

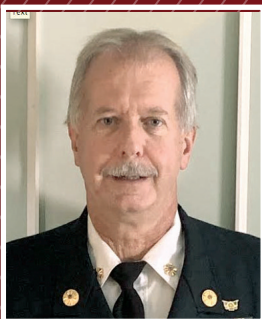
Honoring Irish America's extraordinary tradition
of rushing to the aid of others in distress.



The IrishEcho

Friday, November 8, 2019

Manhattan Club at Rosie O'Grady's, 800 7th Avenue, New York



Patrick Mataraza honored with 2019 Fahy Award

By Ray O'Hanlon

First Responders from around the nation are being honored this Friday evening in New York City.

There is one who won't be in the room yet who will be inspiring all in attendance, and many more beyond the confines of Rosie O'Grady's in Manhattan.

The FDNY, New York City, and Irish America, lost Chief Michael Joseph Fahy a little over three years ago.

And just about exactly three years ago we gathered for the third annual Irish Echo First Responders Awards in Rosie's Manhattan Club. On that night, the name of Michael Fahy was read out and honored, his legacy of service saluted.

And his wife Fiona accepted from the Echo, and through the paper from the wider community, an award with Michael's name on it.

Fiona then agreed that an award with her husband's name should be presented on an annual basis to an individual, or individuals, who, like Michael, have stood in the front lines to serve and protect.

We are proud then to be able to present, at this week's sixth annual awards gathering, the Michael J. Fahy Profile in Bravery Award to Lieutenant Patrick T. Mataraza III of the Fire Department of New York's Engine



Michael Joseph Fahy.

48/Ladder 56.

Patrick, an Orange County, NY native, is the FDNY's 2019 James Gordon Bennett Medal recipient. This is the FDNY's oldest and highest award.

As such, he is a worthy recipient of the Fahy award, itself named after one of the bravest of the brave.

Born in the Bronx in 1972 to his Galway-native mother, Mary Giblin, and Thomas Fahy, a Bronx native and first generation Irish American, Michael Fahy grew up in North Rockland County with his twin sister, Mary, older brother, Tom, and younger

sister Margaret.

With encouragement from his Battalion Chief father, Michael took the 1992 FDNY entrance exam. While waiting to be called to the department he enrolled in law school, a natural fit as it turned out.

Mike enjoyed the study of law and upon graduation would secure multiple job offers for six figure salaries at international law firms. He accepted an offer with a highly regarded firm, but in 1999, shy of a year into his legal career, Mike was all too aware of a different calling.

He took leave of the law and entered probationary firefighter school. Michael Fahy would rise rapidly through the ranks of the Fire Department, earning the rank of Lieutenant, then Captain, then Battalion Chief in less than 13 years, all while completing a rigorous 18 month Master's Degree program in Homeland Security Studies from the prestigious Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

At his funeral, Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro noted that "Chief Fahy achieved the rank of Chief Officer faster than any active member of the department."

Mike Fahy never mentioned this fact, not even to his wife. In his mind, doing so would dishonor the memory of the 343 9/11 firefighter heroes

whose loss had caused the promotion lists to move so quickly.

Battalion Chief Michael J. Fahy was killed in the line of duty on Tuesday morning, September 27, 2016 following a gas explosion at a suspected drug lab in the Bronx. Despite the magnitude of the blast, Chief Fahy was the only fatality, in large part because of his actions to protect lives that day.

Chief Fahy was posthumously promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief, the highest civil service promotional achievement in the FDNY.

He had actually passed the exam for Deputy Chief in 2013 and was on the list for promotion to that title when his life was so tragically ended.

His legacy will forever be one of a humble man who put others before himself; a brave firefighter and strong leader who wanted to protect and serve others; and an extraordinary husband, partner and father who made his wife and children happy every day through his kindness, his humor, his words and his actions.

The Irish Echo is proud to be able to present an award in Michael's name, proud to be holding the First Responder Awards, and proud to welcome all of this year's honorees, their families, friends and colleagues, to what is a salute to, and celebration of, First Responders throughout the nation.

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO FF NOEL MEEHAN RECIPIENT OF AN
IRISH ECHO FIRST RESPONDER AWARD
2019**



South Hempstead Fire Department



Chief John Kelly and
all the members of our Department
salute you on this tremendous accomplishment!

CONGRATULATIONS!



