

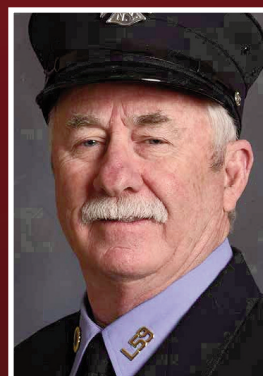
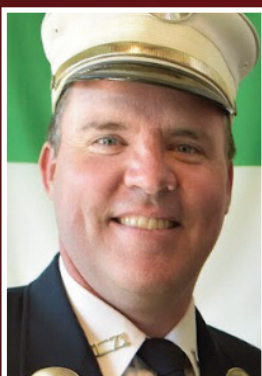
Honoring Irish America's extraordinary tradition
of rushing to the aid of others in distress.



The IrishEcho

Friday, September 17, 2021

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



Honoring the Extraordinary in no Ordinary Time

By Ray O'Hanlon

When the Irish Echo first came up with the idea of honoring first responders it was, of course, prompted in part by the memories of 9/11.

Those jolting, peace-of-mind shattering, extraordinary memories.

For the New York City Fire Department in particular that day in 2001 was both its greatest moment of tragedy and its finest hour.

The FDNY's self descriptive motto is "New York's Bravest."

On that day, the FDNY lived up to that title and, well, so much beyond it.

But the courage and selflessness displayed on 9/11, now twenty years ago, was not confined to that one day. What was confined, and what has been confined in the years since, was the staggering loss of life.

But the bravery, the raw courage that the world witnessed on 9/11, is present in the ranks of the FDNY, and fire departments all over the country, on any given day. So too is the iron-clad devotion to public service, a devotion reflected in those wearing EMS as well as firefighter uniforms.

In the last year and a half we have seen the concept of first responder expanded to cover healthcare work-

The IrishEcho **2021 First Responder Awards**

ers in the front lines battling Covid-19.

First Responders, in this new and broader context, are essentially those who turn and face danger, and oft-times rush towards it.

As a society, we would be lost without them.

Of course, Covid has had so many far reaching effects for our society that they have yet to be fully quantified.

But one particular effect for us was the cancellation of the 2020 First Responder Awards, the seventh annual gathering.

Well, and even while we are still battling Covid-19, events have progressed sufficiently to allow the seventh gathering to now go ahead on Friday, September 17 at Rosie O'Grady's in Manhattan.

The awards event will again be an opportunity for the Irish Echo, and indeed our readers and advertisers, to pay tribute to the men and

women who have, over the years, played such a vital role, not only in serving our communities, but in adding chapter after honorable chapter to the story of the Irish in America.

The awards honor all who serve in the front line of Fire and EMS departments around the nation. Award winners are drawn from firefighters and EMS personnel who work in every state, and who are nominated by the public.

Our past honorees have been firefighters and paramedics from as far afield as Nebraska, Missouri, Illinois and Arizona, so this is truly a national event. These gatherings are a celebration of the great tradition of families, and succeeding generations in families, stepping up as our nation's first responders.

Clearly, this Friday's gathering will be an especially poignant one, coming just days after the 20th anniversary of 9/11, a world changing

event that was both an affirmation of the very best in humanity facing up to the very worst.

And while the reception and dinner is an opportunity for fellow first responders to meet and greet, and for the honorees to be heartily lauded, it is another moment when we should pause and consider certain things.

Yes, we should consider tradition, family, courage and commitment.

But we also have to consider those first responders who were lost in the years after 9/11 as a direct result of the cowardly and evil attacks on America, on innocent people of America, and indeed many other nations, Ireland included.

It behoves us to remember those who died from 9/11 related illness, those who continue to battle such illness, and those family members who have been left behind to mourn.

9/11 might be twenty years ago in calendar terms. But it is still present with us. It will be present with us on Friday night in a most hospitable setting. It will be present with us forever.

So we must honor the legacy of those we have lost, even as we cheer and award the living.

It is, at its heart, a sacred task.

Congratulations to all our nominees

Lt. Mickey Conboy, FDNY, Rescue 3

Lt. Billy Prange, FDNY, Ladder 59

FF Thomas O'Shea, FDNY, Ladder 59

Lt. Jack Kielty, FDNY, Engine 164.

