



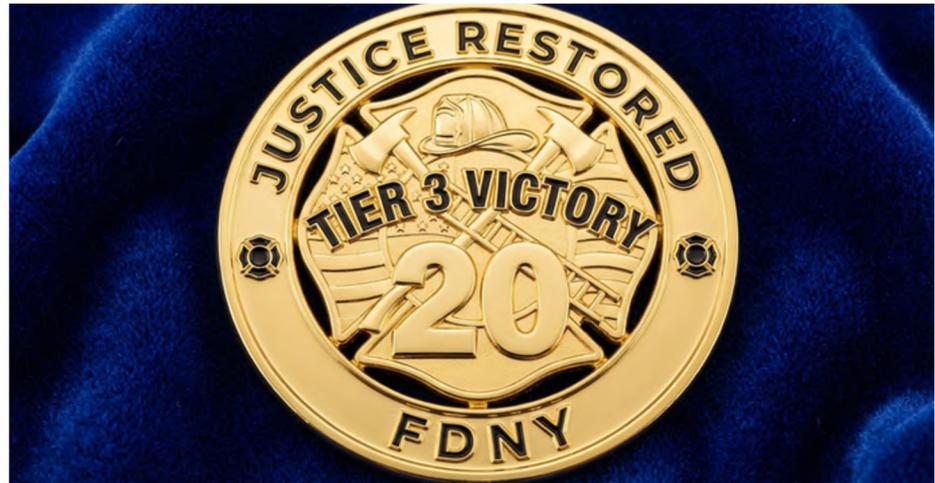
WINTER 2026 REPORT

JUSTICE SERVED: TIER 3 REFORM & FEDERAL CANCER PROTECTION SIGNED



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Tier 3 & Federal LODD Wins
- Meet Commissioner Bonsignore
- Capt. John Drennan Field House
- 2026 Tax Strategies
- Fire Family Dinner – Feb 27
- 125 Strong at Xmas Party



President's Message – January 2026

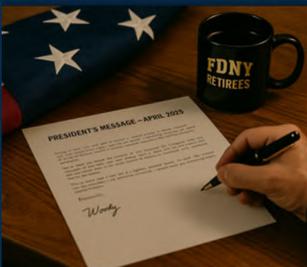
Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to 2026. It was great seeing so many of you at the holiday party—the strong turnout proves that while we may retire from the job, the brotherhood remains.

We start this year with historic victories. The Tier 3 legislation is finally law, correcting a 16-year injustice, and we welcome Lillian Bonsignore as our new Fire Commissioner. These wins remind us of what we can achieve when we stand together.

Let's keep the momentum going. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. Stay safe.

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





LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES & NEW LEADERSHIP

 **TIER 3 PARITY RESTORED** On Dec 20, Governor Hochul signed the Tier 3 Twenty-Year Retirement Bill (S.4727/A.5861) into law.

- The Win: Restores the 20-year service requirement for Tier 3 members (down from 22).
- The Impact: This corrects a 16-year inequity, ensuring all firefighters have the same retirement milestone regardless of when they were hired.

 **FEDERAL "HONORING OUR FALLEN HEROES" ACT** President Trump has signed this act into law, a massive victory for firefighter families.

- The Change: It classifies presumptive cancers as a Line-of-Duty Death (LODD) for federal PSOB benefits.
- The Benefit: Surviving families are now eligible for \$461,000+ in federal benefits without the burden of "proving" the cancer was job-related.
-

 **MEET THE NEW COMMISSIONER** On Jan 6, Lillian Bonsignore was sworn in as the 37th Fire Commissioner.

- One of Our Own: A 31-year veteran who rose from EMT to Chief of EMS Operations.
- Her Pledge: She has committed to leading with a focus on listening to and supporting the membership.



A PROMISE KEPT: Groundbreaking for the Captain John Drennan Field House



After decades of planning and perseverance, Tottenville High School finally breaks ground on a \$24.3 million facility honoring a hero, coach, and father.

 **A PROMISE KEPT** On Nov 15, we broke ground on the Captain John Drennan Athletic Field House at Tottenville High School.

