her colleagues, but walking every step on her own. As she was being transported to St. Vincent's Hospital, her condition being grave, a priest administered to her the last rites.

Elaine then began her long, difficult journey to a remarkable recovery, a journey she continues today. In a medication-induced coma and connected to life support equipment, Elaine received seven skin graft surgeries and battled bacterial infections and pneumonia. Then, as a holiday gift to her family and friends, Elaine awoke on December 29 and ate a hamburger a week later. After three and a half months in a coma, Elaine was "out of the woods." She starred in a hospital press conference in mid-January when she was transferred full-time to a rehabilitation center where she began the arduous task of learning how to use her body again. She also faced additional bone surgeries. Elaine is still recovering, and she continues to be an inspiration to all of us in the aftermath of September 11.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

NOMINEE NAME: PASQUALE BUZZELLI

DEPARTMENT: TUNNELS, BRIDGES & TERMINALS

AWARD CATEGORY: MEDAL OF HONOR

DESCRIPTION OF EXTRAORDINARY ACT/CONTRIBUTION:

Pasqual worked on the 64th floor of One World Trade Center. That day he and Bill Fallon of the Port Commerce Department were riding up in the elevator from the 44th floor Sky lobby when the elevator car shook violently and then dropped. At first they thought it was a mechanical failure of the elevator but when the elevator doors opened up on the 44th floor, it was mayhem. They could not see more than five feet past the elevator due to the heavy dark smoke in the lobby. They heard people screaming, "What the hell is going on". Their instinct at that point was to step back into the elevator and get off that floor as soon as possible.

The elevator they had just stepped off of was lit and functional and they decided to go to the 64th floor since the Agency Command Center and Pasqual's office were located on that floor. They met up with Pat Hoey and other staff who were trying to determine what had happened. Pasqual decided to call his wife at home and tell her that he was all right. He asked her to put on the television and tell him what was happening and she said, "A plane hit the building ...towards the top".

When he got off of the phone, he noticed some people were wetting down coats and towels and putting them at the base of the main doors. He joined them and started looking for masking tape and anything else he could find to seal up the doors so no further smoke would enter the floor. He went with Pat Hoey to the opposite side of the floor, where it was dark and smoky and where they found an open door, which was letting a lot of smoke onto the floor. They shut the door and sealed it with tape. The lobby at the time was very heavy with smoke and was difficult to breath without having a mask or wet cloth covering your mouth. It was at that time he walked over to the conference room located on the southeast corner of the building and he looked down. He saw small fires on the rooftops across the way and fiery debris falling from the Towers.

It wasn't until the smoke started to get heavier on the floor that they realized it was time to go. Pasqual and Steve Fiorelli decided to remove the tape on the north side lobby doors and go into Stairwell B to see the condition of the stairs. To their surprise, they saw a well lit stairwell with very little smoke. They went back onto the floor and reported the condition of the stairs to the rest of the group.

At about 10:10AM they had gathered up flashlights and wet cloths and were ready to make their decent. They took a head count, which amounted to 16 of them. Pasqual was leading at the front of the line, with Rosa and Genelle directly behind him, then Simon, Lisa, Debbie, Susan, Franco and others. Steve and Pat were at the end of the line. As they entered the stairwell, they were feeling relieved that the conditions were pretty good and that they were empty. As they descended Pasqual would report up to the others the condition of the stairs as far down as he could see. Everyone was calm and they were moving at a very good pace. They had made their way down to the lower floors when the building began to shake and he heard a tremendous loud pounding noise from above. He said it sounded as if heavy objects were being dropped right above his head. In order to protect himself as much as possible, he dove into the corner of the stairwell directly below the landing above. As he was falling, he felt the walls buckle on top of him. He felt a free falling sensation as gusts of debris filled wind hit him. He felt the walls separate and move away from him. He then became unconscious.

The next time Pasquale's eyes opened he was outside and lying on top of a debris pile a hundred feet high. Fire and smoke all around him. He saw no other human beings and thought he would surely burn to death. He thought of his wife at home who was seven months pregnant with their first child, and it gave him hope and determination to survive. He called out again and again and finally firefighters located him, but the dangerous rescue effort entailed many hours of careful climbing over jagged steel. Pasquale was taken to the hospital where he was treated for extensive leg injuries, including a broken foot. It was only later that Pasquale learned that 14 of his co-workers perished that day. In spite of his severe injuries and emotional trauma, Pasquale insisted on returning to work in a matter of weeks so that he could begin the healing process with his fellow co-workers.

Out of all the darkness and death, two months later there was a brilliant beam of light when Pasquale's child was born – a beautiful baby girl named Hope!!

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

NOMINEE NAME: GENELLE GUZMAN

DEPARTMENT: TUNNELS, BRIDGES & TERMINALS

AWARD CATEGORY: CIVILIAN MEDAL OF HONOR

DESCRIPTION OF EXTRAORDINARY ACT/CONTRIBUTION:

She lay amid the rubble of Ground Zero for 27 hours, her head sandwiched between concrete pillars and her legs pinned down by a staircase. In that seemingly endless period of time, Genelle Guzman was convinced that she was going to die. She thought, she would starve or suffocate in this crushing grave.

But somehow, Ms. Guzman was found alive. She was one of the last of just five people to be found still breathing amid the devastation of the destroyed World Trade Center.

On September 11th she was at her job on the 64th floor, when the airliner came crashing through. After she and 15 colleagues waited an hour, they sensed that staying put might not be the best idea and began to descend. They all were scared: all the way down, firefighters on their way up were warning them to be careful.

Genelle held her friend Rose Julia Gonzalez tightly by the hand. As they reached the lower floors, she asked her to help her take off her shoes. And then, boom....they fell to the ground. They were still together. Then Rosa kind of moved away, and Genelle moved away, and then everything started crumbling faster and heavier. Genelle stayed in a corner of the stairwell as everything just kept falling. Then she was alone in terrifying silence.

She went to move her head, but it was stuck between two concrete pillars. She tried to move her legs, but all the concrete from the staircase had her legs pinned down.

She was yelling in the hope that she might be rescued. No one heard her on that day, and it became dark and still no one came. She asked God to show her a miracle... and it so happened that she heard noises, like people moving debris and yelled out, and someone answered back, and then yelled again, and someone answered.

She took a piece of concrete and started knocking the staircase. Rescuers heard the knocking and then they started to come closer. She pushed her left arm through a little crack in the debris above her, and she felt someone hold her hand. The Firefighter said, "I got you" and she said, "Thank God".

How does someone survive under these circumstances? Courage, will, faith and her constant thoughts of her only child Kimberly. Five weeks and four surgeries later, Genelle was released to go home. Her long recovery process is underway.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Leonard Ardizzone

Department: World Trade

Award Category: Medal of Honor

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Lenny Ardizzone was the Chief Maintenance Supervisor in the World Trade Department responsible for the general maintenance, painting and landscaping at the World Trade Center.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, Lenny immediately responded to the Lobby of One World Trade Center after the first plane struck to assist building personnel/rescue workers as well as the PAPD, NYPD and FDNY in the evacuation process. As he was evacuating employees in One World Trade Center, the second plane attacked Two World Trade Center. Building personnel then split into two groups and Lenny ran over to the Two World Trade Center Lobby to evacuate employees from that Tower onto Liberty Street. Lenny was in the Lobby of Two World Trade Center when the Tower collapsed at 10:00 a.m. Found eight hours later by a fireman, Lenny suffered extensive physical injuries requiring a long hospitalization stay and continuing physical therapy.

For his unselfish dedication and commitment to the World Trade Center and its employees without regard to his own personal safety, resulting in severe personal injuries, Lenny is recommended for the Medal of Honor Award.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Godwin Ajala, Larry Bowman, Denny Conley,
Francisco Cruz, Sr., Samuel Fields, Ervin Galliard,
Daniel Lugo, Robert Martinez, Jorge Morron, Ron Hoerner and
Esmerlin Salcedo

Department: Summit Security Services, Inc.

Award Category: September 11th Award for Acts of Valor

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution: Contract Security Manager
Ronald Hoerner and ten (10) of his security officers maintained their posts
and lost their lives in the pursuit of assisting emergency workers
and civilians. Some responded off duty to respond to OCC to assist
in the rescue and evacuation process.

**Please return this form to Denise Means, 225 Park Avenue South, 18th Floor,
New York, NY 10003 no later than April 2, 2002.**

Ronald Hoerner - Resident Manager
Godwin Ajala - Bldg 5 Concourse
Larry Bowman - Bldg 2 OCC
Denny Conley - Bldg 5 Concourse
Francisco Cruz, Sr. - Bldg 5 Concourse
Samuel Fields - Bldg 1 SCC
Ervin Galliard - Bldg 2 Post Relief
Daniel Lugo - Bldg 2 Lobby
Jorge Morron - Concourse Bldg 1-2
Robert Martinez - Bldg 2 Lobby
Esmerlin Salcedo - Bldg 2 OCC

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name:

**Godwin Ajala
Denease Conley
John Bruce Eagleson
Ervin Gaillard
Ronald Hoerner
Robert Martinez
John O'Neill**

**Lawrence Boisseau
James Corrigan
Samuel Fields
John Griffin
Daniel Lugo
Robert Mayo
Esmerlin Salcedo**

**Larry Bowman
Francisco Cruz, Jr.
Richard Fitzsimmons
Philip Hayes
Charles Magee
Jorge Morron Garcia
William Wren**

Department: World Trade

Award Category: Medal of Honor

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Summit Security was the contractor that staffed all of the WTC security posts on a 24/7 basis. On September 11, 2001, the following ten security guards from Summit Security, some assigned to the lobbies of the Towers and some who responded from other locations, continued to assist rescue workers in evacuating the Towers, never thinking of the consequences. All nine were lost when the Towers collapsed. They are: Godwin Ajala, Larry Bowman, Denease Conley, Francisco Cruz, Jr., Samuel Fields, Ervin Gaillard, Daniel Lugo, Robert Martinez, Jorge Morron Garcia, and Esmeril Salcedo.

In addition, their Manager, Ronald Hoerner, who was assisting Douglas Karpiloff, the PA Security Director in the Lobby of Two World Trade Center in the evacuation, also perished when that Tower collapsed.

O.C.S. was responsible for providing Deputy Fire Safety Directors at the WTC. The following five individuals were assigned to specific buildings to monitor fire alarms and to assist in regular fire drills. During an emergency situation, they were responsible for making announcements to the respective area involved, and providing information to responding emergency units. On September 11, 2001, Deputy Fire Safety Directors from Four and Five World Trade Center evacuated the children's day care center and then responded to the lobbies of One and Two World Trade Center to assist their co-workers, Port Authority Police, NYPD, FDNY, and building operations staff in the evacuation of the Towers. In doing so, these individuals lost their lives when the Towers collapsed. They are: Lawrence Boisseau, Richard Fitzsimmons, Philip Hayes, Robert Mayo and William Wren.

Silverstein Properties/Westfield Properties was the net lessee of the World Trade Center effective July 24, 2001. On September 11, two of Silverstein's employees, John Griffin and Charles Magee, were on the 88th floor of 1 WTC. They helped evacuate the Port Authority and Silverstein employees from 88 that had severe damage due to the proximity to the planes impact. On the way down the fire stairs, they stayed behind helping other employees evacuate their floors and in doing so lost their lives. Two other Silverstein employees, John O'Neill, Security Director, and Jim Corrigan, Fire Safety Director, were in the Tower lobbies assisting rescue workers and building personnel in the evacuation when the Towers collapsed. John Bruce Eagleson, Manager, of Westfield Properties

was on the mall and responded back to his office on the 15th floor to get his radio and was evacuating employees from floors in Two World Trade Center, when it collapsed, killing him.

For their unselfish dedication and commitment to the World Trade Center, exemplifying extraordinary bravery in the face of circumstances that led to their deaths, the above-named individuals are recommended for the Medal of Honor.

**CIVILIAN
COMMENDATION AWARD
(Individual)**

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Francis (Frank) DiMola

Department: Aviation

Award Category: September 11th Award for Acts of Valor (Civilian)

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Immediately following the terrorist attack on the North Tower, Frank DiMola took action to protect and calm those that had been sent in to a panic state following the unexpected and life-threatening event. As an Assistant Director in the Aviation Department on the 65th floor of One World Trade Center, Frank immediately began to clear the floor of staff following the crash of the plane in to the tower. With his calm yet authoritative manner, he encouraged staff to gather their belongings and immediately make way to the exits. He took the time to search the floor and ensure that no stragglers were remaining on the floor. Frank then proceeded to the stairwell to begin his descent, but was intercepted in the stairwell by a Bank of America employee who told Frank there was P.A. staff stuck in an elevator on the 73rd floor. Without hesitating, Frank quickly began to climb the stairs up to the 73rd floor and in the direction of the smoke and immediate danger.

Frank arrived at the 73rd floor, which was at this point already filled with smoke, to find several people from P.A. Engineering trying to extricate some individuals stuck in a passenger elevator. He made the conscious decision to assist them and ensure that the passengers reached safety. He and the other members of the "help team" began to scour the floor for parts to wedge open the elevator. Frank dismantled a partition on the floor and took a rod to the elevator to use as a wedge, but this approach did not work. The team collaborated and decided to look for some tools – as this was the parts division of Engineering – and a bolt cutter was located. Through their combined efforts the bolt cutter was used to cut a cable holding back the doors in the elevator and the passengers emerged and began their exit to safety. Frank then rejoined the Bank of America employee and they headed to the stairwell.

During this descent, after most employees had already exited the building, Frank and the Bank of America employee made a conscious point to enter every floor from the stairwell where access was open and yell around on the floor to see if anyone was there or needed help. Thinking only of others, they made their own safety secondary to ensure that no employees were left stranded on a floor. When he and his partner reached approximately the 30th floor, they made the same pattern as before and entered the floor to see if anyone was there. To their surprise, they found two men who were still working sending out faxes and appearing to try to finish some business. Frank immediately began to talk to them and convince them that their safety was at risk and they needed to proceed out the

stairs and exit the building. After a brief discussion, Frank's appeal worked and the men exited from the floor. Frank then again entered the stairwell, only this time to encounter Port Authority police who were climbing back up in to the building in a life saving effort. Frank again made a deliberate decision, putting his own well being out of his mind, to join the police and see if his assistance could be useful to them in what they might encounter. After going only about one floor up, however, there was a great rocking and explosion and all the lights went out in the stairwell, as Building 2 collapsed. The police that Frank was accompanying immediately began evacuation orders and directed Frank to leave the building. It was only at this point that Frank finally began to leave the building more than one hour after the plane struck that morning. He exited the North Tower within only a few minutes of its collapse, and came very close to losing his own life in his courageous efforts to assist others.

For his demonstrated extraordinary valor and heroism for putting his own life at risk to help others, Frank DiMola is hereby nominated for the September 11th Award for Acts of Valor (Civilian).