Capt. Daniel McEnroe, FNDY, Ladder 32

Capt. James Murphy, FDNY, Engine 4

BC Thomas McCarthy, FDNY, Battalion 7

Eric Reilly, FDNY EMS

Lt Peter Doran, Yonkers FD

BC Kevin Reilly, Newark FD

Stephen Post, Lieutenant/Paramedic, Dayton, Ohio FD



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FDNY, Rescue 3

LT. BILLY PRANGE

FDNY, Ladder 59

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Jack KIELTY

Place of Birth: Staten Island, NY

Job Description: Lieutenant FDNY. Formerly (as of September 1, 2021) the Lieutenant's representative on the New York City Fire Pension Fund Board of Trustees, and one of three Lieutenants on the Uniformed Fire Officers Association's Executive Board of Trustees.

Why I chose this career: Growing up every firefighter I met seemed to be happy and full of life. It seemed to me to be a great career, and many of my high school teammates also took the job. The Fire Department is truly my second family and it has more than lived up to my expectations of what being a firefighter really entails.

Proudest moment of my career: There are so many things which occur during the course of a firefighters career so it is hard to name just one thing. I guess what I am most proud of is the opportunity that this job has given me to contribute, to give back. From helping run races to memorialize our fallen brothers and sisters, to volunteering with the Tunnel 2 Towers Foundation, to



being elected as a Lieutenants rep on the UFOA, this job has afforded me multiple opportunities to make it a little better than I found it.

You know you are Irish when your heart is full of

song, your eyes are shining with mirth, your ears are full of the musical laughter of family and friends, and your soul is comforted with a loving family, secure in the warm embrace of our Heavenly Father.

Born October 1958 and raised in St. Rita's Parish on Staten Island, surrounded by my extended family. Worked as a lifeguard during college before becoming a firefighter on 1/9/82, and assigned to E-15 in the Lower East side of Manhattan. Promoted to Lieutenant 1/6/96 and assigned to E-253 in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn. Transferred to E-164 in SI in 2015 and elected to the Executive Board in August, 2016. Proud father of a daughter, Caitlin, and two grandchildren Tanner and Harper, and married my lovely wife Kathleen (KC) in 2017. I currently sit on the Board of Trustees of the Stephen Siller T2T Foundation.

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

1. I lived in Thailand for 6 months when I was 10.
2. I circumnavigated the globe before I was 18 years old
3. I am an absolute history buff.



James MURPHY

Place of Birth: Brooklyn

Job Description: Captain NYC Fire Department

Why I chose this career: I wanted to find a career that would be positive and helpful in our society.

Proudest moment of my career: I can't think of a single one. There were many.

I feel proudest about passing on the tradition and principles of being a NYC firefighter.

I'm just a Brooklyn kid that grew up sitting on the stoop playing wiffleball and taking the N train to Coney Island when the temperature went above 80 degrees. Thought I'd give the Banking World a try in my twenties but felt a calling for the FDNY when the opportunity came around.

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

1. I'm an Opera fan
2. Believe one day world peace will truly be achieved
3. But will be soon followed by AI taking over the world

Daniel McEnroe

Place of Birth: Syosset, NY

Job Description: Captain FDNY

Why I chose this career: Desire to follow family members into the career they loved (father and brother) and personal desire for community service of something at the time, that I thought I could be good at.

Proudest moment of my career: Obviously the rescue in September 2020, being able to share that moment with my family/wife and kids, but especially, my brother and father, at the FDNY medal ceremony, was a true highlight of my career.

You know you are Irish when Growing up in a 1st and 2nd generation Irish/American household on Long Island, FUV on Sundays, Irish Feis's and attending many events at the Hibernian Hall in East Islip, along with the delivery of the Irish Echo, reading Mike McCormicks articles (local celebrity and family friend), were all part, and molded my Irish/American upbringing.

Graduated East Islip HS 1988, Attended St. John's University on an Athletic Scholarship for Lacrosse and Graduated in 1992 with a BA in History. Joined FDNY 1996, promoted to Lieutenant in 2007, and to Captain 2019. Married to Jeanne Moore, Sept. 8th 2001, 3 days prior to 9/11/01. 3 kids, Daughter, Reileigh 15, Son,



Brady 14. Son, Finnian 11.

