

Through the Bag

FD.N.Y.—A Source of Pride

Dear Commissioner Spinnato,

I want to commend you and your staff for the excellent work done in response to the recent Amtrak accident in Queens. One measure of the quality of City services is its ability to respond quickly and effectively to emergency situations. The Fire Department's actions following that disaster serve as a source of pride to me and to all City residents.

Thank you and congratulations.

Sincerely,
Edward I. Koch
M A Y O R
City of New York

Impossible!—Not for FDNY

Batt. Chief Raymond A. Gamble
Dear Chief Gamble,

As Custodian-Engineer of J.H.S. 8, Queens, I would like to thank you on behalf of the Principal, the children, and the community for the fine job you and your men did after the flood on the night of July 1, 1984. Your promptness in responding to an almost impossible task is to be commended. You surveyed our desperate situation most professionally and obtained the quick and efficient services of Fire Salvage Unit I.

We are grateful for your professional and efficient service at that late hour.

Very truly yours,
Raymond Zapata, Jr.
Richard S. Grossley JHS
108-35 167th St.
Jamaica, N.Y. 11433

Professional and Mature

Dear Commissioner Spinnato,

I am writing this letter to commend your Department, especially the men of Engine Co. 320 and Ladder Co. 167.

On June 14, 1984, I had a small stove fire, however, it produced a lot of smoke which filled the house and poured out the windows. A girl that was passing by called 911 and later told me that your men responded very quickly. She also informed me that she overheard the firefighters saying that it took about five minutes to awaken me because I'm a very sound sleeper.

They did an excellent job in putting out the fire. Their procedures surely mark them as professionals. As everything was winding up, I said something to a firefighter that anyone would have taken as a nasty comment, although I certainly did not mean it that way. I called the firehouse to apologize, but I'm still not sure that they really know that I meant no insult. The fact that they did not get nasty back shows even more how professional and mature they are.

I have the highest regard for these firefighters for the professionals they are. If they are an example of what the whole New York City Fire Department is like, then we must have the best Fire Department in the world.

Respectfully and sincerely
Guy Guido
45-65 193rd St.
Flushing, N.Y. 11358

CPR Practiced—And Taught

Dear Commissioner Spinnato,

I am writing to express appreciation for the efforts of two of your firemen, Lt. Joseph Toto and Fr. Roy Saxton, who volunteered their time to organize and teach a day-long CPR training course to the staff at the Kennedy Child Study Center.

Thirty-four staff members participated in the training session. On behalf of them, as well as our handicapped children and their families—thank you.

Sincerely,
Sister Marie Burns
Kennedy Child Study Center
151 E. 67th St.
N.Y., N.Y. 10021

A Shining Example

Dear Commissioner Spinnato,

I'd like to tell you about Michael Wyant, E.229, a newly recruited firefighter. The following events took place on January 26, 1984, two days before Michael Wyant started his training as a New York City Firefighter.

On that night I had the terrifying experience of being attacked at knife point by two young muggers. Hearing my cries for help, Michael showed the courage and devotion to duty that New York City Firefighters are known for. Without thought for his own safety or comfort, Michael left the security of his home to come to my rescue. His action very likely saved my life, and definitely led to the quick arrest of the two perpetrators.

Michael Wyant is a shining example of what the young men of New York City could be, and the stuff New York City Firefighters are made of.

Sincerely,
David R. Starwood
557 8th Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11215

Taxpayers Are Well Served

Dear Commissioner Spinnato,

I wish to thank you and commend you for the prompt response and excellent capabilities shown by your Department in their containing of the fire in the premises at 244 Canal Street, Man., on June 4, 1984. I have offices in that building.

Because of their speedy and professional reaction, our damages were far less than they would otherwise have been. The other tenants of the building join me in expressing their extreme gratitude. (Ed. Note: Responding units were E.55, E.7, E.9, L.1, L.8, and the Chief of the 2nd Batt.).

We understand that Fr. Joseph Navarra, E.55, was injured while fighting the fire. We express both our sincere sympathies and hopes for a speedy recovery for him, and would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his actions over and above the call of duty.

The taxpayers of New York City have been well served.

Very truly yours,
Hwa-Min Hsu
244 Canal Street
New York, N.Y. 10013

Fighters of Fire—Savers of Life

Dear Commissioner Spinnato,

This past Monday, May 21, 1984, at approximately 5:30 a.m., there was a fire at 1628 Summerfield St., Ridgewood, N.Y., two doors away from my home.

I do not know what fire companies responded (Ed. Note: E.252, E.277, L.112, L.135, and the Chief of the 28th Batt.). But, I do know one thing, they responded within minutes of the emergency call and proceeded to do their job with professionalism and expertise.

These brave men not only saved property from being incinerated but, most of all, lives from being lost. Since it was so early in the morning, many people were still asleep.

I cannot commend these men enough—it would be impossible. The firemen of New York City are, indeed, "The Bravest!" Thank you fighters of fire—savers of life.