Battalion Chief

Bernie James Cunningham

**And all of the 2019 Irish Echo First Responder
Award Recipients**

We are so proud of you!

**Love,
Colleen, Brigid, Nora and Deirdre**

2019 Recipient of The Michael J Fahy Profile in Bravery Award

Lieutenant Patrick T. Mataraza III FDNY, Engine 48/Ladder 56



Patrick Mataraza

Place of Birth: Middletown, New York

Job Description: I am a lieutenant with the New York City Fire Department assigned to Ladder 56 in the Bronx.

Why I chose this career: The reason I chose to become a New York City firefighter was because I wanted to make a difference in the lives of others. Growing up both my parents were school teachers and I was able to see first-hand how they made a difference in their students' lives. This was powerful for me. My sister, brother, and I were also raised with a strong focus on values. These values drove me to want to give back and to make a difference for others. Another reason I chose the career is because I have always had an interest in firefighting.

Proudest moment of my career: The proudest moment of my career was the day I was sworn into the FDNY. It was a lifelong dream of mine to become part of the biggest and best fire department in the world. There were many role models in my life that were FDNY members. It is an amazing accomplishment for me to say that I am now a part of this organization and that I can continue to spread the pride and tradition of the FDNY.

You know you are Irish when Although I am barely of Irish decent, the deep roots of Irish traditions in the FDNY have made me grown to appreciate the Irish culture even more.

Biography: I am 44 years old and grew up in a small town in Orange County, New York named Pine Bush. My wife, Lori, and I have been married for twenty years and have three children, Patrick age 16, Kaitlin age 14, and Kevin age 4. I graduated Pine High School in 1994 and attended Alfred State College where I graduated with a degree in diesel mechanics. My professional firefighting career began with the West Point Military Academy in 1997. This job was a stepping stone for my career with the FDNY.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me...

1. I own a successful automotive repair business.
2. I enjoy spending time snowmobiling in the Adirondacks.
3. I love the beach as well as lake life in the summer.

Nomination for the Irish Echo's 2019 Michael J. Fahy Profile in Bravery Award

For the upcoming Irish Echo First Responders Awards gathering, I would like to nominate FDNY Lieutenant Patrick T. Mataraza III from Ladder Company 56 in the Bronx. Lt. Mataraza is the FDNY's 2019 James Gordon Bennett Medal recipient, the oldest and highest award given out to members of the department during the FDNY annual medal day. On March 5th 2018, Lt. Mataraza and the members of Ladder Company 56 responded to a raging apartment fire in the Bronx with numerous civilians trapped by smoke and flames on the upper floors. Lt. Mataraza scaled the front fire escape and entered the 2nd floor apartment directly over the raging fire below, and rescued three people from certain death. It took Lt. Mataraza three attempts to cross the smoke and heat-filled public hallway in order to facilitate this rescue, being driven back by the intense heat, flames, and smoke the first two attempts. Lt. Mataraza was awarded a Class II from the FDNY, as well as the James Gordon Bennett Medal and the NYS Fire Chief's Association Medal. In addition to his outstanding achievements with the FDNY, Patrick exemplifies the same redeeming qualities of Michael Fahy in his personal life. Patrick is a dedicated family man, playing a vital role in all three of his children's lives. He volunteers for his son Patrick's Special Olympic teams and helps to coach his daughter Kaitlyn's Girls on the Run team. Patrick's wife Lori, is also a school teacher in the local district. Michael Fahy was an extraordinary man, a shining example of how we should all live our lives, with honor, dedication and strong moral character. Lt. Patrick Mataraza lives by those same convictions and sets the best example for others to follow. For these reasons, among many others too long to list here, are why I feel that Lt. Patrick Mataraza should be considered for this year's Michael J. Fahy Profile in Bravery Award.

Thank you!



William Wade

Place of Birth: Queens, New York

Job Description: Assistant Fire Chief, Point Lookout-Lido Fire Department.

Why I chose this career: As a youth, I would see my oldest brother, then a member of The Rockville Centre Fire Department, dash out the door at all hours of the night and day. I remember the energy and excitement that bought.

Proudest moment of my career: Being elected chief of the Point Lookout-Lido Fire Department.

You know you are Irish when You do all 4 claps to the "Wild Rover" without hesitation.

Biography: Born and raised in NY. 1 of 8 children. Ancestry on both sides of my family not only goes back to Ireland but County Tipperary specifically.

What people would be surprised to know about me...