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

1. Former member of AOH Division 7 in East Islip NY.

junior member and then a full, Major Degree holder from 1993 until 2000.

2. Bagpiper (along with my father and brother) for the FDNY Emerald Society Bagpipe Band

Yonkers Uniformed Fire Officers Association



Congratulations to

Yonkers Fire Department Lieutenant Peter Doran

&

**All of the 2021
Irish Echo First Responder Award Recipients**

UFOA Executive Board

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573 Warburton Ave., Yonkers, NY 10701



Thomas McCarthy

Place of Birth: Brooklyn

Job Description: Battalion Commander 7th Battalion FDNY

Why I chose this career: It was an exciting career and it wasn't 9 to 5.

Proudest moment of my career: My proudest moment happens every day I work. I'm fortunate to work with great people that help the citizens of NY. They show compassion with humor from the simplest call to major events.

You know you are Irish when After returning from a family trip to Ireland we were taxiing to the gate at JFK. I stood up and looked back at the passengers and it looked like Sunday 12:15 Mass at my parish in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn where I grew up.

I was born in Flatbush Brooklyn March 7th 1959. I had reluctantly taken the FDNY test in high school with no intention of joining but a friend convinced me that we'd go out afterwards and make a day of it. After 3 years of college, which I can honestly describe in one word, floundering, I joined the FDNY. My friend became a lawyer. 41 years later I still love going to work. I did finish my degree 30 years after I started college. Sloths move faster than me.

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

1. I like reading, mostly war novels.
2. I make my own wine
3. I've never been convicted of a felony



Mickey Conboy

Place of Birth: Bronx NY

Job Description: FDNY Lieutenant assigned to Rescue Co. 3 in the Bronx.

Why I chose this career: For the challenging and rewarding job of helping people every day I go to work.

Proudest moment of my career: Being a part of doing God's work in helping to save lives in New York City throughout my career.

You know you are Irish when You have Christmas dinner with your immediate family and there are 48 people sitting down with you.

Lieutenant Mickey Conboy is a 36-year veteran and he's currently assigned to Rescue Company 3 in the Bronx. He was previously assigned to Squad Company 41, Ladder Company 37, Engine Company 79. He resides in Montgomery New York with his wife Jeanne. They have three grown children Tim Conboy and his wife Deborah, Dr. Matthew Conboy and his wife Ana, Colleen and her husband John Conroy. Mickey and Jeanne are blessed with eight grandchildren Michael, Quinn, John, Brigid, Jack, Padraig and Maggie. Mickey is the proud son of Mary Ita née King from Templeglantine, Limerick County Ireland.

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

1. I have 8 grandchildren
2. I was in the US Coast Guard for 8 years
3. My mother is from County Limerick, Ireland

Eric Reilly

Place of Birth: Brookhaven NY

Job Description: FDNY EMS

Why I chose this career: After serving my country in the US Army, I wanted to continue serving in the greatest department in the world!

Proudest moment of my career: Working with the FDNY Counter Terrorism Unit.

You know you are Irish when I sunburn terribly, even at night.

Currently married to the love of my life and we have a beautiful little girl together. Living on Long Island.



The **IrishEcho**
2021 First Responder Awards

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Congratulations

Lt. Jack Kielty	FDNY, Engine 164
Lt. Mickey Conboy	FDNY, Rescue 3
Lt. Billy Prange	FDNY, Ladder 59
FF Thomas O'Shea	FDNY, Ladder 59
Capt. Daniel McEnroe	FDNY, Ladder 32
Capt. James Murphy	FDNY, Engine 4
BC Thomas McCarthy	FDNY, Battalion 7
Eric Reilly	FDNY, EMS
Lt. Peter Doran	Yonkers FD
BC Kevin Reilly	Battalion Chief, Newark NJ Fire Dept.—Suppression Division.
Stephen Post	Lieutenant/Paramedic, Dayton, OH Fire Dept.

And All 2021 Honorees!



Edmond Brady, Partner
973.535.2880
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Peter Doran

Place of Birth: Yonkers, NY USA

Job Description: Fire Lieutenant, Yonkers Fire Department.

Why I chose this career: Honestly, it was just a calling. I enjoy every aspect of firefighting. You can't be "normal" and choose firefighting as a career, it has to call you. I'm glad it did.