- **The Project:** A \$24.3 million, state-of-the-art facility featuring modern locker rooms, training spaces, and a film room. Completion is set for Oct 2027.
- **The Legacy:** Before his LODD in 1994 (Ladder 5), John was the head football coach at Tottenville (1972-75). This house ensures his legacy as a firefighter, coach, and father lives on in the community he served.
- **Quote:** "Mrs. Drennan wanted NYC to celebrate John not just as a hero, but as a family man."



Fire Family Transport Foundation 2026 Dinner Event



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DATE**



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JAN.5
2026**

**FRIDAY, February 27ST 7:00 PM
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Zelle: donate@firefamilytransport.org

BEST 50/50 ON THE JOB

Everyone is not able to attend
Please show your support
Contact your Division Rep. for raffle tix.

- D1 Chris Taylor E24 (917) 450-7204
- D3 Jim Lee L-26 (718) 683-4447
- D6 Will Sullivan E80 (347)223-9061
- D7 Kevin Grace E43 (845) 774-5290
- D7 Mike O'Hanlon L-59 (914) 224-6851
- D8 Mike Bellantoni Ret. (646) 256-6999
- D11 Richie Cannon L148 (917) 577-1173
- D13 Brian Downey L127 (516) 805-9863
- D14 Paul Egan L117 (917) 282-1404
- D14 Michael Farley E316 (516)455-7535
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MEMBERSHIP & CLUB ACTIVITY

 **CHRISTMAS PARTY RECAP** We had a fantastic turnout of 125 members at the Staaten on December 11 for our annual Christmas Party.

- **Special Guest:** First Deputy Commissioner (and Interim Commissioner) Mark Guerra joined us to celebrate the holidays.
- **Major Announcement:** Commissioner Guerra confirmed that the FDNY 9/11 Memorial will be held here on Staten Island this year at Ferry Hawks Stadium on Janember 9, 2026. Mark your calendars now.





MEMBERSHIP & CLUB ACTIVITY

UPCOMING: FIRE FAMILY TRANSPORT DINNER

Date: Friday, Feb 27, 2026 @ 7:00 PM Location: Russo's on the Bay Don't Miss Out: This event is the lifeline for the Foundation, and it only happens every two years. It always sells out.

- Action: Contact your Division Rep or Mike Moog (646-641-1981) immediately to secure tables (\$150pp).

 25TH ANNIVERSARY CHALLENGE COIN In honor of the upcoming 25th Anniversary of Janember 11th, the Ceremonial Unit has produced a commemorative Anniversary Challenge Coin.

- Cost: \$10.
- Order: Send an email to Ceremonial.Unit@fdny.nyc.gov to get yours.





FINANCIAL CORNER

◆ 2026 TAX PLANNING STRATEGIES By Barry Lisak, IRS Enrolled Agent

As we enter the new year, remember that "good tax planning looks ahead, not back." Here are the three critical moves to review before you file.

1. Home Sale Capital Gains Exclusion If you sold your primary residence in 2025, you might not owe any capital gains tax on the profit.

- The Rule: You can exclude up to \$250,000 (single) or \$500,000 (married) in gains if you owned and lived in the home for at least two of the last five years.
- Partial Exclusion: Did you have to move early due to health or unforeseen circumstances? You may still qualify for a partial tax break. Check IRS Publication 523.

2. The "Bunching" Strategy Since the standard deduction is so high, many retirees struggle to itemize.

- The Move: Try "bunching" your deductible expenses (like charitable donations or large medical bills) into a single year. This helps you exceed the standard limit to maximize your write-offs for that year, then you take the standard deduction the next year.

3. Senior Property Tax Breaks

- Don't Leave Money on the Table: If you are over 65, double-check your local property tax assessment immediately.
- Action Item: Many seniors miss out on exemptions (like STAR) simply because they forget to file the grievance or renewal forms. Verify your status before filing.



VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED



65-2

An Official Communication from the Uniformed Firefighters Association

IAFF Local 94 - AFL-CIO

#71 of 2025 • December 20th

HONORING OUR FALLEN HEROES ACT SIGNED INTO LAW

The UFA is proud to announce that President Trump signed the Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act into law, following Wednesday's bipartisan U.S. Senate passage of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) by a vote of 77-20, which included this provision.