1. Lover of classic movies (b&w)



Thomas Hannen III

Place of Birth: Cranford, NJ

Job Description: Firefighter / EMT / Fire Inspector

Why I chose this career: From a young age both of my parents taught me the importance of service to one's community.

Proudest moment of my career: Every day at work serving my community is a proud day for me.

You know you are Irish when St. Patrick's Day is a bigger family holiday than most others.

Biography: Attended Rutgers University, graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in political science. Attended the fire academy in 2009 and started his journey in the fire service as a volunteer for the towns of Roselle Park and Cranford. Hired as a career firefighter in December of 2013 and Obtained my EMT License. Achieved fire inspectors license in December of 2014. In addition to firefighting he also serves as the in-house IT staff for the department. Sit on the radio committee and assist in the radio infrastructure upgrade project. Convention Chair for the NJFMB (State fire Union). Wife Michelle, Son Thomas IV

Three things people would be surprised to know about me...

1. I have a passion for technology and computers and how they can be implemented to benefit the fire service.
2. I was on both the Track Team and Crew Team in college.
3. I was a Boy Scout and achieved my Eagle Scout (highest rank in scouts, achieved by less than 10% of scouts).



Thomas Fitzpatrick

Place of Birth: Yonkers NY

Job Description: As an Assistant Chief in Yonkers my role is that of a Battalion Chief. Working to supervise 9 Companies or approximately 40 Firefighters at a variety of Emergencies. These emergencies include but are not limited to Hazardous materials, medical emergencies, vehicle fire, accidents and structure fires.

Why I chose this career: My dad and older brother were on the job before me as well as other extended relatives. They always seemed happy and fulfilled with this career, so I thought it would be great for me and I was right.

Proudest moment of my career: There are so many times in my 33-year career that would qualify. Teaching probies or new candidates years ago was something I was always proud of and found very fulfilling. Now I look around the job and many of these men are the new leaders for the next generation.

You know you are Irish when

..... when the Fire and Police Departments are the family business.

.....when the oven in your house is used for storing pots.

.....when you have kissed the Blarney Stone not once but twice.

.....when you plan your vacation to coincide with St Patrick's parades in other cities.

Biography: Tom is the second of six children for Tom and Margaret Fitzpatrick. He was born and raised in Yonkers NY and resides there today. His Irish lineage can be traced back to counties Cavan and Monaghan. In 1993 he married Patricia Harrington and they have two lovely children, Christina 16 and Tommy 14.

Tom has rich history in Yonkers Fire Department and was appointed in June of 1986. His father is a retired Fire Captain and his three brothers have served as YFD officers.

Tom is active in his parish and is a member of the Parish council and KofC.

What people would be surprised to know about me...

1. I serve as the Deputy Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus.

KNOW GREATER VALUE®

Congratulations to

Lieutenant Patrick T. Mataraza III
FDNY, Engine 48/Ladder 56

Barry Annette, FDNY Ladder 23
Bernard Cunningham, Millburn FD, NJ
James Dowdell, FDNY, Rescue 2
Liam Guilfoyle, FDNY, Division 13
Thomas Hannen III, Cranford FD, NJ

And all Honorees



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IRISH ECHO **FIRST RESPONDER AWARDS**



Bernard Cunningham

Place of Birth: Summit, New Jersey

Job Description: As Battalion Chief, Platoon #2 Commander, I supervise and manage a crew in providing fire protection for the residents of my community and their property.

Why I chose this career: To help others in need and give back to my community. Growing up as a small boy across the street from the Millburn Fire Headquarters, I always knew I wanted to be a part of the best job in the world!

Proudest moment of my career: The day I was sworn in as a firefighter and began my career.

You know you are Irish when You have to start saying your goodbyes an hour before you're ready to leave a party!

Biography: I was born in Summit, NJ to Irish immigrant parents. My father, Bernie (County Roscommon) and mother, Mona Casey (County Tyrone) raised me and my five siblings in Millburn, NJ. I am married to my wife Colleen (O'Grady) for 31 years and we have three daughters, Brigid, Nora, and Deirdre. I joined the Millburn volunteer division and soon after was appointed to the career department. I am a proud member of the Essex County Emerald Society Chapter 1 where I serve as the Vice President of Firefighters and a member of the Honor Guard.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me...