Proudest moment of my career: I am proudest when my crew and I put a fire out quickly, before it burns out of control. We call it a "good stop" when minimal damage is done. The BIG fires make for great pictures, but I can't take pride in moments when lives and homes are ruined. My crew and I know we did a good job when get to the fire quickly, we put it out, everyone is safe and the family can get right back into their house.

You know you are Irish when When you walk into a room full of strangers and at least two of them turn out to be your second cousins and a bunch of the others lived next door to your grandmother at some point in their life. Being Irish means being a part of a great big family, just like the fire department.

Peter was born and raised in Yonkers NY. Attended Iona Preparatory School, Siena College and Fordham Law School. He joined the Yonkers Fire Department in 2007 and was promoted to Fire Lieutenant in 2014. Currently serves as President of the Yonkers Fire Holy Name Society, heads the Yonkers Fire Ceremonial Unit and is a "Yonkers St. Patrick's Day Parade on McLean Avenue" board member. Volunteers with the Martin O'Grady Woodlawn House of Irish Music and the Aisling Irish Community Center. Happily married 26 years to his wife Ailish and has two sons, PJ and Brendan. Enjoys traditional Irish music seisiuns.

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

1. I have a Law Degree from Fordham Law School.
2. I can juggle, balance a broom on my nose and ride a unicycle, but not all at the same time.
3. Ask me how cool it was to be inside Newgrange at sunrise during the Winter solstice!



Stephen Post

Place of Birth: Dayton, Ohio

Job Description: I am Lieutenant/Paramedic for the Dayton Fire Department.

Why I chose this career: I am a fourth-generation firefighter for the City of Dayton. Being a firefighter is the only career I have ever wanted to be a part of.

Proudest moment of my career: Being promoted to Lieutenant with my family, my crew, and my friends by my side!

You know you are Irish when Loyalty isn't just a word, it's a way of life.

I am 36 years old. Married to my beautiful wife for almost 15 years. We have 2 awesome boys ages 14 and 12. I have been a firefighter/paramedic for the City of Dayton for 14 years. Recently promoted to Lieutenant. I am our Local Union's Vice-President. Proud to serve with my brother who is also a City of Dayton firefighter. I love to coach my boys in their multiple sports.

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

1. I love to cook!
2. I love everything about bourbon.
3. I have a small obsession with survival supplies.



Kevin Reilly

Place of Birth: Edison NJ

Job Description: Battalion Chief, Newark NJ Fire Department—Suppression Division. Oversee 52 Firefighters on Tour 2. Supervise them for a 24-Hour Shift. Responsible for the Firefighters, 4 Firehouses & 7 Apparatus within my Battalion.

Why I chose this career: The opportunity to make a Positive Difference in a Strangers Life.

Proudest moment of my career: Receiving the Deputy Chief James W. McCormack Award. This Award is voted by over the 450 Newark Firefighters and is presented to the Battalion Chief who Promotes the Welfare & Betterment of all Newark Firefighters.

You know you are Irish when You start your Day with Baileys and end it with Jameson

Born and raised in Edison, NJ to Edward & Roseann Reilly. Father was from the Bronx, Mother was from Flushing, Queens. My parents taught me at a young age hard work, dedication & loyalty is the foundation of being a good person. My father would always say "It's important to know where you are going in life, but it's more important to Never Forget where you came from." 25 Years as a Newark Firefighter and looking forward to enjoying retirement with my wife of 21 years, Lynette. We have two daughters, Madison (18) & Tiernan (15)

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

1. I really am a Nice Person
2. I was the Captain of my High School Bowling Team
3. I'm deadily afraid of Bees



CPSOPTICAL

Eddie Boles, President

11 Hanover Sq., 8th Fl., New York, NY 10005

CPS Proudly supports our First Responders and their Families especially during the 20th Anniversary remembrance.

Congratulations

to the

Irish Echo First Responder Honorees 2021

Lt. Mickey Conboy, FDNY, Rescue 3.

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**Lt. Billy Prange, FDNY, Ladder 59.**

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FF Thomas O'Shea, FDNY, Ladder 59.

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**Lt. Jack Kielty, FDNY, Engine 164.**

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Capt. Daniel McEnroe, FNDY, Ladder 32.

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**Capt. James Murphy, FDNY, Engine 4.**

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BC Thomas McCarthy, FDNY, Battalion 7.

