

VOLUME 06
NOV 2025



STATEN ISLAND RETIREES NEWSLETTER

F.D.N.Y.

STATEN ISLAND DIVISION

**GRATITUDE,
BROTHERHOOD, AND
MEMORY.**

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IN MEMORY OF
**FF PATRICK
BRADY**

LADDER 120

NOVEMBER 8, 2025

WE WILL NEVER FORGET

President's Message – November 2025

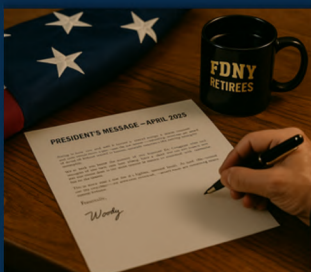
Brothers and Sisters,

This November, we honor one of our own — a reminder that while our gear may hang in the closet, the weight of the job never leaves us.

As the holidays approach, let's lean into the moments that matter: fellowship, phone calls, shared memories, and being there for one another.

Our bond was forged in fire, but it's kept alive by connection.

Fraternally,
Walter "Woody" Wall
President, FDNY Staten Island Retirees





Retirees Christmas Party

Thursday, December 11, 2025
6:00 – 10:00 PM
The Staaten Restaurant
Forest Avenue
Price: \$70 per person
CUTOFF DATE: December 4, 2025
NO PAYMENTS AT THE DOOR
Make checks payable to
“FDNY Retirees”
Mail to Joe Rehak
44 Roswell Ave
Staten Island, NY 10314
retirees@fdnyretirees.org



HEALTH & COMMUNITY NOTICES

Health Benefits Transfer Period Open Through Nov 30

Active and retired members can change health plans, add or drop dependents, or modify the Optional Rider during this window.

Changes take effect January 1, 2026.

👉 Visit: nyc.gov/hbp

Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) for 2026

- FDNY Pension COLA: 1.2% increase = +\$18/month
- Social Security COLA: 2.8% increase = +\$56/month average
-  These increases apply automatically. No action needed.

Reinstatement Offer to Unvaxxed City Workers

The City is offering a second chance at reinstatement for roughly 3,000 municipal employees fired under the 2021–2022 vaccine mandate.

Those who reapply:

- Will return at current pay rates
- Will not receive back pay
- Are not required to waive their right to sue

Why that last part matters:

In the previous reinstatement window (2023), returning workers were forced to sign a waiver agreeing not to pursue legal action.

This time around, you can come back and still retain your right to sue the City for lost wages, benefits, or civil service rights.

It's a major shift—and one worth understanding if you or someone you know was affected.



HEALTH & COMMUNITY NOTICES

Retirees Sue City Over Health Plan Changes

A coalition of NYC retirees and active workers has filed suit to stop the City's push to replace traditional health plans—like GHI Senior Care—with a self-funded insurance model.

Their concerns:

- Fewer legal protections when coverage is denied
- Reduced options for doctors and hospitals
- Increased out-of-pocket costs
- Loss of benefits retirees were promised when they left the job

City Hall says the change will save money. Retirees say it breaks the contract they earned through decades of service.

This case could affect all current and future City retirees—whether they realize it yet or not.

The legal fight is ongoing, but the message is clear: Don't look away.

Ground Zero Toxin Investigation Ordered

For the first time, NYC's Department of Investigation is digging into what city agencies knew about 9/11 toxins—and when.

The probe was ordered by the City Council after years of pressure from first responders and survivors dealing with long-term illness.

The stakes:

- Over 140,000 people are enrolled in the WTC Health Program
- More than 81,000 already suffer from certified exposure-related conditions
- New evidence may show that warnings were delayed or information was withheld

If that proves true, it could lead to expanded benefits, new lawsuits, and long-overdue accountability for thousands of responders still dealing with the consequences of their sacrifice.

This investigation is just beginning—but its impact could echo for years.



Membership & Club Activity

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

500 members have paid their dues — thank you.

132 still outstanding.

If you've already mailed your check, please don't send another — it throws off the records.

Also: Christmas Party checks will not be cashed until after the party.

— Jim DiMeo, Treasurer

JUL 17 NEXT RETIREES MEETING

 Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025

 6:30 PM

 Richmond County Yacht Club

142 Mansion Ave, Great Kills (Next to Marina Cafe)

Guest Speaker: Michael Barasch

(9/11 Compensation Fund)

 We'll also be holding our traditional Thanksgiving Raffle — don't miss it.

Please bring your check for the Christmas Party.

Flyer below has all the info.

CLOSING THOUGHT

Even in quiet months, the bond is still loud. Whether you make the meeting, drop in for a raffle, or just skim the newsletter, you're still a part of this thing. That's what matters.

SKIM IT OR STUDY IT — YOU'RE STILL PART OF IT

Whether you read every word or just glance at the page each month, the point is: you're still here.

You're still part of this thing.

And so are we.