1. I am rebuilding a vintage car
2. I enjoy gardening as my father did
3. I grew up across the street from the Millburn Fire Headquarters



Patrick Quane

Place of Birth: Chicago

Job Description: Firefighter/Paramedic for the City of Chicago; Contract Enforcement Team Member International Association of Firefighters Local 2.

Why I chose this career: Growing I never really thought I would be following my dad's footsteps in the fire service. It was my sophomore year in high school when we received the call that my maternal grandmother had collapsed. Living close by, my dad hustled over to her side starting CPR before first responders were arrived. It was that moment when it clicked and my effort began in striving for a career in the fire service.

Proudest moment of my career: I was assigned to ambulance 50 on the Southeast side of Chicago. We received a call for a sick person. When we arrived, we found a 28-year female who was 25 weeks pregnant. She had eclampsia and the water bag was protruding. Breaking the water bag, we delivered a 25-week gestation. On the edge of being viable we began to work the premature infant. Transporting to the hospital we were involved in a T-Bone accident at 67th and Lakeshore Drive. Disregarding any injuries, we sustained we continued to work the baby waiting for another transport ambulance. Upon arrival of the other ambulance we transported the baby to Comer Children hospital. After spending a number of months in the ICU our little miracle was discharged home.

You know you are Irish when When you have no idea how to make a long story short or Joe is your middle name.

Biography: The Quane family would immigrate from Tipperary Town, Tipperary after the British arrested my great grandfather and burnt the house down. Thankfully they settled into the City of Chicago. Patrick was raised in Morgan Park on the Southside attending St Cajetan and Br Rice High School and would go on to be a Paid-on Call Firefighter EMT while going to paramedic school and receiving a BS in Fire Science Management. Patrick is a 10-year member of the Chicago Fire Department reaching the rank of Firefighter Paramedic and obtaining a MPA., also proud member Chicago Firefighters Union.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me...

1. I had perfect attendance from grammar through High School
2. I was very shy as a child
3. I scored 17 on my ACT



Barry Annette

Place of Birth: Bronx

Job Description: As a fire Lieutenant, I am responsible for the administration and supervision of Ladder 23 located in Harlem, NY

Why I chose this career: As a young boy in the Bronx, I always looked up to firefighters. I would see the fire trucks and make a gesture for them to honk their loud horns. They never let me down. It was always a bit of excitement to the day. Now being a lieutenant, I too, love to give back to the community. As an adult, I realized the role comes with great responsibility as well. Rescuing and saving lives and property from a hazardous situation is extremely rewarding. Proudest moment of my career: I have had many proud moments throughout my career from my first fire as a probie to my first fire as a lieutenant, but my proudest moment was the day I was sworn in. It was bitter sweet. It was shortly after September 11th, 2001. Unfortunately, there were many firefighters that lost their lives that day, and many spots were opened because of it. I was called sooner than I would have been, had 9/11 not occurred. It was very emotional to be sworn in knowing I was taking the place of a fallen hero. I knew I was going to be the best I could possibly be to honor that person and all the others that sacrificed so much that day. It was my proudest moment for sure.

You know you are Irish when Receiving an award like this brings you as much embarrassment as it does honor.

Biography: Barry was born 10/29/74 in the Bronx to Richard Annette, from Down and Monica O'Grady, from Monahan. He spent years playing Gaelic football as a young boy. His pride and joy was playing for the FDNY, where he helped raise money for many charities here in NY and in Ireland. He is now the VP and manages the FDNY Gaelic club. He joined the Bravest in 2001 and became lieutenant in 2013. He has received multiple awards for life saving rescues. He now resides in Pearl River, with his wife Amanda and their 3 children, Barry, Avery, and McKenzie.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me...

1. I love yoga and practice often
2. I took acting classes in college
3. My real surname is spelled Annett, but my mother added an E name to make it sound and look better.



UNIFORMED FIRE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



LOCAL 854, I.A.F.F., AFL-CIO 125 MAIDEN LANE, NEW YORK, NY 10038

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THE IRISH ECHO

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FDNY, Ladder 23

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FDNY, Rescue 2

LT. PATRICK MATARAZA III.

FDNY, Ladder 56

The Michael J. Fahy Profile in Bravery Award presented by Mrs. Fiona Fahy

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Michael Mitchell

Place of Birth: NYC, NY

Job Description: Member Point Lookout-Lido Fire Department since Feb. 1973; Member Renegade Hook & Ladder Co. # 2; Served as Captain 1979-1982 & 1985; Employed at Nassau County Fire Communications Center 1979-1985; Employed at Nassau County Fire Marshal Office 1985-2008.