Please return this form to Denise Means, 225 Park Avenue South, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10003 no later than April 2, 2002.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Ken Greene

Department: Aviation

Award Category: September 11th Award for Acts of Valor (Civilian)

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Following the terrorist attack on the North Tower, Ken Greene, an Assistant Director in the Aviation Department on the 65th floor of One World Trade Center, immediately began to assist his colleagues in evacuating the building. Upon reaching the mezzanine level of One World Trade Center, Ken encountered extreme chaos, with people screaming and crying all around him. Springing in to action and without hesitating for his own safety, Ken offered his assistance to Ernesto Butcher, the Chief Operating Officer, to attempt to quickly clear staff from the building and ensure their speedily reaching safety. Ken positioned himself at the top of the escalator banks on the mezzanine level and, as staff exited the stairwells, he attempted to divert their attention from the bedlam on the plaza, urge them on out of the building and tried to help calm them and ensure their self control in a very riotous and emotional situation. Ken remained stalwart at his post, without considering the implications for him personally, as he assisted in ushering hundreds around the mezzanine and down to the concourse where they eventually were led to safety. Ken was still at his post when the unthinkable occurred and the collapse of Building Two happened. After being knocked to his knees, and attempting to orient himself in a situation that involved thick black smoke, falling debris and burning fumes, Ken found his way to West Street and eventually to the northern waterfront. Again, without thinking of the consequences to him, Ken proceeded toward the command center established at JSTC to continue to provide support to his colleagues and comrades.

For his demonstrated courage and valor in the face of danger, Ken Greene is hereby nominated for the September 11th Award for Acts of Valor (Civilian).

SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM NOMINATION FORM

Nominee Name: Michael Guthy

Department: Aviation

Award Category: September 11th Award for Acts of Valor (Civilian)

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

When a plane struck Tower 1 Mike, who was on the 65th floor, heard and saw pieces of debris falling from his window. He immediately began to leave the building. As Mike approached the mid-50s floor level, he saw a woman struggling in the stairwell above him, unsteady on her feet, and asked her if she needed help. He began walking down the stairs with her when another person joined him in providing assistance. Mike remained on one side of the woman while the other person was on the other side. During their descent they stopped several times in the 40s, 30s and 20s so that she could catch her breath. Her legs gave out several times, but Mike and his companion were always there to support her.

When they reached the 19th floor, the woman indicated that she couldn't walk any further. They stayed on this floor for about 15 minutes so that she could rest. While on the 19th floor fireman established an assembly area, clearly exhausted from carrying their gear up the stairs. Mike went into an office with a fireman who was trying to make a phone call. That's when he first saw what was happening outside.

After stopping with the woman on the 19th floor, they began helping her down the stairs again, stopping at every half floor because her legs were constantly giving out. When they got to the 11th floor they stopped again, remaining on that floor for about 5-10 minutes. Mike went into offices to help a fireman make a call, and then started moving again. The woman had to stop and rest on every half floor going down. Mike and his companion practically carried her by supporting her on each side under her arms. When they got to the 9th floor, they were at the point of no return. A sign on the door said that the next reentry was on the 2nd floor. It was there where the woman had the most trouble. Her legs were constantly giving out. She couldn't walk by placing one foot over the other. Whenever they reached a landing they stopped.

When they reached the 4th floor water began gushing down the stairs. The woman fell a few more times. On the 2nd floor they stood in ankle deep water next to a fireman who was posted in the doorway directing traffic. Suddenly they heard and felt a huge explosion violently shake the building. Tower 2 was falling. The stairway lights went out for a short period of time, and the stairwell was pitch black and quickly filled with

choking smoke. The fireman in the doorway directed them back to the 4th floor, which took a long time because the woman was constantly falling.

When they reached the 4th floor landing they were directed to another stairwell. Again, the woman fell repeatedly. When they finally got back to the 2nd floor, Mike and his companion became separated. Mike and the woman lined up to walk through a pitch, black hallway where rescue workers stood in the doorway. A fireman directed them to walk through a dark corridor, and told them that they would see a light at the end of the tunnel.

Mike began to feel an overwhelming desire to run upon realizing that his companion was gone, but couldn't leave the woman alone. He kept both arms on her and proceeded through a long, dark, narrow passageway. They reached the mezzanine level, and the woman collapsed to her knees. Mike tried to lift her to her feet. He and a second man were able to get her to her feet and they began moving in the direction of people who were yelling at them to follow their voice. They eventually left the mezzanine and headed outside onto the plaza. A fireman standing in the exit doorway of 1 WTC told them to stay close to the overhang of 6 WTC to avoid falling debris.

Once outside, the woman fell several times. A third gentleman stopped to assist them while Mike attempted to orient himself. While the gentlemen supported the woman, Mike picked up and moved large chunks of lightweight metal to clear a path since she was incapable of stepping over even the slightest bit of debris. The woman collapsed for the last time. With the assistance of three other men, they attempted to lift her up again to no avail. Mike walked back to the fireman in the doorway of 1 WTC and told him that they needed a stretcher. He was told not to worry. They lifted the woman in an upright position against the wall of 6 WTC and told her that the fireman would come and get her out. As he started to walk away, Mike told another rescue worker standing near the stairway between 5 and 6 WTC about her, and then walked back to the woman and told her that the firemen were coming. At that point Mike walked down the stairs between 5 & 6 Vesey Street and left the area.

For his demonstrated extraordinary level of courage and compassion in providing assistance to this woman under extremely dangerous and frightful conditions, Mike Guthy is hereby nominated for the September 11th Award for Acts of Valor (Civilian).

Please return this form to Denise Means, 225 Park Avenue South, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10003 no later than April 2, 2002.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Anthony Giardina

Department: Submitted by Chief Financial Office

Award Category: Commendation Award

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Anthony Giardina, an employee of Angel Electric, a contractor for the Port Authority, which had been located on the 62nd Floor of Tower 1, rushed to help others rather than fleeing the building. After the first plane crashed into Tower 1, Mr. Giardina began walking down the stairs to leave the building. On his way down he was asked by a police officer on the 18th floor to return to the 26th floor to assist in the evacuation of several handicapped persons and he complied. He remained on the 26th floor and helped by providing cool liquids to the fire fighters as they administered CPR to individuals in distress. He then began handing out water to tenants walking down the staircase. He remained on the 26th floor assisting in the evacuation until one of the firefighters started yelling at him to get out, having learned that Tower 2 had just collapsed. He started running, got out of the building and continued running in the direction of Canal Street as Tower 1 collapsed narrowly escaping with his life.

For his actions assisting tenants and rescuers at significant risk to himself Mr. Giardina deserves the Commendation Award.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Oswald Herrera

Department: Engineering

Award Category: Special Citation

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

At the time of the collapse of the South Tower, Mr. Herrera, Mike Rowe and a group of other people were still within the concourse level. While the initial reaction of the group and firefighters was to exit the concourse via the Church Street Escalator (by Borders), they were told that the exit was blocked. In the ensuing confusion and in complete darkness, Mr. Herrera took charge and indicated that he knew of another way out of the complex. Mr. Herrera then proceeded to lead the group including some rescuers to the exit. Without his calm and quick action it is possible that the group may still have been in the complex when the North Tower collapsed.

**Please return this form to Denise Means, 225 Park Avenue South, 18th Floor,
New York, NY 10003 no later than April 2, 2002.**

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: James Usher

Department: Employee of E-J Electric

Award Category: September 11th Commendation Award

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Jim Usher carried one man out to Deutsche Bank across Liberty Street, came back to get a second man and ended up on the pavement on Liberty Street when the second aircraft struck Tower 2. He received many small cuts from the debris and found some of the support structure imbedded in the sidewalk beside him. He got the second man to an ambulance and then went for some first aid for himself only to walk out of the hospital when he saw the relative extent of his injuries compared to other much more seriously wounded.

Please return this form to Denise Means, 225 Park Avenue South, 18th Floor,
New York, NY 10003 no later than April 2, 2002.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Edward L. Jackson
Director

Department: Financial Services Department

Award Category: September 11th Awards for Acts of Valor
(Civilian - Individual)

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

From the moment of the initial terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and all throughout the evacuation of his own staff and subsequent assistance to the public at large, Edward L. Jackson exhibited extraordinary valor, heroism, and courage by putting his own life at risk to help others.

In the weeks preceding the attacks, the Financial Services Department's offices on the 63rd Floor of One World Trade Center were in the process of undergoing a full office renovation. While Ed Jackson and the Assistant Director had chosen to remain in their existing offices on the north side of the floor during the renovation period, the remainder of his staff had been relocated from the northwest to the southwest quadrant.

The Port Authority's painting, electrical and maintenance contractors were already on duty in the renovation area when the attack occurred. In addition, a number of external consultants had gathered in the 63rd Floor Departmental Conference Room preparing for a vendor presentation. Upon the impact of the first plane crashing into the North Tower, Ed Jackson immediately took control of the situation by ensuring the safe evacuation of his staff from the other side of the floor, the Port Authority contractor staff on site, and the external consultants, many of whom were unfamiliar with the building's exit points and stairway locations. Once Ed was certain that the entire north and southwest quadrants had been evacuated, he quickly made his way down the stairs, stopping many times to assist other staff in need.

When Ed finally arrived at the concourse level of the building, he quickly joined the Port Authority's management team with their building evacuation efforts. With little concern for his own safety, Ed positioned himself in the corridor leading to the escalator that exited onto the World Trade Center entrance on Church Street and directed the evacuees to safety. During this time, Ed's authoritative presence and

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Dennis Switaj
Project Manager, ETC Financial Services\
TB&T Financial Services Division

Department: Financial Services Department

Award Category: September 11th Awards for Acts of Valor
(Civilian - Individual)

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Immediately following the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, Dennis Switaj ran along the aisle on east quadrant of the 64th floor of One World Trade Center, making sure that no one had been injured. Thinking quickly, he immediately took control of the situation and advised staff to gather their personal belongings and proceed to the stairwells in a calm manner. As Dennis continued down the stairwell, he encountered several members of the Port Authority Police force in the center of the corridor on the 22nd Floor. Dennis immediately went over and identified himself as a Port Authority employee and a member of the Port Authority's Office of Emergency Management. He then asked what he could do to help them.

Officer Richard Rodriguez and Officer Sharon Miller asked Dennis if he knew the layout of the building. The officers said that they were looking for the Emergency Command Center located in the North Tower. Dennis informed the police officers that the Emergency Command Center they were looking for was located on the 64th Floor. Officer Richard Rodriguez asked Dennis if he would be willing to lead the rescue team back up to the 64th Floor. Chief James A. Romito, who was in charge of the rescue team, then authorized Dennis to join the group. With little regard for his own personal safety, Dennis started to lead the team back up the smoke infested stairwell to the 64th Floor. On their way up, the group met Frank DiMola from the Aviation Department, who confirmed that the command center was in an operable status and agreed to accompany them.

The group had climbed up several floors when the whole building started shaking. Chief Romito immediately ordered everyone out of the stairwell and onto the floor.

After a very brief time, Chief Romito received a radio message for all emergency personnel to evacuate the building as quickly as possible. Chief Romito then ordered everyone to evacuate immediately. Dennis proceeded into the stairwell where he saw Paul Carris from the Technology Services Department. Paul was assisting a woman who was having difficulty going down the stairs. Dennis immediately went over and helped Paul escort the woman out of the building. They stopped every couple of floors to obtain oxygen for the woman from the rescue workers. Eventually the two of them made it out of the building and on to West Street where they brought the injured woman to an ambulance. Within three minutes, the North Tower fell to the ground creating mass chaos.

Covered in debris, Dennis eventually made his way up to West Street, where he provided assistance to the Port Authority's Mobile Command Center by delivering and setting up emergency communication equipment.

On September 12th, Dennis joined the agency's Emergency Operations Center at the Journal Square Transportation Center, working 12-hour shifts, 7 days a week for the next several weeks.

For his heroic efforts and outstanding dedication, Dennis Switaj is hereby nominated for the September 11th Award for Acts of Valor (Civilian – Individual).

Note: Chief James A. Romito and Officer Richard Rodriguez were killed in the line of duty.

Submitted by: Edward L. Jackson, Director, Financial Services Department

Please return this form to Denise Means, 225 Park Avenue South, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10003 no later than April 2, 2002.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Daniel D. Duffy

Department: Law

Award Category: Medal of Honor (Civilian)

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Mr. Duffy was in our office on the 62nd Floor of Tower One when the first plane struck the building. There were eight other individuals in the Claims Division office at the time: Julie Curci, Paul Gladis, Nichelle Gracey, Rose Hemmerich, Carleen Hodge, Xiomara Hollingshead, Stephen Kern and Kenneth Lucianin. He assisted in the evacuation of the office, including physically assisting some of the secretaries out while the building was still shaking. Mr. Duffy followed Mr. Kern back into the office to assist him in finding Mr. Kern's secretary, Rose Hemmerich. He and Mr. Kern returned to the office to discover that Mrs. Hemmerich was crouched under her desk. Messrs. Kern and Duffy searched the entire office to make sure everyone had gotten out safely.

Mr. Kern and Mr. Duffy then made their way down to the concourse level and instead of exiting with the rest of the staff, tried to find out where the department heads were meeting. They walked through the concourse to the Police Command Center in World Trade Center 5. They were still there when Tower Two collapsed and were very nearly buried. With the help of police and fire personnel, they were able to escape after the Tower had collapsed.

Mr. Duffy risked his life not once but twice that day. Mr. Duffy did not leave the office until he was personally certain that everyone had gotten out safely. He was in the Police Command center when Tower Two was collapsing above him and before he looked to escape, he looked first for Mr. Kern. Mr. Duffy's devotion to his colleagues and to the Port Authority in general was exemplary and deserving of recognition.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: **Stephen F. Kern**

Department: **Law**

Award Category: **Medal of Honor (Civilian)**

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Mr. Kern was in our office on the 62nd Floor of Tower One when the first plane struck the building. There were eight other individuals in the Claims Division office at the time: Julie Curci, Daniel Duffy, Paul Gladis, Nichelle Gracey, Rose Hemmerich, Carleen Hodge, Xiomara Hollingshead, and Kenneth Lucianin. He immediately directed all staff in the office to evacuate. When he discovered that his secretary, Rose Hemmerich had been left behind, he and Daniel Duffy returned to the office to discover that Mrs. Hemmerich was crouched under her desk. Messrs. Kern and Duffy searched the entire office to make sure everyone had gotten out safely.

Mr. Kern and Mr. Duffy then made their way down to the concourse level and instead of exiting with the rest of the staff, tried to find out where the department heads were meeting. They walked through the concourse to the Police Command Center in World Trade Center 5. They were still there when Tower Two collapsed and were very nearly buried. With the help of police and fire personnel, they were able to escape after the Tower had collapsed.