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**Eric Reilly, FDNY EMS.**

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Lt Peter Doran, Yonkers FD

~~~~~

**BC Kevin Reilly, Newark FD.**

~~~~~

Stephen Post, Lieutenant/Paramedic, Dayton, Ohio FD.

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## Thomas G. O'Shea

Ladder Company 59.

Appointed to the FDNY July 11, 1981. Previously assigned to Engine Companies 43 and 64. Father, Captain Gene O'Shea, retired from Engine Company 206. Son Danny O'Shea is assigned to Engine Company 298. Uncle Jack Clancy was assigned to Engine Company 67 and is now deceased. Cousin Mike O'Shea is retired from Engine Company 97. Recipient of multiple Unit Citations. Attended Suffolk Community College. Resides in Brentwood, New York, with his wife, Eileen, and their children, Kaitlyn, Danny, Matt and Kevin.

It was a May morning in the Bronx when Ladder Company 59 received a ticket for a fire on the 10th floor of a 14-story, fireproof multiple dwelling. Arriving first due, Lieutenant William R. Prange saw that the street was filled with NYD Officers and NYPD Emergency Service Unit (ESU) members. Ladder 59 was informed that a person was attempting to light his apartment on fire.

Members of Ladder 59 entered the lobby to find that the elevators were not working and residents were in the process of evacuating. The inside team climbed the stairs to the 10th floor. There was a heavy police presence, and ESU confirmed that the person was in the apartment. According to the police, the man had attempted to stab several officers with a knife. Knowing that the barricaded man might not want to be saved - or might even cause bodily harm or death to the members - the inside team forced entry into the fire apartment, splitting up to begin a search.

Firefighter O'Shea crawled through the door and began a left-handed search of the living room, where he was confronted with a heavy clutter condition. As one of the most senior members of the Department, he knew the clutter would severely debilitate the search and subsequent removal.

Fire began to roll out of the bedroom and kitchen, and all the members of Ladder 59 called out to let each other know they had fire over their heads. Firefighter O'Shea began to feel discomfort in his bunker gear, but he pushed on. Conditions were deteriorating rapidly and searches becoming difficult, but he found his way deeper into the living room, all the while crawling over a motorcycle, laundry racks and other clutter. By tough only, he managed to find the victim partially covered in debris by the rear windows, and he transmitted the 10-45.

Knowing the removal of the victim would be arduous and punishing, FF O'Shea called out for help and was met by both his officer and the iron firefighter. The victim became trapped in the clutter as they dragged him through the living room. Firefighter O'Shea positioned the man on his back and carried him through the rest of obstacles, shielding him from the high heat and fire. Once he reached the apartment door, FF O'Shea removed the victim past the engine to the stairwell and down to the ninth floor.

Firefighter O'Shea acted without regard to his own safety, searching and operating in an active crime scene. If not for his aggressive actions in less than desirable conditions, a life would have been lost. He embodies the core values of the FDNY, passing no judgement and doing his job regardless of the possibility of physical harm. For his actions, he was awarded the Steuben Association Medal.



## Lieutenant William R. Prange

**Place of Birth:** Manhattan, New York

**Job Description:** Lieutenant for the FDNY. Assigned to Ladder 59.

**Why I chose this career** I think it's just something that I always thought I would become.

**You know you are Irish when:** You get an endorsement from Eddie Boles to be a recipient of an award for the Irish Echo First Responder awards dinner.

Member of the FDNY for 23 years. Assigned to Engine Company 310, Ladder Company 174. Promoted to Lieutenant in 2014. Assigned to Ladder Company 59 in 2017. Played on the FDNY Hockey team for 17 years. Married to my beautiful wife Bernadette for 19 years and have 3 boys Billy 15, Brian 14 and Brendan 12.