Why I chose this career: The love of the fire service started my career at the Communications center. The want to enhance the fire safety of the community sent me to the Fire Marshal's Office Bureau of Fire Prevention.

Proudest moment of my career: The passing of the Residential Fire Sprinkler Law entered into the International Fire & Residential Codes in 2006. I was one of the Delegates of the NYS Contingent.

You know you are Irish when You can smile into your opponent's face and tell them to go to Hell in such a way that they look forward to the trip.

Biography: I am a 4th generation American. My Family dates back to 1865 when John Mitchell left Galway and sailed to the US. My family is from Bronxville. My Father & Brother both served in the US Navy. Dad- WWII, Brother-Vietnam.

I've worked supporting my family since I was 14 when my dad died in a car accident. My wife, Cindy, and I are retired and enjoying our lives together.

Something people would be surprised to know about me...

1. I don't give up. There is nothing you can't do, only things you won't try to do.
2. I was in three Rock & Roll bands and cannot read music.



Lisa Camp

Place of Birth: Texas City, Texas

Job Description: EMS Chief - Supervise, participate in development and implementation of goals, objectives, policies and procedures related to EMS. Select, supervise and manage staff. Direct and participate in preparation and administration of the EMS budget. Plan, coordinate and review all EMS related activities including emergency responses, equipment acquisition and maintenance, billing processes. Coordinate and plan training and community education and injury prevention development. Meet with outside medical providers, community groups, and the general public to discuss EMS programs and community needs.

Why I chose this career: I chose this career because I enjoyed helping people. This service was in grained early in my life as my parents were both in public service. I find the work in EMS rewarding yet challenging.

Proudest moment of my career: One of the proudest moments in my career was seeing the fire station dedicated to my dad for all his years of service. The second proudest moment was being selected as Chief of EMS.

You know you are Irish when You are proud to serve your neighbors and genuinely concerned about them. You find a really good Irish pub and travel back to Washington DC just to visit it.

Biography: Born and raised in Friendswood Texas. After high school pursued a education in Public Management earning a BA from the University of Houston Clear Lake. Joined the Friendswood VFD in 1978. Promoted up to EMS Chief in 1995. In 1991 started full time employment as a paramedic for the City of La Porte and have promoted up to EMS Chief for a full-time department. I have received many accolades over my 40 years in EMS. I have also completed by Texas Certified Public Manager certification and the Chief EMS Officer from the CPC.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me...

1. I play the piano
2. I love baseball
3. I love to listen to all kinds of music



Liam Guilfoyle

Place of Birth: Brooklyn NY

Job Description: Captain on the FDNY assigned to Division 13. Currently working as a Captain's Representative on the board of the Uniformed Fire Officer's Association.

Why I chose this career: I was looking to do something more meaningful. The career I was as a headhunter and I was not enjoying it.

Proudest moment of my career: When I got promoted to Lieutenant. The reaction from my parents was worth it.

You know you are Irish when All your friends grew up listening to their parent's music and your parent's music was Irish rebel tunes not 50's and 60's rock music.

Biography: Liam was born in Brooklyn in 1971 and raised in Bayside Queens. The 5th of five children born to William and Mary Guilfoyle he attended catholic elementary and high school, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament and Archbishop Molloy respectively. Liam met his wife Jessica in high school and married on 12/12/2002 on St. John in the Virgin Islands, Liam and Jessica currently have 2 children Conor 13 and Vanessa 11 and resides in Floral Park NY. Liam is a Fire Captain working as a representative for my union the Uniformed Fire Officer's Association.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me...

1. Currently learning to play the bagpipes
2. Love to read history
3. Love to travel



**The Philadelphia Firefighters & Paramedics
Union IAFF Local 22 Congratulates
Charles F McQuilkin
on his 2019 Irish Echo Award**