Mr. Kern risked his life not once but twice that day. His first concern was the safety of his staff, and he and Mr. Duffy risked life and limb to ensure the evacuation of all claims staff. His second concern was his duty to the Port Authority. While others were fleeing for their own safety, Steve was "at his post". His actions that day and in the weeks and months following have brought honor to the Claims Division in particular and the Port Authority as a whole.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Michael Nestor

Department: Office of Inspector General

Award Category: September 11th Commendation Award

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Exiting Tower 1 after an hour and twenty five minute descent from the Inspector General's Office on the 77th floor, Deputy Inspector General Michael Nestor noticed an exhausted woman from a private company also located on the 77th floor who was unable to transgress the accumulated debris outside of and across the entire plaza area which had resulted from the collapse of Tower 2.

Ignoring the urgent warnings of Public Safety Officers to evacuate the area because of the immediate threat of Tower 1 collapsing and with complete disregard for his personal safety Mr. Nestor assisted the immobilized woman across the Plaza by lifting and carrying her to the first of six piles of debris.

At each of the sites he had to place the woman on top of the debris pile then climb over himself and lift her off and proceed to the next. The difficulty in obtaining secure footing caused an awkward motion each time Mr. Nestor repeated this maneuver. As a result he ruptured and crushed two cervical discs.

Despite his pain and suffering, he continued to assist the woman across the Plaza. He then carried her down the Plaza escalator and up Vesey Street to the corner of Church and Barclay Streets where EMS personnel assumed responsibility for her care. Shortly thereafter Tower 1 collapsed.

Michael Nestor subsequently received surgery to fuse the damaged discs. He still suffers varying degrees of pain and discomfort.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Gerry Cummiskey,
Inspection and Safety Division (Risk Management)

Department: Operations Services Department

Award Category: Medal of Honor (Civilian)

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Tuesday, September 11, 2001, started as most days do for Gerry Cummiskey with him arriving early at the PATC for the workday. However, this Tuesday would prove to be unlike any other as shortly after 8:48 a.m. the Port Authority Central Police Desk called to advise Risk Management that an aircraft had struck One World Trade Center. Gerry immediately left his office at the Technical Center and drove through the closed Holland Tunnel in the middle of a PAPD convoy destined for the complex. As Gerry arrived at Vesey Street the second hijacked aircraft impacted Two World Trade.

At Vesey and Church Streets, Gerry was joined by Nelson Chanfrau and Risk Management staffer, Henry Riveros. The group made their way to the Fire Command Station located in the lobby of One World Trade Center. After a briefing with senior Port Authority Police, FDNY Commanders and World Trade Center operating personnel, Henry was detailed to be the Risk Management liaison with an FDNY Battalion Chief. Gerry and Nelson, after a further situation update, both re-positioned from the One WTC Lobby to the Concourse adjacent to the PATH escalators. At PATH Square, both Nelson and Gerry were directing building occupants to the nearest street exit and kept individuals from going down towards PATH. While on-station in this area, Two World Trade Center suddenly collapsed at 10:05 a.m., which caused all the concourse business windows to be blown out, ceilings and structural support members to collapse and day turn into night as smoke and choking dust totally obscured the area. Fortunately, Gerry was able to move and slowly and methodically made his way to Church Street in an attempt to locate Nelson Chanfrau.

Unknown to Gerry, Nelson had made his way out to Vesey Street and re-entered the Concourse area with PAPD Inspector, Tim Norris, searching for him. After checking the

street area, Gerry was convinced that Nelson remained inside and may have been trapped, and he went back in and met Nelson and Tim taking an injured party to the street. Nelson asked Gerry to secure some additional equipment from a PA vehicle, and as he reached the street, One World Trade Center collapsed at 10:29 a.m. Fortunately, Gerry Cummiskey was able to squeeze underneath an FDNY engine for cover but was then trapped underneath by the fallen debris. After digging himself out from under the fire truck, he again found Nelson. Gerry noted that Nelson sustained a serious head injury and was bleeding profusely.

Making their way to West Broadway, Gerry Cummiskey spotted an ambulance and assisted Nelson in so that EMS could attend to his head wound. A Holland Tunnel vehicle delivering supplies to the forward PAPD Command Post then picked up Gerry. After Nelson's condition was stabilized, a Holland Tunnel Electrical Supervisor transported him to the New York Plaza where he was transferred to a PAPD vehicle to be expedited to the Saint Francis Hospital Emergency Room. Gerry was transported back to the PATC where PA Medical cleaned his eyes of debris, provided him with a shower and fresh clothes, and he immediately returned to duty leading Operations Services' Risk Management personnel engaged in the WTC rescue and recovery efforts.

Gerry Cummiskey epitomizes the career Port Authority employee who displayed courage, boldness, and bravery and caring for his fellow employees on September 11, 2001, and for his actions that Tuesday morning, we nominate him for the Port Authority's Medal of Valor.

**Please return this form to Denise Means, 225 Park Avenue South, 18th Floor,
New York, NY 10003 no later than April 2, 2002.**

**SEPTEMBER 11TH SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: John Incampo
Car Inspector
Badge No. 3277

Department: PATH

Award Category: September 11th Commendation Award

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

The attack on the World Trade Center on September 11th was devastating for thousands of people, but there were numerous Port Authority employees who stayed in the buildings and faced danger to help others.

On September 11th, at the time of the attack, John Incampo, PATH Car Inspector, was at the PATH World Trade Center Station, his regularly assigned post. When the first plane struck Tower One, the lights flickered and dimmed and there was an immediate smell of burning on the platform level. John, believing there might be a fire in the tunnel, went to the Car Inspector's equipment locker and returned with a high-power lantern. At that time, the World Trade Center Train Dispatcher informed John that a plane had struck the building and they were instructed to evacuate. Before evacuating, John checked the train left on Platform 3. There he found three passengers seated in the head car waiting to go to Hoboken, and led them out of the Station. At the top of the Concourse escalators, John assisted other people, helping a man with chest pains until they were all safely out of the building.

John then proceeded to Broadway and Vesey Street to await instructions having been unsuccessful in contacting the PATH Control Center by portable radio. It was at this time that Tower Two began to collapse. Hearing the roar, John sought shelter in the doorway of a building to avoid being covered by the debris cloud. When the noise subsided, John found himself covered with dust in near total darkness. He turned on his lantern to peer through the blinding dust that hung over the area. Other survivors, able to make out the beam of John's lantern, made their way to him. John led this group of people North, away from the vicinity of the World Trade Center, using his lantern to make their way through the darkened, debris-strewn streets. Near the Brooklyn Bridge, the dust cloud had dissipated and the people with John were able to make their own way to safety and home.

For repeatedly taking action to insure the safety of the public at great personal risk to himself, and for dispatching his responsibilities as a representative of the Port Authority Trans-Hudson Corporation, in manner bringing great credit to his organization, Car Inspector John Incampo is nominated for the September 11th Commendation Award.

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New York, NY 10003 no later than April 2, 2002.**

**SEPTEMBER 11TH SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: **Martin W. Murray**
 Electrician I
 Badge No. 5450

Department: **PATH**

Award Category: **September 11th Commendation Award**

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

The attack on the World Trade Center on September 11th was devastating for thousands of people, but there were numerous Port Authority employees who stayed in the buildings and continued to do their jobs.

Martin Murray, Electrician, Power, Signals & Communications Division, PATH, exhibited extraordinary valor, heroism, and physical courage by putting his life at risk to help others on September 11th. Among the co-workers he assisted were Sharon Slater and Nancy Tinnirello of the Aviation Department. As they approached the Concourse Level of One World Trade Center, Martin guided them to a safe evacuation of the building, while assisting Sharon up the stairs. He did not leave them until he knew they were out of harm's way. Although they pleaded with him to leave the scene with them, he returned to help others to safety.

After September 11th, Nancy thanked Martin for his courage and quick thinking. Yet always being modest, he stated, "Anyone would have done the things I did." Nancy submitted this nomination for Martin to receive an award for his acts of valor to inform him that not just anyone would have done the things he did. He truly went above and beyond the duty of an electrician (his position at PATH).

For the courage and perseverance Martin Murray shown in the face of danger, he is nominated for the September 11th Commendation Award.

**Please return this form to Denise Means, 225 Park Avenue South, 18th Floor,
New York, NY 10003 no later than April 2, 2002.**

**SEPTEMBER 11TH SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Donald A. Parente
World Trade Department
Elevator Systems Specialist
Employee No. 30556

Department: PATH

Award Category: Medal of Honor (Civilian)

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

The attack on the World Trade Center on September 11th was devastating for thousands of people, but there were numerous Port Authority employees who stayed in the buildings and continued to do their jobs.

On September 11th after the first plane hit Tower One, Don Parente, a member of the World Trade Department Operations Group, immediately began the evacuation of the World Trade towers. Using his knowledge of the World Trade Complex and the elevator systems, in particular, he evaluated the condition of the elevators for the New York Fire Department use, located persons trapped in the elevators and relayed this information to the various rescue units and assisted these rescue units with information about the complex. This information helped rescue some passengers who were trapped in the elevators.

After the collapse of Tower Two, and having been trapped in the dark for a long period of time in the lobby of Tower One, Don found a way out, only to return to inform a co-worker, David Bobbitt, and the trapped firefighters on how to get out. Working their way out of the dark building, working their way through the rubble, and not yet knowing that Tower Two had collapsed, Don and Dave made it out of Tower One. Once they were able to get outside, Don and Dave tried to get back into Tower One to try and find other co-workers to show them the way out. As they were on their way back into Tower One, the building started to collapse. Don and Dave had no choice but to run from the building, knowing that their friends/co-workers were trapped inside

Don and Dave feel that they are the luckiest unlucky people in the world.

For the courage and perseverance shown in the face of danger on September 11th, Don Parente is nominated for the Medal of Honor.

**Please return this form to Denise Means, 225 Park Avenue South, 18th Floor,
New York, NY 10003 no later than April 2, 2002.**

NOMINATION FORM

Nominee Name: Peter Zantal

Department: Port Commerce

Award Category: September 11th Award for Acts of Valor

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Upon reaching the lobby of One World Trade Center Peter did not simply exit the building along with his colleagues. He saw Ernesto Butcher and asked Ernesto what he could do to help. Ernesto asked Peter to staff one of the stairwell doors and direct people on the route to evacuate the building. Peter stood at this post directing hundreds of people to safety, including many of his co-workers, without regard to his own personal safety. Peter was still at his post when the South Tower collapsed. Miraculously, he survived and an image of him emerging from the dust and rubble was published in U.S. News and World Report as an example of both the devastation and heroism of that day.

But Peter's selfless acts didn't end there. Later that day Peter learned that one of our colleagues and Peter's supervisor, Bill Fallon, was among the missing. Peter lived near the Fallon family and took on the task of both comforting the family and acting as their liaison to the Port Authority. He carried out this role even as he dealt with the trauma of his own personal life threatening experience earlier in the day. Later in the week, Peter traveled with the Fallon family from their home in Princeton, NJ to the New York City Medical Examiners office where they learned that Bill had been killed in the tragedy and his body recovered. Again, setting aside his own grief and emotions, he comforted the Fallon family, returned them home, assisted them through the funeral arrangements, guided them through the Port Authority's bureaucracy and, to this day, remains in contact with the family offering assistance and comfort.

For his own selfless acts to assist others without regard to his own personal risk, Peter Zantal should be recognized with a September 11th Award for Acts of Valor.

Please return this form to Denise Means, 225 Park Avenue South, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10003 no later than April 2, 2002.

SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM NOMINATION FORM

Nominee Name: David Gutierrez

Department: Procurement

Award Category: Commendation Award - Individual

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

David Gutierrez is recommended to receive a medal award for his heroism on September 11, 2001 and his subsequent dedicated service to the agency. His story follows:

David Gutierrez exited his office on the 63rd floor of 1 World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 with other Procurement staff. After descending about five flights of stairs, he noticed a large, heavy-set woman whom he'd never seen before having trouble going down the stairs. He knew that this woman would not be able to descend the stairs without assistance and decided to help her. With another individual, David held her up under each arm and started to descend the stairs.

Every couple of floors her legs would give out, so they stopped to give her a chance to catch her breath, moving to the side to let others who were behind them continue down the stairs. They never reflected on their own safe escape from the World Trade Center; their sole focus was in helping this total stranger exit safely. Once she gathered enough strength, they would continue their evacuation. After a short time they heard voices from above yell "over to side." They moved to the side and there were people who he first thought were covered head to toe in black soot, but as they got closer the realization hit him that they were burned. He remembers seeing one man slightly turn his head, and the skin around his neck was cracked to expose the fresh pinkish skin underneath. The circumstances quickly became more dangerous and intense. Everyone was anxious and extremely stressed out. But David persevered. He had made a personal commitment to see this woman through to safety and he had every intention on honoring this commitment.

As they continued down the stairs there were sounds of metal straining coming from above and the occasional smell of jet fuel and what he could only describe as industrial solvent. They ran into a PA operations person who was communicating on his radio. He overheard something on the radio about a second plane, but the PA operations person got

SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM NOMINATION FORM

Nominee Name: Anthony Sebro

Department: Procurement

Award Category: Commendation Award - Individual

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

On September 11th, Anthony Sebro, a job shopper assigned to the Construction Contract Division of the Procurement Department, was one of many individuals who were able to successfully evacuate from the 72nd floor of Tower I. While in the Concourse area he was blown through the glass partitions and sustained injuries and large pieces of glass were embedded in his back and legs. Despite these injuries, Anthony, along with another unidentified man, attempted to assist a woman who was lying on the Concourse floor and bleeding. While they were approaching the injured woman, the other man fell through a hole. Anthony hoisted the woman on his back and escaped to the surrounding streets where he collapsed. Thereafter, emergency service personnel attended to their injuries and both Anthony and the woman were hospitalized.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: **Paul Carris**

Department: **Technology Services Department**

Award Category: **September 11th Commendation Award**

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Prior to September 11th, 2001 Paul Carris and Judith Toppin had not met, even though they both worked in Technology Services. On that day, however, not only did they meet, but Paul did for Judith what most people never experience in a lifetime – he saved her life while placing himself in great jeopardy.

During the past few years, Judith has been subject to a number of life-threatening medical problems, such as severe cardiac and breathing problems, which have left her with an implanted cardiac defibrillator and edema, rendering her significantly unable to function in times of crisis. Both were on the 71st floor; when the plane hit the building, Judith's defibrillator immediately activated, giving her an electric shock of several jolts, and throwing her body forward from where she was standing. Paul not only came to her rescue, but also volunteered to assist her in making what she knew would be one of the most arduous journeys of her life. Judith was having problems breathing and, due to severe swelling of her legs from the edema, she doubted that she would be able to walk down the 71 floors. Paul, however, would not accept that as an answer and he forced Judith to get up and start walking down with him.

Several times during their descent, Judith begged him to leave because she felt her slow progress was jeopardizing him, and she realized that time was of the essence if he was to save himself. Paul bluntly refused to leave, telling Judith that they were both going to walk out of the building together. During the descent, Paul carried the weight of Judith's body against his all the way down, shielding her from other individuals who were running down the stairs desperately trying to get out as quickly as possible. He found a face-mask to help her breathing, he found water to cool her body, he begged firefighters for some of their air to help her breathing, and when her defibrillator kept shocking her, he would pull her towards him so as to keep her from falling forward, absorbing some of the force with his own body.

