



Kerry Ennis, daughter of Mick Ennis, Phoenix Retirees (standing with pony tail and cup in hand), organized and helped distribute toys to the surviving kids of Hurricane Sandy, in Long Beach, New York. Kerry has collected toys and gifts for years at her law firm, Ropes & Grey in the City, but for all those years, never saw the faces of the recipients. This year, she got washed out of her home in Long Beach, with more than five feet of water covering everything she owned. Despite her loss, she put on her big girl pants and went to work for all of her neighbors' kids and on Saturday, December 15, rode on an antique fire engine up and down the streets of the West End in Long Beach, which was devastated by Sandy. The community is home to hundreds of FDNY families. Atta girl, Kerry, you did good.

great food and beverages, along with many laughs... Anyone who needs an up-to-date Phoenix roster can e-mail the **Mick (Ennis)** at sinne@cox.net. If changes are necessary, let him know and it will be fixed... Brothers, this is hilarious. Download it and you will laugh. Thanks to **Tom Merkel** for sharing this training video via the **Phoenix Fire Department**. It is a one-of-a-kind drill that works well only in the desert after you've been baking in the 115-degree temperatures. You will enjoy this video; I guarantee it. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OW_19ISzXzY... It is with regret that we announce the passing of **Cycle Club** President Emeritus and FDNY legend, **Jackie Boyle**. Those of us who were colleagues and friends of his for these many decades can attest to the fact that the phrase *colorful character* was a good fit. He was someone who enjoyed a good time and those who were with him enjoyed an even better time because he was there. At the same time, he spoke his mind on any issue in which he took an interest and you could always count on hearing it, loud and clear. This may not have pleased anyone with a decidedly different take on whatever issue was at hand, but **Jack** was a man of great resolve and would defend his point of view with vigor. His circle of friends was so extensive that it was often joked that he *had the Pope's home phone number*. That was a joke..or was it? The current term, *FAST truck*, was changed from *FAT engine*, due to actions by **Jackie**.--**George Eysser**, President; **John Jermy**, Vice President; **Newt Tanner**, Secretary; **Tom Cunningham**, Treasurer; and **Lee McKeever**, Sergeant at Arms. *Note:* The **Cycle Club** is the oldest FDNY affiliated organization still in continuous existence...**Central Florida Retirees:** Rumor has it that **John "vagabond" Fatta** has a lifetime parking spot at the **Coors' brewery in Golden, Colorado**...**John McDonald** has to be congratulated for arranging to send a *Wounded Warrior* to **Disney** for a one-week stay, thanks to the donations from the Retirees and **Palm Coast Elks**...Second annual **Vinny Gough/Freddie Gleisner** golf outing held on October 6, 2012, was a sellout and huge success. Proceeds from the tourney go to a student for his training to become

a Firefighter/Paramedic...Fall picnic held at **Bings Landing in Palm Coast** also was a success...November 17, 2012, was the date of the annual dinner/dance held at the **Shores Resort & Spa in Daytona Beach**. Great food and entertainment, with the usual crowd showing up...For more information about the organization, go to www.fdnnygoesouth.com...Rumor has it the "golfing widows" are asking, *why me?*...**NYC Retired Firefighters of Orange County (and Hudson Valley, NY)**, **Dan Finegan**, President, reports: Members meet on the third Thursday of the month at the **Knights of Columbus Hall in Washingtonville**. Call the info line at 1-845-355-4410 for dates and time. If you want to get on their e-mail list, send your name, phone number and e-mail address to embers41@gmail.com. Their web site is nycetired-firefightersofoc.org...They are working together with other groups to aid members impacted by Sandy. The **Brotherhood Foundation**, run by Firefighters for Firefighters, is at the forefront...They have the WTC monitoring program locally...They are looking for

members to join their **Pipe and Drum Band**...**Broward County, Florida, Retirees** welcome back all the snowbirds and report they have a new President. **Steve Whelan Ladder 105**, is the son of **Deputy Assistant Chief William Whelan** and nephew of **Battalion Chief Ed Whelan**. His grandfather put 49 (that's right, 49!) years in the job and his great grandfather joined the **Brooklyn Fire Department (BFD)** in 1882 and served until 1915. He drove the horses in **BFD Steamer 5**. This company became **Engine 205** when Brooklyn became part of New York City in 1898. (See page 44 for related submission.) **Steve** wants to hear from anyone else who is a fourth-generation FDNY member...**Ray Nodell Engine 231**, remains VP and immediate past President. **Ray Lebowitz, Communications**, will serve as a new member of the Board of Directors...They meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the **Pompano American Legion Post 142**, 171 SW 2nd Street, **Pompano Beach**...Their annual picnic was on Tuesday, March 19, at **Tradewinds Park**, 3600 West Sample Road, **Coconut Creek**.

Presentation of the Flags to FDNY

by Lieutenant Neil Skow, Haz-Mat 1 (retired)

There were multiple units that had the flags shown in the photo below, all Army Reserve and probably all from the Northeast. The flags were rotated among units in sequence (average time was 12-14 months and then passed on) until the last unit brought the flag home. At the time, **Lieutenant Neil Skow, Haz-Mat** (retired), was a Lieutenant Colonel commanding the 413th Supply and Services Battalion (S&S), located in Schenectady, New York. The flags accompanied him to Iraq in March of 2003.

The last unit to have possession of the flags was the 77th Sustainment Brigade (Liberty Patch), out of Fort Dix, New Jersey (formerly the 77th Regional Support Command with headquarters at Fort Totten), with direct lineage to the 77th Infantry Division of both World War I and World War II fame. **Lieutenant Skow's** current rank and last assignment was as a Colonel commanding the 301st Regional Support Group, formerly located at Fort Totten and moved to Butler, Pennsylvania (one hour north of Pittsburgh), in October 2007.

The members of **Engine 8, Ladder 2 and Battalion 8**, who responded to the World Trade Center (like all our members), were so taken when they saw the American Flag being raised at the site—which seemed so remarkably similar to the American Flag being raised by the 5th Marine Division on Iwo Jima in February 1945—that it became an inspiration for us to bring both the American Flag and FDNY flag to the World Trade Center site on a daily basis for approximately four months.

When the flags came back to the firehouse, the thought at the time was to frame them to be placed on or near the memorial of the 10 Firefighters and Officers that the house lost that day. In late Fall 2002, it became apparent that **Lieutenant Skow's** unit was going to be mobilized for deployment to Iraq and the members working with him at the firehouse came up with the idea of him taking these two flags to Iraq. They believed strongly that the flags represented what they were going to be fighting for, as well as a constant symbol of their esprit de corps and patriotism for our great country.

Needless to say, these flags were a great inspiration to our soldiers, Marines and coalition forces (especially the British), who wanted to see them and ensured that every September 11th, they were presented for all to see in a very moving and solemn ceremony for all who participated. The 77th Sustainment Brigade was the last Army Reserve Unit to leave Iraq and brought the flags back to the United States, with ultimate presentation to both **Commissioner Salvatore J. Cassano** and **Chief of Department Edward S. Kilduff**.



Shown above are **Commissioner Salvatore J. Cassano, Lieutenant Neil Skow, Haz-Mat 1 (retired)/Colonel, U.S. Army Reserve (retired), SFC Charles Gaglio, Colonel Stephen Falcone, Colonel Joyce Junior, CSM Sammy Sabian, Captain Davin Rodriguez, Chief of Department Edward S. Kilduff and Chief of Operations James E. Esposito** for the presentation of Flags to the FDNY.