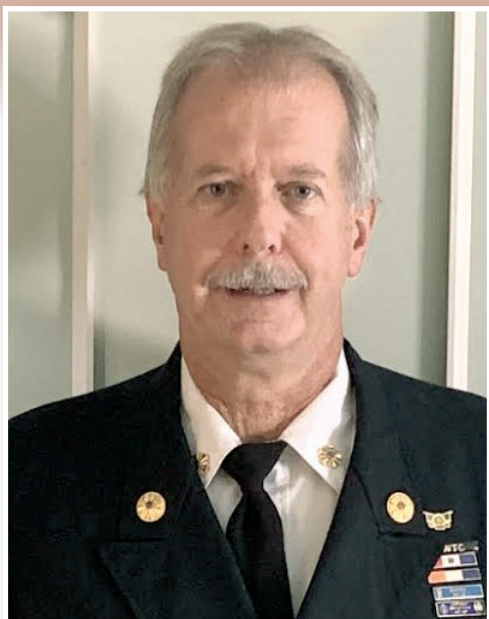
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James Smith

Place of Birth: Yonkers, NY.

Job Description: I am an Ex-Chief in the Williston Park Fire Department. Class A interior fire fighter. Chauffeur on all pieces of apparatus. Served as Assistant Chief and Chief of Department from 2002-2008.

Why I chose this career: Growing up I always wanted to be a Police Officer or Firefighter. I like helping people and giving back to my community. I find being a firefighter is self-gratifying.

Proudest moment of my career: There are several. When you can do your best to help someone that just lost their home or business. Saving a person trapped in a vehicle at an accident scene.

You know you are Irish when Every dinner includes potatoes; you have claddagh ring or earrings; you have common names James, John, Patrick, Ann, Mary; you eat corned beef, cabbage, and potatoes for St. Patrick's Day and you have an Irish blessing hanging in your house.

Biography: James was born in Yonkers one of three sons. His grandparents were from Cavan, Donegal, and Monaghan. James joined the Floral Park FD. in 1981 rising to 1st. Lt. In 1983; He became a Police officer, Detective, and retired as a Sergeant in 2003. In 1992 he joined the Williston Park FD. rising through the ranks to Chief; where he is presently still an active member. When James retired, he became a Lieutenant at Adelphi University where he still works. James has a wife AnnMarie, children James Daughter-in-law Celia Granddaughter Tierney. Daughter Jaclyn, son Brian, daughter Caleigh.

Two things people would be surprised to know about me...

1. I am a grandfather.
2. I am an Eagle Scout



James Dowdell

Place of Birth: Brooklyn

Job Description: Firefighter with the FDNY currently assigned to Rescue 2

Why I chose this career: Some of my earliest memories as a kid was going to the firehouse with my father. I always wanted to follow in his footsteps and enjoy what I did as much as he did.

Proudest moment of my career: Getting sworn into the FDNY

You know you are Irish when When you play in the FDNY Pipes and Drums

Biography: James Dowdell was born on September 10, 1984, and grew up in Breezy Point, NY aka "The Irish Riviera." He attended and graduated from Xavier High School in NYC and Iona College. James is currently raising his two boys, Kevin and Connor, with his wife Chrissy in Breezy. He joined the FDNY after college and has been an active member ever since.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me...

1. I have met three Australian Prime Ministers
2. I took part in a run across the United States that started in California and ended up NYC on Sept 11, 2011 to raise money for 9/11 charities.
3. I have played a snare drum in a bagpipe band since I was 10 years old



Charles Francis McQuilkin

Place of Birth: Philadelphia

Job Description: Active Philadelphia Firefighter

Why I chose this career: My Grandfather was on the job it's in my blood.

Proudest moment of my career: I'm proud every time I put the Philadelphia Fire department uniform on.

You know you are Irish when When you Pray to St. Anthony every time you lose something.

Biography: Charles (Chuck) Francis McQuilkin born and raised in the South Philadelphia section of the city where he still resides with his wife of 22 years; Heather and their 18 y/o daughter Riley.

Chuck is a 13-year veteran of the Philadelphia Fire department assigned to E24. He is the Vice President of the Philadelphia Firefighters Union IAFF Local 22. And chairman of the Political Action committee. His work in the Irish American Community has helped Irish immigrants new to the U.S. and Philadelphia find good sustainable Union Jobs.

What people might be surprised to know about me...