When they were somewhere in the vicinity of the 25th floor, Dennis Switaj – who had been leading police staff to the emergency operations center - met up with Paul and Judith, asking if he could help. Since there were still many floors yet to go, his help was gratefully accepted and for the rest of the way down, Dennis helped encourage Judith to keep going and provided support in case Judith started to fall. When they finally made it to lobby of 1 WTC, Dennis joined Paul in supporting Judith under her other arm until they got to Vesey Street, since Paul had the presence of mind to move towards West Street rather than going towards the Concourse as they saw so many doing. Upon exiting to the street, Paul advised Dennis that he and Judith could proceed together without Dennis' assistance and, after stopping briefly to get Judith some oxygen from one of the ambulances in the area, they did so. As they rounded

the corner near the Hudson River, Tower One collapsed. It had taken almost 90 minutes to descend from the 71st floor, and they were among the very last people to come out of the building alive.

Paul, although not hurt, remained with Judith, taking the ambulance trip to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in upper Manhattan. He did not leave her side until he was sure that she was getting the care that she so desperately needed. In Judith's own words: "I made a new life friend that day, but I think of Paul as more than just a friend. He was my guardian angel. In my opinion, Paul personifies that which each of us must try to achieve in our lives. Giving importance to my existence by genuinely caring for me, a fellow human being, having great courage and perseverance in the face of grave danger, places Paul a cut above the rest of us. My family and I are forever grateful to him." For his extraordinary action of putting his own life at risk to save his fellow staff member, Paul Carris is nominated for this award.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Thomas Comerford

Department: Technology Services Department

Award Category: September 11th Commendation Award

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Immediately upon the occurrence of the events of September 11 and during the decent in One World Trade Center Mr. Thomas Comerford remained calm and aided the orderly evacuation by providing assistance, reassurance and stability that helped others to overcome fear, shock and confusion. On a number of occasions during the slow decent Mr. Comerford distributed water to those evacuating, ignoring his own needs, while focusing on the well being of those around him.

Most significantly, while descending in One World Trade Center, after encountering numerous 'stand stills' and finally reaching the 17th floor, Mr. Comerford, in the face of uncertainty, grave danger and without regard for himself turned around and headed back up to the agency's Security Control Center on the 22nd floor to provide command and control support.

These actions provided critical support in a life-threatening situation, demonstrated Mr. Comerford's concern for others without regard for his own safety, and showed his dedication not only as an employee but also as a Port Authority family member.

While in the Security Control Center, Mr. Comerford was not notified of the FDNY evacuation order nor the fact that others outside the Operations Command Center had evacuated. As One World Trade Center began to collapse Mr. Comerford began his own evacuation, exiting the building minutes before its total collapse.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: **John D'Amore**

Department: **Technology Services Department**

Award Category: **September 11th Commendation Award**

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

When John finally got down from the 71st floor to the plaza, the plaza was filled with the remains of 2 WTC and small fires were burning everywhere. It was nearly impossible to get over all the steel, concrete and small fires that blocked his way. Pieces of buildings were crashing down around him and only the overhang of the building saved him. There was a woman sitting directly in the path of his escape across the plaza. People were moving slowly around her. When he got to that point and looked at this poor woman, she was Barbara MacDonald. She worked in the same department on the same floor. He stopped, along with a two others to help her. They tried lifting Barbara but they couldn't do it because they were completely exhausted and she had all but given up. They tried inching her along but her legs constantly gave out from the stress of the walk down from the 71st floor. While some guys cleared pieces of debris in front of Barbara, John and the others grabbed her around the waist and continued to try to lift her along. They were too weak to move her but they stayed with her. Miraculously two policemen arrived and with the five of them were able to move her along a little better, but still there was no way they were going to make it all the way. The policemen were telling those of them who could to run but John didn't listen to them. When he resisted, they told him to find a fireman with a stretcher. He ran ahead to do what they said. He found a fireman about a hundred feet ahead but no stretcher. Instead, they found a chair from one of the plaza restaurants and hoped she could be carried in that. Someone brought the chair back but it did no good. He stayed with the fireman pleading with him to radio for a stretcher. A few minutes later, a stretcher did arrive. It was only John, 2 policemen, 1 fireman, and Barbara on one side under the overhang and two firemen on the other side. The open space was about 50 to 75 feet. They looked up to find a time where they could make it across that space without being killed by falling debris and finally made a run for it. They were able to get Barbara out of danger and she was then handed off to the firemen.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Assisted Evacuation of Disabled Staff by TSD Staff

Nominee Name:

Dean Mancuso,

Department: **Technology Services, Comptroller's**

Award Category: **September 11th Commendation Award**

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Donna Enright, Stacey Willner, and Rich Cesario were on the 71st floor of the World Trade Center when the first plane hit. Instead of immediately heading for the staircase and starting their descent, they sought out their staff with disabilities to ensure that they were able to make their exit. Omar Rivera, a sight-impaired staff person, who also has a seeing-eye dog Salty, was still on the 71st floor. They guided Omar and Salty to a staircase and walked down the entire way, calming the dog and assisting Omar through the debris-ridden stairwell and concourse to the street. Once at the street level, they assisted Omar in getting to safe resting place and ultimately transportation that evening home.

Dean Mancuso of the Comptroller's Department was in a PeopleSoft training class on the 78th floor of World Trade Center. Vivian Yacu, a sight-impaired staff person in the Technology Services Department, was also in the class. When the plane hit, rather than just thinking of himself, Dean guided Vivian to safety, greatly impeding and delaying his own exit and putting his own life at risk. Throughout the decent, he calmed Vivian's fears and insisted that he would not be leaving her side until they were both out of the building.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Boris Ozersky
Department: Technology Services Department
Award Category: September 11th Commendation Award

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

On September 11th, like so many of her colleagues working on the 71st floor, Marlaine Lavine was working in her office when the plane hit Tower 1. Ceiling tiles began to fall, a picture hung outside her office came crashing down, and outside the window, papers, phones and debris of all types were swirling in the wind. Instructions were quickly given to evacuate the floor and Marlaine proceeded to the nearest stairway.

Marlaine met many colleagues from other departments on the way down. Someone had a cell phone and let others know that a second plane had hit Tower 2, at which point everyone concluded it wasn't an accident, but some type of attack. People remained relatively calm and gave assurances to those who were upset. They moved to the right on the staircase to make room for those injured and people assisting them. Marlaine was okay but began to feel sciatica twinges approaching the 35th floor. She hadn't experienced this malady in more than ten years but walking down over 30 flights of stairs rapidly put significant pressure on this nerve. She began pausing at landings and, around the 30th floor her left leg began to buckle. Grasping the banister with both hands, she slowly continued down. Then, the sciatica started on her right leg as well and she was close to collapsing on the landing without banister support.

Fortunately, Boris Ozersky happened to walk down to where she was at that point and offered his support. Leaning on him and another unidentified gentleman who disappeared later on, Marlaine made her way down stairs. Although fire fighters at the 10th floor landing had a sofa at the landing door, she decided not to stop and rest but to continue down. Boris helped her through the Concourse and out to Church Street, where they stopped for water provided by the Millennium Hilton and to rest. Just as Marlaine got up to begin walking again, there was a terrible roar. Boris grabbed her hand and said, "Run."

Marlaine was quickly knocked down and buried under rubble on the periphery of the Tower 2 collapse. Somehow she dug herself out, minus skirt and shoe. She was half walking and half crawling up Fulton Street when a doorman from the Millennium came to her assistance and Boris, who didn't get very far himself, came back to look for her. They struggled to the Broadway branch of Chase Bank and hid under desks amid clouds of dust and debris from the collapse of Tower 1. As the dust cloud subsided, people began leaving to distance themselves from the site. Boris insisted on staying with

Marlaine when she had great difficulty standing up and walking. Around noon, EMTs from the Fire Dept. came and wanted everyone to move to the basement, as they were unsure of the structural integrity of the bank building. At this point, Marlaine couldn't walk at all; her legs were very bruised and bleeding and the EMTs insisted that she be hospitalized. For his assistance in supporting her in getting downstairs, coming back to find her after the Tower 2 collapse as well as staying with her until she received medical assistance, Marlaine and her family are eternally grateful to Boris, who put his own life at risk to ensure Marlaine's safety.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Safwat Wahba

Department: Technology Services Department

Award Category: September 11th Commendation Award

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

On September 11th, when the first plane struck One World Trade Center Mr. Wahba, after ensuring that his staff on the 71st floor of that building were evacuating, proceeded to descend. During his descent he provided assistance and comfort to those with him. Upon reaching the concourse level Mr. Wahba passed a woman who could no longer continue to walk as her legs were weak from her descent and they would not support her own weight. Mr. Wahba, at great risk to himself, delayed his departure from the World Trade Center Complex and stopped to provide whatever help he could. He took hold of the woman, a person he did not know – but would turn out to be a fellow Port Authority employee, and walked her across the concourse, in the midst of the chaos, in search of medical assistance. On Church Street they found an Emergency Medical Service crew who attended to the woman. Mr. Wahba, ignoring his instinct and the instruction of emergency response personnel to leave the area, stayed with the woman until the EMS crew had released her. He then decided that they should travel east, away from the complex. As they did World Trade Center Two collapsed sending enormous amounts of debris in their direction and creating fear and confusion. He tried to move himself and the woman more quickly east, and hopefully out of the path of the debris, but that was impossible. He protected her from the debris. At this point the woman began to have great difficulty breathing – Mr. Wahba immediately escorted her to NYU Downtown Hospital, again delay his own evacuation from a very uncertain situation. He remained with her while she was being treated and was, in time, successful in contacting the woman's family. He remained with her at the hospital until released and eventually escorted her over the Brooklyn Bridge to the safety of her family.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: **Andrew Irving**

Department: **Treasury Department**

Award Category: **September 11th Commendation Award**

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

On the morning of September 11, 2001, in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, Andrew Irving, Treasury Department, assisted another evacuee who he observed was having problems descending the stairs and had difficulty breathing. Disregarding his own personal safety, he stayed behind and slowed his exit in order to stay with the individual and provide assistance. He was seen literally carrying the woman down several flights of stairs. After an extended trip down more than sixty stories, as they exited the building, they were assisted by EMS. The individual that Andrew was assisting declined hospitalization, so together they started to make their way uptown.

When Two World Trade Center collapsed, Andrew began to run while carrying the woman to avoid the debris cloud and the havoc. Another person helped them for a few blocks, but eventually the individual could no longer walk. Andrew, thinking quickly and desperate for any solution, stopped at a hardware store, purchased a hand truck and proceeded to wheel the woman as far away from the building as possible to safety. They ultimately traveled uptown to the ferry station at about 40th Street. Eventually, they both got home safely to New Jersey.

It is for these reasons that Andrew Irving is nominated for the September 11th Commendation Award.

**Please return this form to Denise Means, 225 Park Avenue South, 18th Floor,
New York, NY 10003 no later than April 2, 2002.**

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Allan Svidro

Department: Treasury Department

Award Category: Medal of Honor (Civilian)

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

On the morning of September 11, 2001, in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center's twin towers, while thousands of World Trade Center employees and visitors were in stairwells evacuating the buildings, Allan Svidro, of the Treasury Department, after having made his way down the stairwell, was seen ascending the stairwell accompanying Port Authority Police officers, including Police Captain Kathy Mazza and Police Chief James Romito. Having offered his assistance to the Port Authority Police, Allan was en route to the 64th Floor command post where the police, with the assistance of Allan, were planning to establish communications to facilitate the evacuation of the building and to aid in the rescue efforts already underway. Allan and the Port Authority police were in the vicinity of the 28th and 29th Floors when Tower Two collapsed at which time the police ordered Allan and firefighters to exit the stairwell so that the situation could be assessed. Shortly thereafter, the police ordered all emergency personnel to evacuate Tower One and Allan descended a stairwell that had lost all emergency lighting, in the company of police officers and firefighters.

Allan exhibited extraordinary selfless courage by offering his assistance to Port Authority police and placing his personal safety at risk by climbing the stairwell while many other building employees and visitors were evacuating. As a civilian not trained in emergency procedures, Allan was expected to evacuate but he chose to stay and assist the rescuers.

It is for the above reasons that Allan Svidro is nominated for the Medal of Honor Award (Civilian).

Please return this form to Denise Means, 225 Park Avenue South, 18th Floor,
New York, NY 10003 no later than April 2, 2002.

SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM

Nominee Name: Tommy Ficarotta

Department: Contract Staff - ABM

Award Category: Sept. 11th Commendation Award

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution: Upon reading the account of Marlene Cruz, an ABM worker injured at the World Trade Center on September 11th, I learned of the actions of Tommy Ficarotta. Mr. Ficarotta saved Ms. Cruz's life when he responded to her radioing for help. Mr. Ficarotta rushed back into the building without concern for his own life, risking personal injury to pull Ms. Cruz to safety. I have attached Ms. Cruz's account which appeared in the October issue of Viva New York.

Please return this form to Denise Means, 225 Park Avenue South, 18th Floor,
New York, NY 10003.

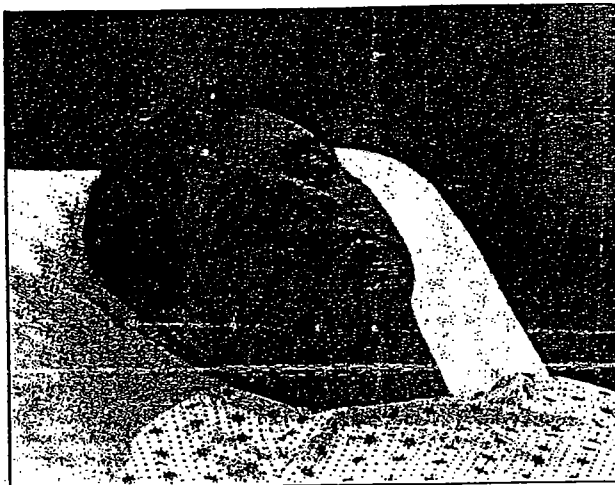
Submitted by:
Joe Panio, TB+T

Marlene Cruz

World Trade Center Survivor

Sobreviviente del World Trade Center

—Transcribed by/Transcrito por: Jacqueline C. Alemán



The following is the account of Marlene Cruz, a carpenter at the World Trade Center who survived the terrorist attacks against the Twin Towers on February 26, 1993, and September 11, 2001.

I started my day like many other times, headed to work at 5:15 a.m. I arrived at the Twin Towers around an hour later. Once I was in uniform, I started setting up, collecting my repair orders and tools. I then headed to freight car No. 50 in basement No. 2.

Upon entering the elevator, Arturo [the elevator operator] greeted me with a smile, and we proceeded to head to the 46th floor in building No. 1, the "North Tower." Unfortunately, we did not make it that far—the nightmare had just begun.