Sincerely,
William Losert
1624 Summerfield St.
Ridgewood, N.Y. 11385

High Quality of Work

Dear Chief Regan,

On June 8, 1984, I required the services of the Bureau of Fire Investigation due to an incident at the Bureau of Health Services.

Fire Marshals Carmine Palopoli and Vincent Esposito of the Brooklyn Base responded to our request for assistance.

I would like to commend your Bureau for the professional manner in which the above mentioned Marshals performed their duty. They exhibited tact, sensitivity, and asserted their authority only at the precise moment called for. They accomplished the objective with a minimum of disturbance.

It is a privilege to acknowledge the quality of work performed by these men.

Sincerely,
William J. Coleman
Chief, Bur. Health Ser.
251 Lafayette St.
New York, N.Y. 10012

Invaluable Professional Assistance

Dear Commissioner Spinnato,

Recently, the expertise of your Hazardous Materials Response Team was requested by our Fire Department in setting up a Haz-Mat team in our city. I want to commend your Department on the invaluable professional assistance given to us and the gracious hospitality shown by the members of the New York City Fire Department to our visiting officers.

The following people and units should especially be singled out: Chief Raymond Brown, Rescue Services; Lt. John Dillon, Rescue Co. 4; Lt. John Calderone; and the personnel from Engine Co. 226, Rescue Co. 4, and Engine Co. 292. Please convey to these members a heartfelt "thank you" from our Department.

Sincerely,
John B. Rankin, Fire Chief
Upper Darby Fire Department
Upper Darby, Pennsylvania 19082

13th Division by Bob Abernethy—L.137

Recently promoted Capt. **Jerry DeSapio** (L.134) thanks all the guys at the "Big House" for their congratulations and that great send-off.... L.127 presented Fr. **Tom "Crash" McManus** with an LIRR commutation ticket upon promotion to Lieut.... "Hats Off" to E.298/L.127, regular season Softball Champs of the 13th Div. Fr. **Tony "My Way" Vanacore** (E.298), the team manager, was presented with a gift certificate for personnel management classes.... Lt. **Tom McCarthy** (E.270) has become a super bug on golf. (See the monster you created, D.C. **Joyce!**).... Why does **John Golden** (13th Div.) say he won't play golf with **Bill VanBuskirk** (Aide, 13th Div.)?... Welcome aboard to Lt. **Frank Brogia** (E.302). Fr. **Danny Willis** (L.155), Fr. **Bob Pfeiffer** (L.155), and to some new blood, Prob. Fr. **Bruce Gerrie** (L.155), **Frank Stark** (E.302), **Randy Feiffel** (E.302), **Dan Dorrian** (E.302), and **Don Wunderlich** (L.155).... E.158 welcomes Probies **Ed Costigan** and **Ed Curley**.... Unbelievable as it sounds, E.311 now has two—count 'em, two—Fr. **Frank Esposito's**. Don't everyone answer at once!.... The 13th Div. Testimonial Dinner-Dance, organized by D.C. **Jim Joyce** and **Brad Tracy**, was a smashing success that brought raves from all who attended. D.C. **Joseph Lee**, who retires after 40 years of dedicated service, displayed an unknown talent as story teller and entertainer. Plaques were presented to D.C. **Lee**, Fr. **Joseph McHugh** (Aide to D.C. **Joyce**), along with plaques to retiring **Richie Reichel** and **Dan Haggerty** (both E.270).... E.301 and L.150 welcomes Probies **Dan Fusco** (E.301), **George Finnerty** (E.301), and **Mike Kelly** (L.150).... L.127 salutes Fr. **Bob Myette** (L.127) for receiving the Emerald Society Medal.... Why is Fr. **Albie "The Sniffer" Castellani** (L.127) wearing cologne and clean socks to work?... The annual Quincy, Mass. fishing extravaganza, organized by **Gene Skelly** (aboard two 26' Winnegago's) was a huge success. High hook men were **Dom Castiglia** (E.331), **Bucky Bucalo** (E.331), and **Seymour "The Saint" Schenker** (E.331). High (beer) can men were **Richie "Rum" Chase** (L.173), **Howie "Dum" Campbell** (L.173), and **Charlie "Buluga" Ott** (L.173).... Fr. **Mike Hennessy** (L.127) developing a new mutual exchange system for the job.... Members wish Fr. **Bill Scarola** (E.301) and Fr. **Tony Confessore** (E.301) speedy recoveries.... Where is Fr. **Pete Juranich** (L.127)?.... Get well wishes to Fr. **Frank Gibson** (13th Div.).... Congrats to Physical Fitness Medal winner Fr. **Jerry "DaGroch" Graziose** (L.173).... Fr. **Freddie "Commissar" Veters** (E.331) back from vacation and all are happy again.... Speaking of **Seymour Schenker** (E.331), shortly after the Quincy trip he was stricken with a very serious medical problem which required major surgery. We are happy to report that everything went fine and that he is making a rapid recovery. **Seymour** was particularly taken by Chief of Department **John O'Rourke's** gesture at the Bklyn. & Queens Holy Name Communion Breakfast when he asked that everyone offer a prayer for his recovery. We're confident that it won't be long before **Seymour** has us laughing our sides off again.... Good luck to luck to retirees Lt. **Walter Clarke** (L.155) and Fr. **William Kieswer** (E.302).... Get well soon to Fr. **Bob Xavier** (L.155).... The 13th Div. offers a warm welcome to the newly formed 59th Battalion.... Be careful out there!

