

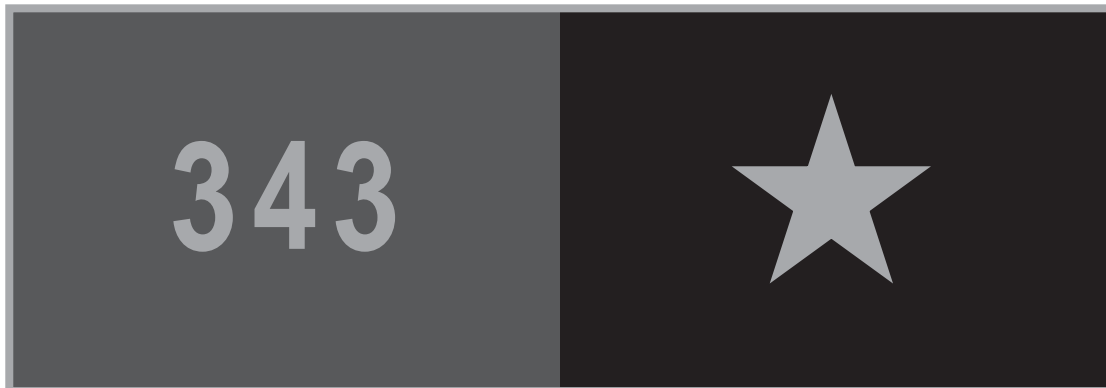
The WTC Ribbons/Medals Campaign

To recognize the extraordinary heroism and dedication exhibited by FDNY members of all ranks during, immediately thereafter and following the World Trade Center incident of September 11, 2001, the Fire Department has initiated this one-time bestowal of Ribbons and Medals to honor our members' actions.

Very simply, there are three levels:



1. *Survivor*--for those members who were on-scene and survived as the Towers collapsed.



2. *Rescuer*--for those members who operated within 24 hours after the Towers collapsed until the last rescue.



3. *Campaign*--for those members who participated in the rescue/recovery efforts.



Additionally, a corresponding Medal will be distributed with the Ribbons. The Medals are approximately the size of a silver dollar and a purple and black ribbon is attached. The Medal will be enclosed in a commemorative case.

On FDNY's Medal Day, June 4, 2003, a symbolic presentation was made. Soon, Deputy Chiefs will go to each firehouse to make presentations to assigned members and retirees. The purpose is to recognize and thank all the members who contributed.

FDNY Medal Day

Just three years after the start of the paid force, the Metropolitan Fire Department began a system of recording the heroic deeds of its members with the "Roll of Merit." The Department secretary entered the names of the Officers and members who distinguished themselves in the discharge of their duties.

These heroic acts were further recognized beginning in 1870 when Commissioner Alexander Shaler--himself a Medal of Honor winner in the Civil War--presented the newly minted James Gordon Bennett Medal to Assistant Foreman (Lieutenant) Minthorne Thompkins of Ladder 1 and Foreman (Captain) Benjamin Gicquel of Engine 9 for their outstanding rescues.

The first several medals were presented in the Commissioner's office. Beginning in 1870, the medals were presented in outdoor ceremonies at City Hall, Union Square Park, The Fireman's Monument, Manhattan's Grand Army Plaza and at the site of the World's Fair in Queens.

The apparatus and the uniforms have changed, but the mission is the same: The protection of life and property from the ravages of fire and other non-fire emergencies.

Turn the page for a photo spread of this year's Medal Day winners.

by FF Paul Hashagen, Rescue 1 (retired)