We made it as far as the 5th floor when a massive explosion occurred that shook the building and blew out the elevator doors. The elevator ceiling came crashing down on us with debris and concrete, knocking Arturo unconscious and forcing the elevator to drop suddenly at high speed. I kept praying for it to stop, but it wouldn't. It finally came to a halt between basement No. 2 and basement No. 3. I immediately started reaching out for Arturo, trying to feel my way through, but I couldn't see because of the enormous amount of smoke and debris. I screamed out his name frantically until I saw him pushing debris off him[self]. He screamed, "My leg, my leg is broken!"

In an effort to get to safety, I managed to push Arturo through a hole of what was left of the elevator. I felt strong hands joining in an effort to save him. I still don't know who this person was, but I definitely thank them for saving Arturo.

Now I faced the task of pulling myself to safety. I could not see, my glasses were broken, there was smoke and debris everywhere. Suddenly, I felt an enormous amount of heat—a ball of fire was coming at me through the elevator shaft. I started radioing for help and Tommy Ficarotta (my boss, my savior) answered my cry for help. He fought his way through firemen and police and was screaming, "I'm not going to let her die," then ran in and pulled me out without thinking twice about his own safety.

I owe my life this time around to Tommy for saving me, but most of all to the Lord God. You see, I am a survivor of two World Trade Center terrorist attacks.

The sad reality is that so many lives have been lost. America has lost two of its most majestic landmarks. I have lost a home. For the past 15 years the World Trade Center were not only a place of employment but also where I have met people that now form a part of my family.

I wish the Lord could give me the strength to accelerate my recovery so I can go back and give to those that have given me so much.

I am no hero, nor do I pretend to be. All I know is that I have been given a second lease on life for me to help those who have lost loved ones, help rebuild the Trade Center once again, and to do as an American what my country needs me to do in order to live free of terrorism.

My special thanks to Tommy Ficarotta, NYPD, NYFD, the search-rescuers who unselfishly and lovingly have given their all in the fight to let freedom reign.

Lo siguiente es un relato de Marlene Cruz, una carpintera en el World Trade Center que sobrevivió los ataques terroristas contra las Torres Gemelas del 26 de febrero de 1993 y del 11 de septiembre del 2001.

Comencé mi día, como muchas otras veces, saliendo a trabajar a las 5:15 a.m. Llegué a las Torres Gemelas alrededor de una hora más tarde. Una vez que me puse el uniforme, comencé a preparar las cosas, a reunir las órdenes de reparaciones y las herramientas. Después me fui al ascensor de carga No. 50 en el sótano No. 2.

Cuando entré al ascensor, Arturo [el operador del ascensor] me saludó con una sonrisa y fuimos hacia el piso 46 en el edificio No. 1, la "Torre Norte". Desafortunadamente, no llegamos hasta ahí, pues la pesadilla acababa de empezar.

Llegamos hasta el 5o. piso cuando una explosión masiva sacudió el edificio y reventó las puertas del ascensor. El techo del ascensor se nos cayó encima con escombros y hormigón, haciendo que Arturo se quedara inconsciente y que el ascensor se cayera repentinamente a alta velocidad. Yo no dejaba de rezar para que el ascensor se parara, pero no se paraba. Finalmente se paró repentinamente entre el sótano 2 y 3. Me puse inmediatamente a buscar a Arturo mientras palpaba las cosas a mi alrededor, pero no podía ver debido a la enorme cantidad de humo y escombros. Grité su nombre frenéticamente hasta que lo vi sacándose el escombros de encima. Gritaba diciendo: "¡Mi pierna, se me rompió mi pierna!"

Para intentar salvarnos conseguí empujar a Arturo a través de un agujero de lo que quedó del ascensor. Sentí unas manos fuertes intentando salvarlo. Todavía no sé quién era esta persona, pero no hay duda de que le doy las gracias por haber salvado a Arturo.

Ahora yo me enfrentaba a la tarea de buscar mi propia seguridad. No podía ver, mis lentes se habían roto, había humo y escombros por todos lados. De repente, sentí un calor intenso que resultó ser una bola de fuego que se venía hacia mí a través del hueco del ascensor. Comencé a transmitir por radio que necesitaba ayuda y Tommy Ficarotta (mi jefe, mi salvador) respondió a mi llamada de ayuda. Se abalanzó a través de los bomberos y la policía y gritaba "No voy a dejar que muera", y se metió y me sacó sin pensar dos veces sobre su propia seguridad.

Esta vez le debo mi vida a Tommy por haberme salvado, pero más que nada se la debo a Dios. Lo digo porque soy una sobreviviente de dos ataques terroristas del World Trade Center.

La triste realidad es que se han perdido tantas vidas. Estados Unidos ha perdido dos de sus monumentos más majestuosos. He perdido un hogar. Durante los últimos 15 años el World Trade Center no fue simplemente un lugar de empleo, sino también un lugar donde conocí a personas que ahora forman parte de mi familia.

Desearía que Dios me diera la fuerza para acelerar mi recuperación para poder así regresar y ofrecer mi ayuda a aquellos que me han dado tanto.

No soy una heroína ni pretendo serlo. Todo lo que sé es que se me ha dado una segunda oportunidad en la vida para ayudar a aquellos que han perdido a personas queridas, para reconstruir el Trade Center otra vez y para hacer como estadounidense lo que mi país necesite que haga para poder vivir libre del terrorismo.

Agradezco especialmente a Tommy Ficarotta, al NYPD, al NYFD y a los rescatadores que han dado todo desinteresadamente y cariñosamente en la lucha para que reine la libertad.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: David Bobbitt
Department: World Trade

Award Category: Medal of Valor

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Dave Bobbitt was a member of the Vertical Transportation Unit of the World Trade Department responsible for the maintenance and modernization of over 240 elevators and 63 escalators in The World Trade Center.

On September 11, 2001, Dave and Don Parente were both in their offices on the 35th floor of Two World Trade Center when they heard the roar and felt the plane strike One World Trade Center. They immediately grabbed their radios and flashlights, went down to the lobby and split up in order to cover more territory. Don teamed up with Francis Riccardelli, Manager, Vertical Transportation Systems and proceeded to the Operations Control Center (OCC). Dave teamed up with Jim Barbella, a Property Manager in Two World Trade Center. Dave and Jim went to the Plaza where they found the Plaza full of debris. They immediately turned off the escalator leading to and from the Mezzanine and directed those individuals exiting from the staircase onto the Mezzanine down that escalator to the Lobby.

After leaving the OCC, Don and Francis met Dave and moved to the Fire Command station in the Lobby of One World Trade Center and immediately began searching for people trapped in the elevators via stentofon at the console, as seen by millions who watched the recent CBS broadcast. Once the second plane struck Two World Trade Center. Francis left Dave and Don in One World Trade Center and responded to the Two World Trade Center console where he met Joe Amatuccio, the Manager of Operations and Maintenance who was previously a member of the Vertical Transportation Team. The four continued searching and communicating with individuals trapped in the elevators in each Tower while also communication between themselves. At 10:00 a.m., Dave and Don heard loud roar just minutes after talking to their co-workers in Two World Trade Center. It was then that the Tower collapsed, along with a portion of the mezzanine in One World Trade Center. Dave and Don were ordered to evacuate by FDNY using the portals to the World Financial Center. The cloud of dust separated them but Don was able to guide Dave to him by directing Dave to follow the beam from Don's flashlight. When they were just north of the Financial Center, One World Trade Center collapsed and they barely escaped injury as the cloud of debris headed toward them.

For his unselfish dedication and commitment to the World Trade Center and its many employees, while exhibiting extraordinary valor, Dave Bobbitt is recommended for the Medal of Valor award.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Victor (Vic) Guarnera

Department: World Trade

Award Category: Act of Valor

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Victor had just left the 107th floor of the South Tower when he received a frantic radio communication from the Security Command Center (SCC) on the 22nd floor of Tower One. They claimed that the tower had been hit by an airplane, that they were observing debris, paper and bodies falling past their windows, and that their only means of escape was blocked, trapping them in the SCC.

Arriving in the lobby of Tower One on his way to assist the security personnel in the SCC, employees in various stages of distress and disarray were beginning to come out of the stairwells and down the escalators. Vic immediately began to direct some New York City firemen to the 22nd floor, and then proceeded to pin open the revolving doors, stopped the escalators and directed the evacuees to the West Street exit where Emergency Medical Units were beginning to set up their stations.

Vic proceeded to climb the 22 floors to go to the aid of his security personnel in the SCC. Rendezvousing with the firefighters, George Tabeek, Jr. and a couple of other civilians, they immediately cleared up the debris from the blown out high-rise and freight elevator shafts which was blocking the door to the SCC.

Acting in response to a request from the Director of the World Trade Department, Alan Reiss, for an assessment of the damage sustained by Two World Trade Center, he and his associate, George Tabeek witnessed the collapse of Tower Two. The collapse significantly damaged the south side of Tower One and caused much damage to the interior. Vic immediately reverted to his Civil Air Patrol command mode and ordered the immediate evacuation of the SCC, and with George organized the orderly withdrawal of staff and firefighters from the 22nd floor. Vic was instrumental in convincing Lieutenant Andy Desperito of the New York Fire Department to order an immediate evacuation of all firefighters from Tower One. This decisive action was responsible for saving many New York City firemen's lives.

With full knowledge of the imminent danger to the integrity of Tower One, and with total disregard to his own personal safety, he and George, along with the firefighters made every effort possible, entering each floor during their decent to assure that all personnel had been cleared from the areas below the 22nd.

Vic responded to the intersection of West and Vessey Street, and while discussing where to relocate the Command Post with Port Authority Police Sergeant Dennis Frederick and a New York Fire Department Battalion Commander, Tower One collapsed. Vic extricated himself from the debris and made his way to JSTC/PATC to make significant contributions in the Emergency Operations Command Center, as well as at the World Trade Center site in the days following.

For the reasons cited above, and his unselfish, vigilant, and significant on-going contributions in the weeks and months immediately following, he is highly recommended for the 9-11 Award for Acts of Valor

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM

NOMINATION FORM

Nominee Name: Michael Hurley

Department: World Trade Department (Currently Assigned to TB&T)

Award Category: Award for Acts of Valor (Individual)

Description of Contribution:

Michael Hurley, World Trade Center Fire Safety Director, was responsible for all fire, life safety and emergency management programs at the World Trade Center complex, including liaison and coordination activities with the New York City Fire Department.

On September 11, 2001, Mike was in Tower Two when the first attack occurred. While en route to Tower One, he encountered several individuals lying in the street who had been severely injured by burning jet fuel and falling debris, which continued to drop from the tower. He stopped to render aid and was thereafter relieved by the first arriving medical units. Mike then ran into Tower One and took charge of the building's fire command post. He quickly assessed the situation and initiated various emergency procedures; the details of which he relayed to the New York City Fire Department Chief Officers as they arrived on scene. Mike worked side-by-side with Fire Department Commanders directing the evacuation and using his expertise to provide essential facts on the building, its physical layout, stairway configurations, firefighting resources and other necessary details. This information was crucial for the Fire Department response into the tower, and the simultaneous evacuation.

As the incident progressed and the nature of the situation quickly became evident, Mike recommended that Fire Department Commanders consent to the complete evacuation of all occupants in all World Trade Center buildings. After the FDNY Chiefs discussed and agreed, Mike thereafter relayed the order for a full evacuation of the entire complex to the deputy fire safety directors prior to the second attack - a decision credited with saving a countless number of lives.

Following the attack on the second tower, the situation became substantially more difficult, as the emergency response resources were divided to operate on two fronts. Mike remained with the Incident Commander and continued to supply critical building facts, updates on fire conditions, coordinate the receipt of priority information from a variety of sources, and act as the Commander's resource and point of contact. Due to his extensive knowledge and experience, Mike was able to provide an uninterrupted supply of precise information.

During the course of events, a report surfaced regarding a third aircraft headed for New York City, and the possibility of additional attacks. Based on this information, the Fire Department Incident Commander directed all personnel to vacate the towers. Mike volunteered to remain with the Incident Commander and several other Chiefs, and continued to work with them at the lobby command post. At some point, the Commander decided to relocate the command post and requested that Mike seek out an appropriate location across the street from the World Trade Center, establish a new command post, and report back so the remaining Chiefs could relocate. Mike did as he was asked, and as he was responding back to the lobby to lead the group to the new location, got caught in the collapse of Tower Two. Mike narrowly escaped and thereafter reported to a secondary command post north of the World Trade Center where he remained until that post was abandoned after the collapse of Tower One. Mike continued to work with Fire Department officials providing information required for the subsequent rescue efforts.

For his exceptional judgment, which saved numerous lives on September 11, 2001, and for demonstrating an extraordinary level of heroic and personal courage and placing his life at risk to save others, Michael Hurley is hereby nominated for the Port Authority Award for Acts of Valor (Individual).

Submitted by Raymond Brown, Manager, TB&T Training Academy (201) 216-2300

Nominee Information:

Michael Hurley
Employee Number 26498

Current Work Location:
Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals Department
Training Academy
Port Authority Technical Center
241 Erie Street, Room 221
Jersey City, NJ 07310
(201) 216-2305

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM

NOMINATION FORM

Nominee Name: Michael Hurley

Department: World Trade Department (Currently Assigned to TB&T)

Award Category: Award for Exceptional Service (Individual)

Description of Contribution:

Knowing that detailed information on the physical aspects of the World Trade Center would be essential for the ensuing rescue efforts, Michael Hurley, WTC Fire Safety Director, returned to New York City on the morning of September 12, 2001 and reported to the New York City Fire Department's 1st Battalion Headquarters in Lower Manhattan. The Fire Department was eager to begin a systematic search of the collapsed towers and below-grade basement areas, but were lacking specific building knowledge and had no building plans or blueprints. Fire Department Commanders were excited at the prospect of utilizing Mike's expertise and experience and he immediately volunteered to assist them in any way possible. Mike was transported to the World Trade Center where he began surveying the site, drawing diagrams from memory and noting structural access points in the collapse zone.

At the request of the Fire Department, Mike eagerly agreed to work with them on a daily basis, providing essential building-related information and offering suggestions for access into collapsed areas. As Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams arrived on site, Mike was requested to brief them on the physical layout of the buildings and possible areas in the below-grade basements where survivors may have been trapped. Mike complied with all requests and in addition to his time spent at the site, made himself available 24 hours per day. He received pages and telephone calls at all hours of the night from Fire Department and FEMA officials who required specific building details or had questions from their search teams which required an immediate answer.

Within a day or two, FEMA officials approached Mike and asked if he would be willing to lead a specialized search team into the subgrade areas, as they needed a guide with detailed knowledge of the complex to take them into unexplored areas. Due to the danger involved, all participants of the team were required to be volunteers. Mike agreed, and after donning necessary protective equipment, led the team through the basements and into collapsed sections where they used specialized acoustical and thermal imaging equipment in an attempt to locate survivors.