14th Division by Roger "Yummy" Huml—L.144

Congrats to Lt. **Worontzoff** (E.258), promoted to Capt.... Welcome Probies **Conti** (E.258), and **Caccione, Roberts** and **Buser** (L.115).... Did **Ray "Schnozola" Ward** buy a new glove?... It is true that **"Chucky" Green** (E.324) is the original Break Dancer?... **"Sleepy" Komar** (E.262) talking to the N.Y. Transit about buying a bus.... **"Weepy" Proscia** (E.262) never gets O.T.... **"Rags Donodea** (E.262) retiring after 31 yrs.... **"Elevator Shoes" Harrington** (E.262) installed blocks on the pedals.... Capt. **Flood** (L.117) installed landing instruments.... Happy Retirement to **Tommy "Duhh" De Rosa**

(L.117).... Proby **Neil "Gabby" Volz** to L.117.... **Mickey "Blazing Saddles"** (L.117) has never taken an 8 count.... Lt. **Robinson** (E.263) back from Hawaii after buying the condo from Capt. **Duttino** (E.263).... **Dan Marchand** (E.320) "retired to the farm after" after 22 yrs.... **Charlie Ferrand** from E.82 to E.320.... Capt. **Andrade** (E.320) says **Kearney** can't have the front seat.... Proby **Frank "Seasons" Spring** to E.260.... Great time had by all at E.260's Annual Party at Gigi's of Westbury.... **Don Dyer** (L.129) lost a tough fight to **John Colon** (E.6) at the Boxing Show for the Burn Center.... Retirees: **Engblom** (E.272), Lt. **Jetter** (E.273), and **Joe Russell** (L.129).... **"The Knife" Vieni** (E.273) now wearing a Fly Swatter on his belt.... **"Want Me Back" Randazzo** (L.129) taking the plunge.... **Don Dyer** from E.42 to L.129.... **Framk Mugavin** (E.274) retiring.... Probies **Hamilton, Mullady, Calamari,** and **Marzan** to E.274.... Capt. **Drumm** (E.274) did not win the 10 Best Dressed Award.... Fr. **Shy, Murphy,** and **Murnane** (E.274) won the Montauk Highway Surf Casting Contest. (They won a traffic light).... Why does Lt. **Falagiano** (E.312) always wants to go East, and **Burnstein** always West?... **Joe Rampino** (E.312) to retire. He gets "The Gold Boot" for all he has done.... Lt. **"Only Covering" Krebs** (E.312) to Capt., looking to swap a bike for a car.... Proby **Smith** to L.136, and Proby **Ed "Sweetpee" Nevins** to (E.287).... Lt. **Sonny Mera** to Capt., and **Farrell** to Lt.... **"Crying Brian" Molloy** does late watches while walking his dog.... Is Fr. **Triptree** in the towing business? Ask **Molloy**.... E.258/L.115 won the "Softball Title".... Did **Ridge** (E.259), **Macko** and **Scalisi** (L.128) forget their chutes?... Proby **Tuohy** to E.259, while **Mcdonald** went to L.128, and Lt. **Brown** nailed down E.307.... Fr. **"Stevie Wonder" Esposito** (L.144) going to Battery Pulling School while Lt. **"P-P" Stein** (E.295) bought a gym for **Scott** (L.144), **"L.S"** (L.144), and **"Battlin"** **Bobby Fitzgerald** (L.144).... Congrats to **Sam Decesare** (L.144) on promotion to Lt. He will be deeply missed. Go Get Em', **Sam!**.... **"Snots" Culliney** (E.295) upset over not seeing his name in the WNYE.... Did Capt. **O'Sullivan** (E.295) get certified for scuba diving.... **"Alligator Farm" Hooks,** **"Crash" Holtman,** **"I'm Handsome" Frank,** and **"Big Belly" Jackson,** of the Oak-alooosa F.D. of Miami, thinking of transferring to L.144.... However much we guard ourselves against it, we tend to shape ourselves in the image others have of us. It is not so much the example of others we imitate, as the reflection of ourselves in their eyes and the echo of ourselves in their words. (Ed. **Boinie:** Wow, **Yummy,** dats heavy. I didn't know youse could tink dat deep.).... Until then, sleep warm!

15th Division by Ira "Raven" Trow—E.280

Congratulations to the following FDNY Medal Winners from the glorious 15th Div.: Fr. **Moriarty** (L.132), Fr. **Warren** (L.175), Fr. **Davis** (L.175), Fr. **Howley** (E.233), Fr. **McFadden** (L.120), and Lt. **Dirks** (formerly L.103). Nice going, guys. And let's give a tip of the helmet to E.231/L.120 and the 44th Batt. for the party after the ceremonies on Medal Day.... Good luck to Fr.