IN MEMORY OF FIREFIGHTER PATRICK BRADY LADDER 120 – 11 YEARS OF SERVICE



On November 8, 2025, Firefighter Patrick Brady, age 42, made the ultimate sacrifice while operating at a 5-alarm fire at 9407 Kings Highway in Brooklyn. While working on the roof, he went into cardiac arrest and was later pronounced dead at Brookdale University Hospital.

He was appointed to the FDNY on July 14, 2014. After graduating from the Academy, he was assigned to Engine 227 in Brooklyn, and later transferred to Ladder 120 in 2022. His reputation: dependable, committed, sharp. The kind of firefighter you wanted on your rig. Patrick is the 1,163rd member of the FDNY to die in the line of duty. He is remembered by his brothers and sisters in the firehouse, by his family, and by all of us who understand what it means to go toward the danger when others are running away.

"We will never forget."



2026 FDNY VS. NYPD BASKETBALL GAME

-  Game Day: Friday, January 3, 2026
-  Location: Barclays Center, Brooklyn
-  Time: Check Spino link for exact game time
-  Tickets:
Purchase here:
[fdny-vs-nypd-game](https://www.barclayscenter.com/tickets/fdny-vs-nypd-game)



IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR

 **VS** 

BARCLAYS CENTER

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3rd, 2026 | 1:00 PM

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Joe LaPointe Cruise

Joe LaPointe is booking a cruise and wants to know if you want to come. Next year, as we all know, Joe will be retired and he is taking the time to go away on a cruise. If you are interested in coming along, check out the flyer below. I also suggest you book quick — he is inviting people and it only holds a few thousand.



CRUISE WITH A CAUSE!

Set sail with us on an adventure in the Bahamas where sun, sea and support come together! A portion of your cruise fare will be donated directly to T2T honoring the brave men and women who have sacrificed and served our country. Experience the beauty of the islands while contributing to a noble cause! Together we can make a difference!

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Closing Message

As we wrap up this issue, we thank every member of our Staten Island Retirees family. Even as some of our officers face health challenges, our strength comes from standing together and keeping each other in our thoughts and prayers.

Stay safe, stay proud, and stay connected. We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

This issue honors a brother we lost, and the bond we still carry. From the firehouse to the yacht club, it's the same pride that keeps us showing up — for each other, and for what we built.

Whether it's in the heat of the job or the quiet of retirement, we continue to show up, share stories, and carry the weight together.

Brotherhood doesn't fade. It finds new meaning — and that's exactly what this newsletter is here to protect.

Let's keep that firehouse spirit alive, one page at a time.

— Michael Gargiso, Editor

Monthly Meeting Info

When: 3rd Tuesday of every month @ 6:30PM

Where: Richmond County Yacht Club

142 Mansion Ave, Staten Island, NY 10308

Note: No meetings in July or August.

Contact Info

Email: retirees@fdnysiretirees.org

Website: www.fdnysiretirees.org



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FDNY Retirees

68 cancers and many respiratory illnesses have been linked to 9/11 toxins.

Anyone who participated in the rescue and recovery operations in Lower Manhattan on 9/11, or during any part of the following 8 months, may be eligible for free health care and significant compensation.

The most common illnesses for first responders linked to 9/11 include respiratory conditions, skin cancers, prostate cancer, blood cancers, thyroid cancer, breast cancer, lung cancer, and kidney cancer.

Take advantage of the benefits to which you are entitled:

- \$90,000-\$250,000 awards for skin cancers
- \$200,000-\$340,000 awards for other cancers
- \$20,000-\$90,000 for respiratory illnesses
- Additional compensation for lost income
- \$250,000+ for families who lost a loved one

**CALL 212-385-8000
OR VISIT 911VICTIMS.ORG**

REGISTER NOW—EVEN IF YOU'RE HEALTHY.



You do not need to be sick or to have been diagnosed or certified with a 9/11-related condition in order to register. But don't leave it to your spouse to start the process after you get sick. Protect your family!

TWO PROGRAMS AVAILABLE:

WORLD TRADE CENTER HEALTH PROGRAM (WTCHP)

A federal program that certifies 9/11 illnesses and offers free nationwide health care. No copays, no deductibles. Free cancer screenings because early detection is the key to survival.

VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND (VCF)

A \$10+ billion federal program permanently extended and fully funded by the U.S. government. All awards are tax-free. It's not too late for most families who lost loved ones due to 9/11 illnesses to register—but some deadlines apply so enroll now.



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Meet Rudy

Rudolph John Migliore-President

Rudolph J. Migliore, better known as Rudy, is the President of Rudolph F.X. Migliore, P.C. Rudy took over the firm in May 2020. Rudy implements his father's great philosophy, "Provide quality professional, and personalized legal service for clients throughout Long Island."



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Rudy has a considerable amount of legal experience serving as a prosecutor with the Suffolk county District Attorney's Office for five years. Rudy prosecuted over 3,000 cases in the East End Bureau, he also served as liaison between the District Attorney's Office and police and investigative agencies, advising on law, investigations, and coordinating related cases.

Disclaimer: Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. You should consult an attorney to discuss your individual case. The firm may work with associated firms. Rudolph Migliore is licensed to practice law in the State of New York.

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