Due to the fact that many of the responding firefighters were from other parts of the city and had never previously responded to the World Trade Center, they were unable to provide specific details on their exact positions within the buildings when the collapse occurred. Since such details possibly held clues on the last known location of some missing Firefighters, Fire Department Commanders requested that Mike meet with these individuals. Using his knowledge of the complex, Mike was able to translate the Firefighters descriptions of what they had seen in the buildings into actual points where they were when the collapse occurred. This information was critical for search and rescue purposes and was used to prioritize search patterns.

Mike continued to voluntarily work with the Fire Department and rescue teams for several weeks until it was officially determined that there was no possibility of locating survivors and rescue teams began being deactivated.

For his extraordinary efforts, level of service and accomplishments in his work with the New York City Fire Department, FEMA, and other agencies involved with rescue activities in the weeks following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Michael Hurley is hereby nominated for the Award for Exceptional Service (Individual).

Submitted by Raymond Brown, Manager, TB&T Training Academy (201) 216-2300

Nominee Information:

Michael Hurley
Employee Number 26498

Current Work Location:
Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals Department
Training Academy
Port Authority Technical Center
241 Erie Street, Room 221
Jersey City, NJ 07310
(201) 216-2305

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Louis Mastellone – Contractor – Fine Painting Inc.

Department: Law Department on behalf of the World Trade Department

Award Category: September 11th Commendation Award

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

A painting contractor, for the Port Authority for over ten years, was in the cafeteria on the 43rd floor of 1 World Trade Center on September 11, when the first plane collided into the building.

Immediately upon impact, he took charge of the situation by communicating on his radio with Port Authority staff and commanded approximately 200 individuals to evacuate the floor leading to the north stairway located outside the cafeteria. After making sure that everyone had evacuated the cafeteria safely, he then proceeded to leave. As he descended the north stairway, he stopped from time to time to maintain order and to assist fellow colleagues and other evacuees.

At the same time, the FDNY were attempting to navigate their way upward through the crowds of people, when the in-depth knowledge of an experienced painting contractor paid off. Without a thought of his own personal safety, he was able to escort the firefighters successfully through stairways, opening locked doors, leading them to safety, with minutes to spare before 1 World Trade Center collapsed.

For his exceptional good judgment and extraordinary bravery while risking his own personal safety, the Law Department respectfully nominates Louis Mastellone the September 11th Commendation Award.

Please return this form, no later than April 2, 2002, to:
Denise Means, 225 Park Avenue South, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10003

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Alan Reiss

Department: Aviation

Award Category: September 11th Award for Acts of Valor (Civilian)

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

On September 11th, Alan Reiss was functioning in the dual role of Director of the World Trade Department and Deputy Director of Aviation. As Deputy Director of Aviation, at 8:45 AM he was having a breakfast meeting with other Line Department Deputy Directors at Fine & Shapiro to discuss various interdepartmental business issues when the first plane hit the North Tower. As Director of the World Trade Department, he immediately responded to the World Trade Center Police Desk on the plaza level and maintained a command to diagnose the extent of damage and to determine the state of affairs with regard to the terrorist action. For the next hour, he took authoritative control over many of the surrounding conditions and attendant circumstances. He recognized the critical and problematic combination of conditions that determined or had to be considered in determining a course of action to assure the orderly evacuation and protection of human lives involved with the evacuation. In truth, the evacuation plan that Alan and others developed after the 1993 terrorist bombing in an underground WTC parking garage that killed six people and injured more than 1,000 is one of the reasons why 90% of the people in the building survived that day. It is estimated that the evacuation plan combined with frequent and well-coordinated drills by Alan and his people was one of the key factors in prompting nearly 20,000 to evacuate the two 110-story towers in less than two hours. By contrast, in 1993 it took six hours to evacuate most of the occupants in the WTC. During the unfolding disaster, Alan firmly stood his ground in the Police command area despite the gravity of the occurrence and the ensuing ruinous results. When Tower Two collapsed, Alan and others were trapped amid the debris and forced to cut their way free with an ax, penetrating, probing and digging to free themselves. After evacuating the complex, he began to return. Rather than flee to safety, his intent was to use his engineering knowledge and his expertise in managing and overseeing the building, as well as his experience working in the sub-grade, to diagnose the condition of One WTC. Unfortunately, One WTC collapsed just as he reached Vesey Street and the dust and debris cloud surrounded him, like so many others.

For his demonstrated extraordinary courage, valiance and heroism in the face of danger, and constant consideration of the needs and feelings of others, Alan Reiss is hereby nominated for the September 11th Award for Acts of Valor (Civilian).

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Alan Reiss

Department: World Trade/Aviation

Award Category: Medal of Valor (Civilian)

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Alan Reiss was on the concourse of the World Trade Center when the first plane hit 1 WTC. He immediately responded to the WTC Police Desk arriving within one minute of the event and was told by the desk officer that a missile had been fired at the tower from the Woolworth Building. He left the desk with a PAPD detective to assess the damage to 1 WTC. They entered the Plaza from 5 WTC to report on the situation, ignoring their own personal safety as debris continued to rain down. There they discovered the landing gear from what was obviously a large plane and together dragged it back to the Police desk as evidence and reported that this was not a missile but apparently a plane that had hit the tower. He remained at the desk helping the desk officer answer incoming calls from those trapped in the tower, Christy Ferrer, and Gov. Pataki's office. When 2 WTC was hit, Alan responded back to the Plaza with FBI agents to assess the damage, until ordered back inside because of the pieces of steel continuing to fall. He was meanwhile on both radio and cell phone communicating with WTD staff in the lobbies and in the Operations Control Center on the number of elevators that had people trapped in them and the status of the building systems. He was regularly briefing PAPD at the desk and assisting in the distribution of emergency gear to arriving PAPD officers from other facilities and to PA civilians such as Ed Strauss and Gene Raggio. Alan also assisted injured civilians that showed up at the Police desk by carrying them, as required, to EMS units at Church & Fulton and then would return to the Police desk. Alan remained at the desk coordinating between civilian and PAPD until 2 WTC collapsed, knocking out all power, and trapping him and those officers at the desk in a choking black cloud of debris. Both the emergency exit to the Plaza and the front door were blocked with debris, but after a period of time, utilizing an axe they were able to exit out the front of the Police Desk area to the debris filled corridor with visibility of perhaps one foot. They again encountered other injured civilians and just grabbed them and made our way through borders books to the corner of Church & Vessy where Alan entered the Post Office for a monument to catch his breath. Ignoring the orders of Federal ATF agents he left with John Mauk and made his way down Barclay Street searching for the PAPD Command Bus on West St.

Alan reported to the Chiefs at the Command Bus, which was being relocated further North on West St. He then reported with Chief Hall & Morris to the BMCC campus where he, Chief Hall, Capt. Whitaker & Carla Bonacci headed back down West St. to assess the structural integrity of 1 WTC for Chief Morris who was holding Police and Fire Units in the auditorium at the community college. As the team reached the intersection of Barclay & West St, across from the Version Building, it was obvious that 1 WTC was in imminent danger of collapse from the odd rocking motion of the tower, and windows popping out. The team told every to run and they ran North on West St. when as they approached the Styvesent High School, a NYPD officer yelled there was a secondary device. At that moment, 1 WTC collapsed, Alan & Capt. Whitaker ran and dove behind a fence and grabbed each other as they were enveloped on the cloud of debris.

Finally the evil black cloud began to dissipate and Alan and Capt. Whitaker began to realize they had cheated death again that day and made there way back to the BMCC auditorium. Soon after that Chief Hall ordered Alan into his vehicle with Jeff Green and transported them to the PATC. Alan spent the next two days at JSTC providing emergency information to those at the scene on how to secure water and gas valves feeding the WTC, the river water pump station and how to access the basement areas using the Path North projection emergency exit which was still intact. The first evening he began trying to contact WTD staff at home using the emergency contact list he stored on his palm pilot and by pager messages. By Wed. morning, the wives of the missing WTD employees were paging him and he was regularly talking to them until HRD assigned counselors to the families. He finally left JSTC Thursday evening to return home for a few hours to see his family and then worked every day at the OEM for weeks.

For his unselfish dedication and commitment to the World Trade Center, its many employees and his own staff, while exhibiting extraordinary valor, Alan Reiss is recommended for the Medal of Valor award.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Alan Reiss

Department: Aviation

Award Category: Award for Exceptional Service - Individual

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Since September 11th, Alan Reiss has been a steadfast source of comfort and support for the World Trade Center staff and victims' families. The loss of 16 World Trade Department civilian staff and numerous contract services colleagues, together with the destruction of the World Trade Center facility, which was staffed by more than 100 of Alan's co-workers, was devastating beyond belief. No one can describe the overwhelming feeling of loss and hopelessness that engulfed Alan and his people both physically and emotionally. The fear and sadness was overpowering and the waste and ruin incomprehensible. Throughout this time, even while suffering his own great sense of loss, Alan was an incredible leader and a phenomenal example of strength and support. He was the embodiment of protective and supportive power, an effective and binding force keeping the victims' families and the surviving staff together with vehemence and intensity of emotion, language and action. He was able to withstand great strain, force and stress and maintain a certain impregnability to the terrible things around him while showing compassion and sympathetic concern for the suffering of others. His constant inclination was to provide aid and support to others ever mindful of their needs and feelings. He suffered patiently while yielding his own needs to those of others. He carried through despite hardships. He was physically and morally strong and a genuine stalwart as he fielded numerous messages, telephone calls and communiqués from other people who so desperately needed his support to keep from failing or yielding during stress.

For his extraordinary level of service to his colleagues and comrades, and to the agency at large, Alan Reiss is hereby nominated for the Award for Exceptional Service (Individual).

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Alan Reiss

Department: World Trade

Award Category: Exceptional Service

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Alan was not in his office on the 88th floor when the first plane hit One WTC. When he heard the explosion, he instinctively rushed to the Plaza, found debris, recognized aircraft nose gear, and decided such a component might subsequently be deemed important, so he proceeded to drag it to the Police Desk in Five WTC where it could be properly secured. From the instant that Alan got into the Police Desk, his focus shifted, and he immersed himself in the effort to evacuate the complex. When Tower Two collapsed, Alan and Captain Whitaker were trapped and covered under debris. Upon extricating themselves, they moved to the roving Police Command facility on West Street, and continued efforts to evacuate until forced to move again when One WTC collapsed.

While scrambling to establish emergency operational procedures and protocol on the afternoon of 9/11, Alan had the presence of mind to call the homes of those key staff not with him to report the well being of himself and others he had found, directed staff to contact their own staffs to determine and report their status, and remain at home until contacted. Later that evening, as the list of missing WTD staff became known, Alan personally called their homes to report them as missing, and to ask that he be advised immediately if contact was subsequently established.

Alan helped organize the effort to establish a command operation (OEM), was the initial WTD representative, and remained at his post until Friday evening (9/15), when he went home for the first time. During the early days after 9/11, Alan arranged for staffing coverage at the OEM but limited that mix to his senior managers in order to assure greater continuity of operations. During the next eight weeks, while still working out of that Bunker, Alan managed to personally support WTC rescue and recovery efforts using his technical expertise; personally cover his scheduled tour at the OEM; respond to countless media requests; continue his involvement in the Net lease Negotiations and insurance discussions; establish formal and informal communications with the majority of the WTD staff; advance, in earnest, serious efforts to reassign WTD employees to productive assignments in other departments; attend countless memorial and funeral services; take his turn as Acting COO as requested; commence his new responsibilities as Deputy Director of the Aviation Department; and spend six hours a day commuting via public transportation between his home in Long Island, and the PATC, so that he could continue to work a schedule from 6AM to 7PM.

Throughout this ordeal Alan continued to demonstrate his extraordinary leadership in the face of adversity, his ability to rally WTD staff who had lost their home, their friends, and their livelihood, and his continued dedication to ensure the proper recognition for WTD rescue workers who perished saving the lives of countless others.

Alan's personal commitment to the Port Authority and the World Trade Center drives him to accept its greatest challenges, and his sense of value requires that he exhaust all his energies to the completion of any responsibility, and the sound, fair, reasonable, and equitable treatment of all WTC staff without regard of their employment status.

For his unselfish dedication, commitment, energy, and accomplishments in the post 9/11 environment, Alan is recommended for the Exceptional Service Award.

**sSEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Ray Simonetti
Department: World Trade

Award Category: Medal of Valor

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Ray Simonetti was a member of the Building Services Unit of the World Trade Department responsible for the maintenance of the fire alarm system as well as all communications systems -- elevator communications, radios, etc. in The World Trade Center.

On September 11, 2001, Ray was on the 35th floor of Two World Trade Center when he heard the explosion at One World Trade Center and then Two World Trade Center. He called in the attack to the Police Desk via radio. He searched the floor, found one person, and evacuated to the lobby. There he met Jim Barbella, a Property Manager in Two World Trade Center. Ray and Jim went to the OCC and assisted staff. Ray then contacted the Radio Shop for assistance and both he and Jim proceeded back to the Tower One Lobby.

In the lobby, they met Chief Romito, Captain Kathy Mazza and Lt Robert Cirri who requested assistance to access Windows On The World. Ray suggested using the new, yet untested 800mhz radio trunk system for communication. However, the system was not working. Ray went to the OCC for the keys to the Radio Room located on the 9th Floor of 5 World Trade Center. At the OCC, Ray called the radio shop and asked them to meet him in the Radio Room. While en-route to the Radio Room, he passed the police desk and informed Alan Reiss, Director of World Trade, of Jim's location and Ray's plans to repair the radio system.

Ray had just made it to the Radio Room when 2 World Trade Center imploded and fell onto Five World Trade Center. He amazingly found his way out of a destroyed room to the stairwell, and eventually to the Plaza level through dark areas and rubble. He found three people along the way and guided them with his flashlight through Borders Books and onto the street. From there they were told to leave the site and travel north.

For his unselfish dedication and commitment to the World Trade Center and its many employees, while exhibiting extraordinary valor, Ray Simonetti is recommended for the Medal of Valor award.

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

George Tabeek, Jr.
The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
World Trade Department
Manager of Security Operations

George was entering the Plaza on one of his daily site tours when the first aircraft struck One World Trade Center. As soon as the falling debris subsided, he crossed the Plaza and entered Tower One proceeding directly to the Fire Command Desk to assist the first arriving New York City Firefighters. After the second aircraft attacked Tower Two, he immediately went to Two World Trade Center to assist with the activities that were taking place at that location.

Responding to radio calls for assistance from the staff trapped in the Security Command Center (SCC) in One World Trade Center, he returned to One World Trade Center and climbed to the 22nd floor, going to their aid. Along with a few fire fighters who had recently arrived at that location, he helped clear the debris from the collapsed elevator shaft that was blocking the door to the SCC.

Acting in response to a request from the Director of the World Trade Department for an assessment of the damage sustained by Two World Trade Center, he and his counterpart, Victor Guamera witnessed the collapse of Tower Two. With the collapse significantly damaging the south side of Tower One and causing much damage to its interior, George organized the orderly withdrawal of staff and firefighters from the 22nd floor. During the withdrawal, he and Vic, along with the firefighters made every effort possible, entering each floor to assure that all personnel had been cleared from the areas below the 22nd floor.

