

John A. Crisci

Lieutenant, Hazardous Material Co. 1

Age 48

Born: May 25, 1953 Died: September 11th, 2001

September 11th forever changed the lives of everyone, but to me and my family the effects of that change showed us the pain of loss. John was just finishing his 24 hour tour that morning when the call came in that a plane has hit the World Trade Center. Even though he was off duty he did not hesitate and jumped on the fire truck along with his men. John died helping others and the last recorded message from him is in the Port Authority radio transmissions between firemen where he stated his location. John also ordered a probationary fireman to stay with the fire truck and this young man is alive today.

John A. Crisci was born on May 25, 1953 in Brooklyn, New York. He grew up in Greenpoint with his parents, John and Rose Crisci and his older brother Leonard. He attended Holy Cross High School and St. John's University. He joined the New York City Police Department on June 26, 1974. However was laid off during the city fiscal crisis. He was rehired by N.Y.C. Fire Department on November 5, 1977. After John's graduation from the Fire Academy on December 12, 1977 he was assigned to Engine 229 in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. He transferred to Tower Ladder 119 in January 13, 1979. John was promoted to Fire Marshall on July 2, 1983 and assigned to the Brooklyn Division. Missing the firehouse decided to return to Ladder 119 on September 17, 1984. After successfully passing the Fire Marshall exam John started studying for the Lieutenant test. John heard the city was forming a Hazardous Material Unit, and wanted to be a part of it. Asked for a transfer on September 22, 1984, and became one of the original charter members of "Haz-Mat" Co.1.

On July 30, 1986 John was promoted to Lieutenant. Transferred to the 11th Battalion he was the covering officer in 30 Truck in Harlem. On May 28, 1988 the truck was dispatched to a fire in a five story tenement building with reports that a child was trapped. John and his team moved quickly to the fire floor. Through the heat and heavy smoke he found and rescued the semi-conscious 3 year old girl. For his heroism John received the Chief John J. McElligott medal on Medal Day, June 7, 1989.

John's career as Lieutenant extended to Engine 249, and Engine 332 in Brooklyn. He was transferred to Engine 288 on December 3, 1994 sharing the same quarters with Haz-Mat Co.1 in Queens. His final stop on July 1, 1998 through September 11, 2001 was senior lieutenant in Hazardous Material Co.1. John also taught at the Fire Academy and was a trained instructor for the IAFF on Hazardous Materials. From the above you can see that John was an experienced well trained firefighter. He would never jeopardize his or the life of his men. The attack on the World Trade Center was catastrophic and beyond our comprehension.