This law finally makes clear what firefighters have known for years: when a firefighter dies from job-related cancer, it is a Line-of-Duty Death. The Act updates the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program to include occupational cancer, providing federal death and educational benefits to surviving families. It also presumes certain cancers are job-related and removes the burden of proving a single exposure — a critical change for firefighters who work in toxic environments every day, including those suffering from World Trade Center-related cancers.

The UFA thanks the IAFF for leading this effort, along with the elected officials who helped push it forward — Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Kevin Cramer (R-ND) and Representatives Carlos Gimenez (R-FL) and Mary Gay Scanlon (D-PA). We also thank the New York delegation members who supported this effort, including Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, who sponsored this provision, and Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer, who voted in support of it, along with Representatives Andrew Garbarino (NY-02), Laura Gillen (NY-04), Hakeem Jeffries (NY-08), Timothy Kennedy (NY-26), Nick LaLota (NY-01), Nicholas Langworthy (NY-23), George Latimer (NY-16), Michael Lawler (NY-17), Nicole Malliotakis (NY-11), John Mannion (NY-22), Gregory Meeks (NY-05), Joseph Morelle (NY-25), Josh Riley (NY-19), Pat Ryan (NY-18), Elise Stefanik (NY-21), Thomas Suozzi (NY-03), and Claudia Tenney (NY-24).

This law is a long-overdue federal acknowledgment of the serious health risks firefighters face — on the fireground, over years of exposure, and in catastrophic events like the World Trade Center. It ensures that when cancer takes one of our own, their families are recognized and supported the way they should be.

Several implementation steps will follow, and the UFA will keep the membership informed as details become available.

Fraternally,

Eric DioGuardi
Recording Secretary

Andrew Ansbro
President

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RETIREE DRIVING COURSE INSURANCE & SAFETY BENEFITS



65-2

An Official Communication from the
Uniformed Firefighters Association

IAFF Local 94 - AFL-CIO

#72 of 2025 • December 20th

TIER 3 TWENTY YEAR RETIREMENT BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

The UFA is proud to announce that the Tier 3 Twenty-Year Retirement Bill (S.4727 / A.5861) was signed into law late last night by Governor Kathy Hochul. This legislation represents a major victory in our ongoing fight for pension parity and fairness for our Tier 3 members.

The bill ensures that members of the New York City Fire Department Pension Fund will receive their normal service retirement benefit after twenty years of service, regardless of age, bringing well-deserved security to those who have dedicated their careers to protecting New York City and its residents.

The full text of the bill can be found at the links below:

- Senate Bill: www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/S4727
- Assembly Bill: www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/A5861

The UFA thanks all the elected officials who supported this legislation, with special recognition to Senator Robert Jackson (SD-31) and Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato (AD-23) for sponsoring the bill, and Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton (SD-23) for co-sponsoring. We would also like to thank New York City Council Members Joann Ariola-Shanks (D32) and Justin Brannan (D47) for their support.

We also thank everyone who worked alongside the UFA to advocate for this legislation, and we extend our sincere appreciation to Governor Kathy Hochul for signing this important bill into law.

Fraternally,

Eric DioGuardi
Recording Secretary

Andrew Ansbro
President

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Closing Message

As we step into 2026, we ask that you keep our officers in your prayers as several are navigating health challenges. Our strength as an organization doesn't come from a single leader, but from the commitment of every member to show up and support one another.

MEMBER HOUSEKEEPING

- **Dues:** 2026 Dues are now payable. Please see Treasurer Jim DiMeo at the next meeting or mail your check to the address listed.
- **Update Your Info:** Not getting emails? Moved to Florida? Make sure we have your current contact info so you don't miss the Spring Report.
- **Email:** retirees@fdnysiretirees.org
- **Website:** www.fdnysiretirees.org

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.

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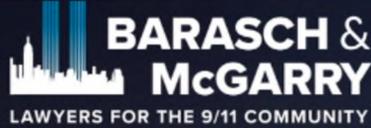
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68 cancers and many respiratory illnesses have been linked to 9/11 toxins.

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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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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