Upon reaching the lobby, George and the fire lieutenant, who was on the 22nd floor, and the other firefighters from that company attempted to verify that no one was remaining in the lobby, and proceeded to the portals leading to the North Bridge escalator vestibule. As they reached the entrance to the bridge, Tower One collapsed. Everyone was covered up to his waist and chest by the debris. Unfortunately, Lieutenant Andy Desperito was swept away by the blast and did not survive.

When the tumultuous effects of the collapse subsided, George was successful in extricating himself from the pile of debris. Sustaining personal injury, and with total disregard to his own safety, he responded to calls emanating from further back in the upper vestibule and guided several officers out of that area onto the upper walkway outside the West Street side of the Customs House. Teaming up with the other firefighters, they prevented George from going back to look for Lieutenant Desperito, as the stability and safety of the bridge was in question. Recognizing his personal injuries, the firefighters lead him away to a hastily raised ladder and assisted him down to street level.

For the reasons cited above, and his vigilant on-going contributions on-site in the days immediately following, he is highly recommended for the 9-11 Award for Acts of Valor (Civilian).

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Frank Varriano
Department: World Trade

Award Category: Medal of Valor

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Frank and Mak Hanna were both on the 88th floor of One World Trade Center when the first plane struck. The 88th floor sustained major damage being located four floors below the point of impact.

As they struggled to evacuate the floor, Frank was one of a team of Port Authority and Silverstien employees guiding fellow co-workers off the 88th floor through a corridor filled with debris and flames shooting from elevator shafts. Frank Varriano and Mak Hanna went to the assistance of Moe Lipson, an 89-year old job shopper, from the World Trade Construction unit, who was having a difficult time descending the stairs. With Frank's and Mak's assistance, Moe made it all the way down to the Lobby and outside where he was placed into an ambulance and transported to the hospital. Within minutes of their exit, Tower One collapsed.

For his unselfish commitment to a fellow employee in spite of the possibility of grave personal injury, Frank Varriano is recommended for the Medal of Valor Award.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Frank Varriano

Department: World Trade

Award Category: Act of Valor

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution: Frank was on the 88th floor of 1 World Trade Center when the first plane hit the tower. He and other staff gathered in my office and then Frank and other deceased WTD staff like Frank DeMartini surveyed the hallway, determined an escape route & led PA & Silverstien employees down. They encountered a jammed stairway door at 76th floor and doubled back to sky lobby & then down tower. When Frank reached the lobby he did not evacuate like many others but immediately went to the Fire Command console to assist. He stayed at that console assisting FDNY and other emergency responders, communicating with Joe Ammatucio and Ed Strauss who were performing similar functions in 2 WTC until 2 WTC collapsed. M Frank gave no thought to his own personal safety rather his first concern was our tenants & visitors in the building, who trapped in elevators, communicating information to the OCC and to me at Police desk.

Alan Reiss

**Please return this form to Denise Means, 225 Park Avenue South, 18th Floor,
New York, NY 10003 no later than April 2, 2002.**

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Audrey Williams
Department: World Trade

Award Category: Medal of Valor

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Audrey Williams was on the 78th floor of One World Trade Center when the plane struck the Tower. One of the American Building Maintenance employees, Carmen Griffith, had been operating one of the local elevators to Windows on the World and due to jet fuel in the elevator shaft, was burned with first and second-degree burns. Audrey immediately went to Carmen's aid and assisted her down the 78 flights to the Lobby and outside where Carmen was handed over to an EMS worker and transported to the hospital. Audrey was herself injured in the evacuation, which kept her out of work for almost four months. Audrey continues her therapy two days a week and works the other three.

For her unselfish commitment to a fellow co-worker despite her own personal injuries, Audrey Williams is recommended for the Medal of Valor Award.

**CIVILIAN
COMMENDATION AWARD
(Team)**

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Evacuation of John Abruzzo

Nominee Name: Michael Ambrosio, Peter Bitwinski, Philip Caffrey, Richard Capriotti, Michael Curci, Michael Fabiano, Wilson Pacheco, Anthony Pecora, Gerald Simpkins, Margaret Zoch

Department: Comptroller's

Award Category: Award for Acts of Valor (Civilian Team)

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Affectionately called "The Port Authority Ten" by Mr. John Abruzzo, these ten people both individually and as a team, without hesitation and with never a concern for their own safety, banded together on September 11th to ensure Mr. Abruzzo's safety. John, a Comptroller's Department employee for 20 years, is disabled and confined to a wheelchair. When the tragic events of September 11th began to unfold, John was at his workstation and realized right away the severity of the situation as all employees began to evacuate the floor. Without pause John left his office area and proceeded to the hall where he discovered that everyone - except for these ten people - had begun their descent down the stairways.

After searching the smoke filled 69th floor to be sure all staff had vacated, without debate or discussion it was unanimously decided that they would bring John down to safety. The group lifted him into an evacuation chair that had been purchased after the 1993 Trade Center bombing. Taking turns and with four people maneuvering the chair at all times, they began the floor-by-floor downward climb - not an easy task to say the least.

Not to impede the escape of others in the stairway, the group frequently stepped aside to allow others to go ahead of them or to get a few seconds rest. Heavy smoke filled the passageway and the group decided to switch stairways on the 44th floor. Expecting to find emergency personnel or evacuation teams with information and guidance on the Skylobby, they instead found it deserted and in total disorder.

They continued down, occasionally giving way to allow firemen and emergency personnel to pass on their way up to the burning floors. At this point they learned that Tower Two had been hit by an airplane and realized that this nightmare was no accident. Twice during their descent the group was advised to leave John in temporary triage areas where he would be attended by EMS teams. In each instance, the group chose not to leave their friend behind. They had come this far and were determined to carry him down all the way.

On about the 20th or 21st floor, there was a thunderous roar and the building shook violently. Bracing themselves against the wall in anticipation of the worst, a gust of air blew up the stairway and firemen radios echoed the sound of panicked voices yelling, "Two is down, Two is down, evacuate now. Realizing that Two World Trade Center had collapsed, more determined than before and now physically and emotionally exhausted, the group gathered up their strength and worked quickly to get out of the building.

Nearing the 10th floor the lights went out. Relying only on the firemen's flashlights and the glow of phosphorus paint on the stairs, they continued down. Water streaming down the stairs made the conditions treacherous and the descent slower. One and one half hours from the onset of their mission, they left the stairway and discovered a deserted and devastated lobby covered with debris. Totally exhausted, they carried John over the rubble covering the lobby, the sidewalks, and the streets. Gathering up all the strength they had left, they again joined together to carry John away from the site. As they traveled north, and less than 10 minutes after escaping the building, Tower One collapsed. A cloud of debris chased firemen, police, civilians north and John was quickly lifted over a curb and into Stuyvesant High School – only moments before the black cloud of dust and debris engulfed their destination. Accompanied by Mr. Bitwinski, John was taken by ambulance to a nearby hospital, and released the following day.

Not only for their courageous efforts, heroism and bravery, should the "The Port Authority Ten" be commended and praised, but also for their willingness to jeopardize their own lives for the safety of another. This is a truly remarkable team – these are truly special people.

**Please return this form to Denise Means, 225 Park Avenue South, 18th Floor,
New York, NY 10003 no later than April 2, 2002.**

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Elevator Rescue

Nominee Name: A. Niro, J. Spencer, J. Dinkels, P. Zipf, A. Masetti,
M. Jakubek, T. Volonakis, M. Dadgarian

Department: Engineering

Award Category: September 11th Commendation Award

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Immediately following the attack on 1 World Trade Center, the nominees discovered that colleagues were trapped in a stalled local elevator on the 71st floor. Due to their extraordinary efforts and determined perseverance during the next 30 minutes, including several trips back up to higher floors in an attempt to find tools, they were able to open the elevator doors and rescue their colleagues - Robert Eisenstadt and Frank Bucaretti. They did not start to descend the stairs to safety until approximately 9:15 a.m.

Please return this form to Denise Means, 225 Park Avenue South, 18th Floor,
New York, NY 10003 no later than April 2, 2002.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Evacuation of Lisa Nurmberger

Nominee Name: Paul Pietropaolo, Eric Peterson, Sam Angelo (Engineering Dept. Consultant – DMJM+ Harris)

Department: Engineering

Award Category: Special Citation

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Paul, Eric and Sam carried Lisa Nurumberger (PA Engineering Dept. – Procurement Division) down the stairs from the 44th floor of Tower One. Lisa has a physical handicap and needed assistance to be able to safely exit the tower.

**Please return this form to Denise Means, 225 Park Avenue South, 18th Floor,
New York, NY 10003 no later than April 2, 2002.**

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Assisted Evacuation of Colleague by Law Department Staff
Howard Conkling / Fred Fastow / Nathaniel Irizarry

Department: Law Department

Award Category: September 11th Commendation Award

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Three Law Department staff members were among those who evacuated from their 66th floor offices on September 11th.

During their descent, as they approached the 20th floor, they encountered a female law department colleague who was unable to move any further due to heat and smoke exhaustion. All three opted not to move on without her despite the risk. As they descended the stairs, slowly they encouraged her to keep moving.

On or about the 5th floor, she informed the gentlemen that she could no longer move ahead. Shortly thereafter, EMS workers arrived and assisted until they were instructed to leave and report to a new location.

At that point, the gentlemen took a great risk to themselves and decided to carry the exhausted woman down the remaining stairs to the lobby, through the concourse and to an EMS station on Church Street. All four employees exited the building with only minutes to spare before 2 World Trade Center collapsed.

For their exceptional good judgment and extraordinary bravery, the Law Department respectfully nominates Howard Conkling, Fred Fastow and Nathaniel Irizarry, the September 11th Commendation Award for working as a team, to assist a fellow colleague who would have surely perished had these gentlemen not come to her assistance.

Please return this form, no later than April 2, 2002, to:
Denise Means, 225 Park Avenue South, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10003

SEPTEMBER 11TH SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM NOMINATION FORM

Nominee Name: See Attached List

Department: PATH

Award Category: September 11th Commendation Award

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

WORLD TRADE CENTER PATH STATION EVACUATION

On September 11th, Victoria Cross Kelly, Deputy Director of PATH, was in a meeting on the concourse level of the World Trade Center. When the first plane hit, she had no idea what happened but knew something was seriously wrong. Ms. Kelly went directly to a telephone, which linked her to the PATH Control Center. She spoke to Richard Moran, Trainmaster, explained what was happening at the World Trade Center and that the Police were evacuating the building.

Control Center personnel immediately put the evacuation plan into action and began to halt and reroute all service away from the World Trade Center Station. The Port Authority Police at the World Trade Center, who were in radio contact with the Control Center, immediately directed people away from the escalators, which prevented anyone from entering the Station.

Simultaneously an emergency operating plan to evacuate all passengers and personnel remaining at the World Trade was being implemented.

Through the combined efforts of the PATH Control Center Staff, the evacuation train crew, Engineer Noel Roman and Conductor Eugene Rogers, were dispatched to the station to remove all individuals who were stranded. Without hesitation, and knowing the risks involved with this assignment, Mr. Roman and Mr. Rogers entered the station and began the evacuation plan. They were able to keep all the passengers and personnel from becoming alarmed, thus keeping a safe and orderly rescue mission. Once it was determined that all remaining individuals were aboard the train, the train crew proceeded to transport the individuals to a secure location, preventing further casualties from occurring.

Through the collaborative efforts of the Police, the Deputy Director and the PATH AM Control Center personnel, which included the Trainmaster, Assistant Trainmaster, Tower Operators, Supervising Communications Agents, Communications Agents, Power Directors and the train crews that assisted with the evacuation of the PATH World Trade Center Station, the emergency operation that was implemented, during this horrific act of

terrorism, was a major accomplishment that helped save lives and prevented further injuries.

It therefore recommended that this team, who contributed to the success of this critical operation, be considered for the September 11th Commendation Award.

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Nominees for the September 11th Commendation Award

WORLD TRADE CENTER EVACUATION

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>TITLE</u> | <u>EMPL./BADGE NO.</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Raymond E. Arenas | Conductor | 8119 |
| Michael Brady | Power Director | 4487 |
| Belinda Cobbs | Communications Agent | 8377 |
| Stanley Haygood | Conductor | 4986 |
| William Hilger | Engineer | 8118 |
| Victoria Cross Kelly | Deputy Director, PATH | 23472 |
| John Leadbeater | Tower Operator | 5637 |
| Addison Lovell | Supervising Communications Agent | 1374 |
| Richard Moran | Trainmaster | 5270 |
| Frank O'Rourke | Power Director | 3481 |
| Frank Ortu | Engineer | 5290 |
| Robyn Paschall | Communications Agent | 8045 |
| William Reilly | Communications Agent | 5502 |
| Noel Roman | Engineer | 5492 |
| Eugene Rogers | Conductor | 1092 |
| William Ruddell | Conductor | 5536 |
| Anthony Savino | Assistant Trainmaster | 5609 |
| William Syby | Tower Operator | 2042 |
| Joseph Volpe | Engineer/Switching | 3339 |
| Leighton Ward | Engineer | 4855 |

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Assisted Evacuation of Disabled Staff by TSD Staff

Nominee Name: Donna Enright, Stacey Willner
Richard Cesario

Department: Technology Services, Comptroller's

Award Category: September 11th Commendation Award

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Donna Enright, Stacey Willner, and Rich Cesario were on the 71st floor of the World Trade Center when the first plane hit. Instead of immediately heading for the staircase and starting their descent, they sought out their staff with disabilities to ensure that they were able to make their exit. Omar Rivera, a sight-impaired staff person, who also has a seeing-eye dog Salty, was still on the 71st floor. They guided Omar and Salty to a staircase and walked down the entire way, calming the dog and assisting Omar through the debris-ridden stairwell and concourse to the street. Once at the street level, they assisted Omar in getting to safe resting place and ultimately transportation that evening home.

Dean Mancuso of the Comptroller's Department was in a PeopleSoft training class on the 78th floor of World Trade Center. Vivian Yacu, a sight-impaired staff person in the Technology Services Department, was also in the class. When the plane hit, rather than just thinking of himself, Dean guided Vivian to safety, greatly impeding and delaying his own exit and putting his own life at risk. Throughout the decent, he calmed Vivian's fears and insisted that he would not be leaving her side until they were both out of the building.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Dorene Brown
Department: Real Estate

Award Category: Medal of Valor

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Gerry Geata and Dorene Brown were both on the 88th floor of One World Trade Center when the first plane struck. The 88th floor sustained major damage being located four floors below the point of impact.