**The IrishEcho**  
**2021 First Responder Awards**



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**CAPT. DANIEL MCENROE, FNDY, LADDER 32**  
**CAPT. JAMES MURPHY, FDNY, ENGINE 4**  
**LT. JACK KIELTY, FDNY, ENGINE 164**  
**LT. MICKEY CONBOY, FDNY, RESCUE 3**  
**LT. BILLY PRANGE, FDNY, LADDER 59**  
**FF THOMAS O'SHEA, FDNY, LADDER 59**

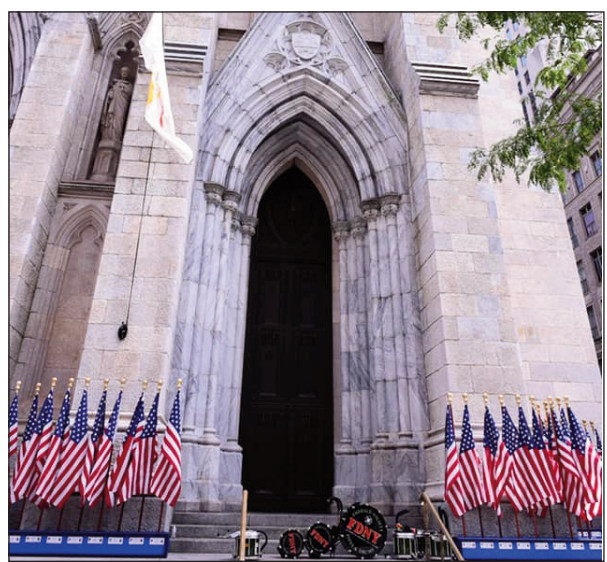
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PRESIDENT***



**IRISH ECHO FIRST RESPONDER AWARDS**

# September 11, 2001 Twentieth Anniversary Memorial Commemorations

Photo Credit FDNY





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CAPT. JAMES MURPHY, FDNY, ENGINE 4

LT. JACK KIELTY, FDNY, ENGINE 164

LT. MICKEY CONBOY, FDNY, RESCUE 3

LT. BILLY PRANGE, FDNY, LADDER 59

FF THOMAS O'SHEA, FDNY, LADDER 59

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***RECORDING SECRETARY***



# Twenty Years And Like Yesterday

To the Families of all 9/11 responders  
My brother once told me that when you owe an unpayable debt of gratitude, all you can do is say thank you, and do the best you can to honor their memory.

My coworkers and I were in the north tower of the world trade center on the morning of September 11, 2001. Through the Grace of God, and the heroic actions of all the first responders that answered the call that day, we were all saved.

The first responders said to those who tried to take away our way of life, 'Not on my watch.' 343 members of the FDNY, 37 Port Authority Police Officers and 23 members of the NYPD, made the ultimate sacrifice that day.

There are no words that I can possibly say to those families to properly express my gratitude for what they did for us. My children are starting to get old enough now that I can tell them about the heroes that saved their father's life.

It is my hope that they will start to understand the meaning of unwavering courage, selflessness and perseverance. The heroes of 9/11 surely set the highest bar in that regard. May God Bless them and their families as we approach the 20th anniversary of that day.

On behalf of the thousands who were rescued that day, I say thank you, and with the solemn promise that we will always honor their memory. Sincerely, an eternally grateful survivor of September 11, 2001

The IrishEcho





**NYS AOH Memorial Mass and  
Plaque Unveiling Ceremony**  
**Saturday, September 25, 2021**  
**St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church**  
**22 Barclay Street, New York, NY**  
**11:00 AM sharp**

**To our  
Brother and Sister  
Hibernians**

**Lost on September 11, 2001**

**Friendship, Unity, and  
Christian Charity**

**Florence M. Gregory  
LAOH Kings County, NY**

**Charles Houston  
AOH Kings County, NY**

**Richard Fitzsimons  
AOH Nassau County, NY**

**Dennis Devlin  
AOH Orange County, NY**

**Gerard T. Nevins  
AOH Orange County, NY**

**Kevin C. Dowdell  
AOH Queens County, NY**

**Arthur Warren Scullin  
AOH Queens County, NY**

**Sean B. Fegan  
AOH Rockland County, NY**

**Richard Muldowney, Jr.  
AOH Suffolk County, NY**



**Maurice V. Barry  
AOH Hudson County, NJ**

**Liam Callahan  
AOH Hudson County, NJ**

**Thomas E. Gorman  
AOH Hudson County, NJ**

**Steven Huczko  
AOH Hudson County, NJ**

**Donald J. McIntyre  
AOH Hudson County, NJ**

**Jim Nelson  
AOH Hudson County, NJ**

**Bruce Reynolds  
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**Mike Wholey  
AOH Hudson County, NJ**

**Peter Milano  
AOH Monmouth County, NJ**





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