1. I don't like speaking in front of crowds.



Noel Meehan

Place of Birth: Dublin, Ireland

Job Description: South Hempstead Volunteer Firefighter

Yonkers Uniformed Fire Officers Association



Congratulations to

*Yonkers Fire Department
Assistant Chief
Thomas Fitzpatrick*

&

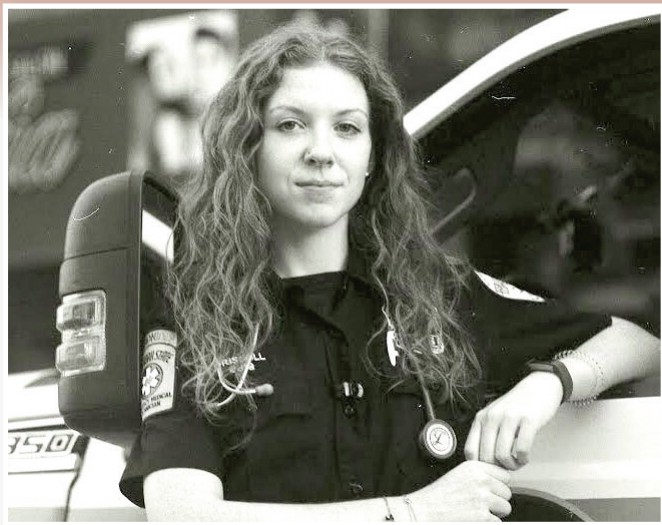
*All of the 2019
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IRISH ECHO **FIRST RESPONDER AWARDS**



Kathleen Driscoll

Place of Birth: Staten Island, New York

Job Description: Emergency Medical Technician

Why I chose this career: My mother is an Emergency Medical Technician and growing up I always loved hearing her stories about different jobs she had and all the patients she treated. She inspired me to pursue a career in healthcare.

Proudest moment of my career: After becoming an Emergency Medical Technician I was able to become a CPR Instructor with Madison Programs Inc. I love being able to teach others skills that could one day save someone's life.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me...

1. I love to knit!
2. I used to Irish Dance
3. I take weekly Irish language classes at Rocky Sullivan's in Red Hook



Robert Kearns

Place of Birth: White Plains, NY

Job Description: Career Fire Captain / Tour Commander for the Greenville Fire District in the Town of Greenburgh NY. 22 years as a firefighter. I am also an EMT for Port Chester EMS for 15 years as well as Tarrytown EMS for 10 years.

Why I chose this career: I was drawn to it by my family's history of civil service. My father is a retired police sergeant. I wanted to become a firefighter after two of my friends were killed in a house fire when I was 12 years old. I've always wanted to help people and hoped I could maybe one day save a family from that heartache.

Proudest moment of my career: Delivering a baby girl in 2016 after a mother, on her way to the hospital, was stuck in traffic due to an accident.

You know you are Irish when You give directions based on objects and landmarks along the way and the directions turn into a 15-minute story.

Biography: Married to Elaine Kiely. Father of 2 daughters - Meghan 14 and Tara -17. Graduated from University of New Haven. Born in White Plains, grew up in Tarrytown and live in Patterson NY. Have two younger brothers and an older sister. Diehard Notre Dame football fan. Member of the Westchester Irish American Association and the Firefighters Emerald Society of Westchester.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me...

1. I didn't start talking until I was 2 and a half
2. I have dual Irish and American citizenship
3. Met my wife in Catholic grade school.



James John McGuire

Place of Birth: Rockville Centre NY

Job Description: Paramedic Lieutenant FDNY – EMS; Supervise the EMTs and paramedics at the EMS Academy.

Why I chose this career: I was a volunteer EMT for the Freeport Fire Department and discovered that I had a passion for pre hospital emergency care and wanted to turn that passion into a career.

Proudest moment of my career: Becoming a seasoned paramedic and watching everything come full circle when mentoring new providers. I enjoy seeing them become successful.

You know you are Irish when You treat St. Patrick's Day as seriously as Christmas.

Biography: From a traditional Irish family and the youngest of five. James was born and raised on Long Island and became a volunteer just out of high school. He began his career with FDNY-EMS in 1999 and spent the majority of my career working the streets of Brooklyn as a paramedic and met his wife (a nurse) in 2009. They currently live on Long Island with their 5-year-old pit bull.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me...

1. I play the piano
2. I'd rather go camping than stay in a 5-star hotel
3. I once won an Elvis impersonation contest

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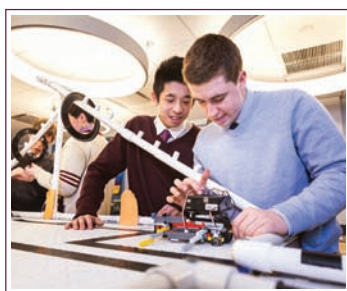
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