As they struggled to evacuate the floor, Gerry and Dorene and others found Elaine Duch, a secretary in the Real Estate Department, badly burned, and knew they had to get her to medical attention immediately. They began the long descent to the Lobby with Dorene in front of, and Gerry aside Elaine, all the while consoling and comforting her. Once they reached the street, Elaine was given last rights and an EMS worker immediately grabbed Elaine and transported her to St. Vincent's Hospital. Elaine was later determined to have third-degree burns over 70% of her body. She was recently released from the burn center and is now in the Burke Rehabilitation Center. Within minutes, Tower One collapsed.

For her unselfish commitment to a fellow employee in spite of the possibility of grave personal injury, Dorene Brown, is recommended for the Medal of Valor Award.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

**Nominee Name: Gerard Gaeta
Department: World Trade**

Award Category: Medal of Valor

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Gerry and Dorene Brown were both on the 88th floor of One World Trade Center when the first plane struck. The 88th floor sustained major damage being located four floors below the point of impact.

As they struggled to evacuate the floor, Gerry and Dorene and others found Elaine Duch, a secretary in the Real Estate Department, badly burned, and knew they had to get her to medical attention immediately. They began the long descent to the Lobby with Dorene in front of, and Gerry aside Elaine, all the while consoling and comforting her. Once they reached the street, Elaine was given last rights and an EMS worker immediately grabbed Elaine and transported her to St. Vincent's Hospital. Elaine was later determined to have third-degree burns over 70% of her body. She was recently released from the burn center and is now in the Burke Rehabilitation Center. Within minutes, Tower One collapsed.

For his unselfish commitment to a fellow employee in spite of the possibility of grave personal injury, Gerry Geata , is recommended for the Medal of Valor Award.

**CIVILIAN
EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE
(Individual)**

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Margaret Zoch

Department: Comptroller's

Award Category: Exceptional Service

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

On September 11 Margaret Zoch went above and beyond the call of duty as the Comptroller of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Peggy escaped One World Trade Center 10 minutes before it collapsed in large part because of her efforts to direct one of her handicapped staff members out of the building. She realized it would fall upon her and her staff to take the lead in the restoration of the Port Authority's financial infrastructure, thus demonstrating to all employees and outside entities alike, that the Port Authority is still a going concern with the strength, endurance and certainly the financial stability to see through this horrific disaster. Peggy traveled from Downtown to the Port Authority's emergency command center at Journal Square immediately after escaping from the building to begin working on business resumption and continued to do so until late that night. While there she learned that her brother, who worked for Aon in Tower 2, was among the missing.

Putting aside personal concerns that she and her family were experiencing as a result of the World Trade Center attack, at 5:00 a.m. on Wednesday morning, Peggy was at the Journal Square Transportation Center focusing all of her energies and efforts on ensuring that the Authority's financial systems were restored and operating in order to run payroll and to pay vendors and contractors.

Not wanting her fellow employees to have to deal with any monetary hardships that might result from the inability to produce a timely payroll, Peggy quickly and efficiently began identifying tasks, organizing teams, and delegating responsibilities to get the payroll process underway – all while fielding questions and developing solutions to obstacles to achieving what appeared an impossible task. Working 14 and 15 hour days, the success of Peggy's expertise and leadership abilities were realized by all Port Authority and PATH employees when on Thursday and Friday – as scheduled on the

payroll calendars, everyone received paychecks or direct deposits into designated accounts.

At the same time, Peggy arranged for procurement of emergency supplies and replacement equipment, organized additional staff, and was instrumental in structuring a course of action to reestablish the accounts payable function so that vendors and contractors would receive timely payments for services and supplies previously received, but more importantly for urgently needed rescue and recovery equipment, materials and provisions. On September 13th, just two days after the disaster, payable checks were being printed and mailed. If this not enough, Peggy also made certain that everything possible was being done to also restore the billing function so that the Authority could issue bills as well as track and monitor fares, tolls, rents and percentage agreements so that the agency could return to its day to day business and revenues would not lapse.

Her unselfish and courageous actions on September 11th in themselves demonstrate Peggy's extraordinary bravery and strong leadership qualities. What was accomplished in the days following the World Trade Center attack further exemplifies extreme competence, the exceptional ability to effectively perform and direct others in accomplishing seemingly unattainable goals, incredible dedication to the Authority and its staff, and an overall strength of character seldom found. That anyone could have achieved what Peggy did so expertly would be a remarkable feat – that Peggy did it while going through severe personal pain and grief suffered at the hands of the terrorist attack is amazing, incredible, and so very deserving of high honor, tribute and praise.

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**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Morris Faitelewicz

Department: Engineering

Award Category: Exceptional Service (Individual)

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Morris is a New York State Certified Paramedic/Instructor and is the Commanding Officer of a Manhattan Auxiliary Rescue Group.

Morris, who was not yet at work the morning of September 11th at the time of the attack, immediately mobilized his volunteers from around the City and loaded his NYPD van with rescue and first aid equipment and responded to the WTC area.

Morris then joined teams comprised of physicians, nurses, and other medical personnel in front of the Courts at Centre Street and became involved in the setting up of triage, treatment and transportation teams for victims that would be extricated from the rubble. Morris returned to the Disaster site where he assisted FDNY/EMS in communicating with their command post about this triage location, since their communication system was heavily impacted. Morris subsequently arrived at the NYPD ESU and Special Operations Division (SOD) Temporary Headquarters at Stuyvesant High School and since that day has provided numerous hours after work and on his days off, to supervise all Auxiliary Police rescue volunteers from around the City and to provide coverage for special requests of assistance, particularly during off hours and times of extreme manpower shortages due to funerals and special events.

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**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: James M. Begley

Department: Law Department

Award Category: Award for Exceptional Service (Individual)

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

On the morning of September 11, a senior member of the Law Department arrived by subway only minutes after a plane had struck 1 WTC. Encountering a smoke-filled concourse, he immediately tried to call the Law Department offices but was unsuccessful. He exited the WTC concourse and headed toward the northwest corner of Vesey and Church Street, when a plane struck 2 WTC showering debris onto the streets below. After a safe period of time, he continued down Church Street and continued in his attempts to reach senior staff by cell phone, while police were advising pedestrians of their concerns about the structural integrity of the Towers. He finally encountered two Law Department colleagues who had just evacuated 1 WTC. They all began moving eastward still adhering to concerns from police that the fate of the Towers was in jeopardy. After numerous attempts to contact senior staff by telephone, he eventually made contact with two other senior Law Department staff and immediately began discussing response actions and responsibilities.

On the following day, he reported to the Port Authority Emergency Operation Center (EOC) at the Journal Square Transportation Center and then later to the Port Authority Technical Center. For the next five weeks, he along with another Law Department representative, provided round-the-clock emergency response following the terrorist attacks. While working at the EOC, he provided other Port Authority staff with assistance in identifying and resolving a multitude of issues and problems that arose in the early efforts of the recovery, including providing legal advice on emergent legal problems. In addition, he provided available recovery information, counsel and support to grieving friends of Port Authority staff listed as missing.

After leaving the EOC in mid-October, he worked closely with Law Department senior staff under extremely difficult conditions at Newark Legal Center to ensure that issues and problems concerning staff were addressed as they undertook the Herculean efforts needed to begin restoring the Law Department's business and practice of law.

For his extraordinary level of service in the recovery process, the Law Department respectfully nominates Assistant General Counsel, James M. Begley, the Award for Exceptional Service (Individual).

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**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: **Darrell Buchbinder**

Department: **Law Department**

Award Category: **Award for Exceptional Service (Individual)**

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Following September 11, 2001, in addition to his day-to-day responsibilities, this senior member of the Law Department coordinated the provision of legal services pertaining to the recovery for losses arising from the destruction of the World Trade Center and the restoration of the World Trade Center and destroyed PATH facilities, through a specially formed multi-Divisional team of Law Department staff.

The events of September 11, 2001 and the impacts on the Port Authority implicate various areas of law, such as insurance, litigation, leases, contracts, environmental and federal funding legislation. He has taken responsibility for oversight and management of the team of attorneys, continuing to provide round-the-clock services as the need arises.

For his extraordinary level of service and effort in the recovery process, the Law Department respectfully nominates Assistant General Counsel, Darrell Buchbinder, the Award for Exceptional Service (Individual).

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**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Michael D. Driscoll

Department: Law Department

Award Category: Award for Exceptional Service (Individual)

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

A senior staff member of the Law Department was enroute to a meeting in New Jersey when an airplane struck the North Tower. He, of course, immediately cancelled the meeting and attempted to reach his staff by cell phone. Reporting to the nearest Port Authority facility, Port Newark, he assisted the facility personnel by staffing an open police line to headquarters. This enabled police to assist others with the shut down of the port facility. Having prior military experience in the field of disaster recovery, he knew to report to the Port Authority Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and assist in any capacity he could. He remained at the command center from the afternoon of September 11th, to the afternoon of September 12th. He reported to the EOC each day, as one of two designated representatives from the Law Department, in an effort to locate staff members who were listed as missing.

For approximately six weeks, he was on permanent rotation with another senior staff member providing the EOC with legal guidance, counsel and assistance on a wide variety of emergent legal issues on a twenty-four hour a day basis, seven days a week. During this same period, he worked closely with the Human Resources Department's component of the Port Authority Family Assistance Center in an effort to deliver benefits to the families of Port Authority employees who had perished in the World Trade Center. He acted as a liaison between the Law Department and other Port Authority management in handling routine and emergent legal issues.

Once the EOC reduced its operating hours and the need for emergent advice subsided, he resumed his management and supervision of the reconstitution efforts for the Office of the New Jersey Solicitor, while maintaining daily contact with the EOC.

For his extraordinary level of service in the recovery efforts, the Law Department respectfully nominates New Jersey Solicitor, Michael D. Driscoll, the Award for Exceptional Service (Individual).

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**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Karen E. Eastman

Department: Office of the Secretary/Executive Director's Office

Award Category: Individual Award for Exceptional Service

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Following her own escape from The World Trade Center on September 11th, Karen Eastman reported directly to the command center at Journal Square to aid in re-establishing the agency's headquarters and assessing the tremendous toll suffered in the attacks. In spite of her own shock and grief, Karen worked almost non-stop in the weeks following the incidents.

In the wake of the tragic loss of Executive Director, Neil Levin and Board Secretary, Dan Bergstein, Karen was asked to serve the agency in a dual capacity by remaining in her position as the Executive Policy Advisor to the then-Acting Executive Director, Ron Shifan, and by also assuming the role of Acting Board Secretary. Karen tirelessly supported Ron, the Chairman and the members of the Board, the Chiefs and staff at all levels throughout the agency during this painful and trying period. Through her efforts, constant communication was maintained between key parties. Her challenge continued as she played a key role in the transition of a new Executive Director, Joseph Seymour, and a new Chairman, Jack Sinagra, for the agency.

Her long years of service have given Karen a unique perspective on the agency and enabled her to function effectively despite the anguish and uncertainty which surrounded her. She faced the daily challenges of the tragedy with a combination of courage and compassion, offering solace where it was needed and facing the most dire and tragic circumstance head on.

As is always the case with Karen, during that period no job was too big to handle and no detail too small to be given her full attention. She was the epitome of grace under fire and her unstinting resolve helped to heal the wounds of our battered agency.

It is therefore recommended that Karen Eastman be awarded an individual *Award for Exceptional Service* for her extraordinary level of service, effort and accomplishment in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on The World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: James Martinsen

Department: Operations Services Department

Award Category: Award for Exceptional Service (Individual)

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

As Risk Management's Supervisor of Safety Programs, James Martinsen reported to work at the Port Authority Technical Center in Jersey City on the morning of September 11. Upon being notified of the attacks on the World Trade Center, Jim, on his own volition, elected to travel to the attack site and render aid to rescue workers, the buildings' occupants and to establish a tenable remote command location for all Risk Management disaster activities. Jim assessed the dynamic and evolving conditions and moved into the staging zone just north of Ground Zero. He maintained this essential communications center in this precarious environment throughout the day. In drawing upon his extensive knowledge of WTC operations, Jim was able to evaluate the scope of the incident and relay timely and accurate reports of the day's catastrophic events. Jim provided this essential emergency response information to his Inspection & Safety Managers, Safety Engineers and Fire Protection Engineers. In complete disregard for his personal safety, coupled with the possibility of additional NYC terrorist attacks and firsthand fears of not knowing what else could occur that day, Jim remained on scene. These heroic actions are exemplary and most deserving of this individual Award.

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**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Name: Henry Riveros

Department: Operations Services Department

Award Category: Award for Exceptional Service (Individual)

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

On September 11, Mr. Riveros, Fire Protection Engineer Consultant, reported to his Inspection and Safety office at the Port Authority Technical Center at 8:00 am. Upon being notified of the attack at the World Trade Center, Mr. Riveros drove to the site. At 9:00 am, Henry joined one of the Risk Management managers on Vesey Street to assess the damage to the Complex, concentrating on the status of the buildings' life-safety systems, sprinkler protection, emergency generators and the progress of the evacuation. In order to gain additional information regarding the buildings' condition, Henry entered Tower One, reported to the Fire Command Post in the lobby and immediately rendered assistance to the occupants of the Towers, who were in the process of evacuating the burning building. While working in this hazardous location, Henry maintained constant contact with his Risk Management supervisors in New Jersey, provided life safety information to FDNY's senior command staff and Port Authority WTC Police. In spite of this obvious personal danger, Henry remained at Tower One Command Post until the collapse of Tower Two. Covered with debris, Henry successfully self evacuated himself from Tower One and continued to assist the numerous groups of evacuated tenants now gathered on West Street. The on-site reports that Henry conveyed to his support staff at the Port Authority Technical Center in Jersey City were essential in formulating Risk Management's response and subsequent actions. His willingness to disregard his own personal safety and drive to the Center, enter Tower One and remain at that location to the very end is exemplary and deserving of this Award.

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SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 SPECIAL AWARDS PROGRAM NOMINATION FORM

Nominee Name: Anthony Falabella

Department: Procurement

Award Category: Award for Exceptional Service - Individual

Description of Extraordinary Act/Contribution:

Tony Falabella left the 63rd Floor of One World Trade Center with his co-workers shortly after the first plane hit Tower One. He became separated from other MMD staff while changing stairwells on the 44th floor, just as the second plane hit Tower Two. As he left the complex, he headed east toward the Brooklyn Bridge, getting about a half block away before Tower Two came down. He was reunited with a co-worker, and they soon became engulfed in a cloud of debris and dust. Unable to see or breathe normally they took refuge in a local Jewish Center, held up there until the air cleared and proceeded over the Brooklyn Bridge. Tony proceeded by bus to Long Island City, and walked from there to LaGuardia where he borrowed a vehicle not to go home but to get back to work. Unable to reach his manager, Tony, the Operations Manager for the Materials Management Division (MMD), placed all stockrooms on 24-hour duty and contacted MMD contractors to insure that staff and materials would be immediately available for the rescue efforts at Ground Zero. Tony eventually made contact with the Manager later that day and together they crafted the division's response to the ensuing crisis. Clearly, Tony set the initial stage for MMD's successful response to the WTC Disaster and clearly put the Agency's needs ahead of his own.