

25th Remembrance Ceremony of September 11, 2001



Hicksville Fire Department
Station 3 , Strong St,
Hicksville, New York
September 13, 2026



ORGANIZED 1893
HICKSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief of Department
CHRISTOPHER WRIGHT
1st Assistant Chief
MICHAEL MURPHY
2nd Assistant Chief
MATTHEW KEYER
3rd Assistant Chief
CHRISTOPHER MOSKOS II

20 GEBHARDT PLAZA
HICKSVILLE, NEW YORK 11801
BUSINESS PHONE (516) 933-6444
FAX (516) 933-6417
www.hicksvillefd.com

Chair
MICHAEL KRETZ
Co-Chairs:
KARL M SCHWEITZER



September 11, 2026

As we gather to commemorate the 25th remembrance of September 11, 2001, I find it difficult to believe that a quarter of a century has passed since the day that forever changed our nation, our fire service and our community.

For those of who remember that morning, the images, sounds and emotions have never truly faded. We remember the confusion and disbelief. We remember the smoke rising over the New York skyline. We remember the courageous firefighters, police officers, emergency medical personnel and ordinary citizens who ran toward danger while others were trying to escape.

Above all, we remember the lives that were lost.

For our department, the loss was difficult. Honorary Chief George Howard and Ex-Chief Terrence Farrell were not simply names associated with a national tragedy. They were our brothers, our friends and members of this department. Their courage, sacrifice and dedication continue to represent the very best of the fire service.

In Hicksville community the loss was also felt in our own neighborhoods. Six community members lost their lives and their families were shattered.

As Fire Chief, I am proud of the men and women of the Hicksville Fire Department. I am equally grateful for the continued support of our residents, local organizations, clergy and neighboring departments. Your presence at this remembrance demonstrates that the passage of time has not diminished our commitment to honor those we lost.

Twenty-five years later, the pain remains, but so does our resolve.

We will remember their names.....We will tell their stories.....We will continue their mission of service.....And we will never forget.

Respectfully,

Christopher Wright, Chief of Department

Community Remembrance

Presentation of Colors

Nassau County Firefighters Pipes & Drums

Hicksville Fire Department

United States Marine Corps League

Port Authority Police Department

Fire Department of New York

Pledge of Allegiance

Hicksville Fire Department Junior Firefighter

National Anthem

Freddie McFarland, Levittown Fire Department

Reflections

New York State Senator, Steven Rhoads

Nassau County Legislator, Rose Marie Walker

Opening Prayer

Father Christopher Sullivan, Holy Family Church, HFD Chaplain

Amazing Grace

Nassau County Firefighters Pipes & Drums

Placement of Wreaths

Officers - Citizens Engine Co 3 / Emergency Co 5

Taps

James McGunnigle, Past Commandant, U.S Marine Corps League

Bell Tolling to Those Who Once Called Hicksville Home

Closing Prayer

Father Christopher Sullivan, Holy Family Church, HFD Chaplain

God Bless America

Freddie McFarland, Levittown Fire Department

Final Salute

Retire the Colors

SEPTEMBER 11

A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE



It's a day we will always remember:

It's a day we will never forget.

*It's a day of our country's vulnerability in a
world of the unknown.*

*The unknown hit our country fast and with
vengeance.*

*We, as a people, stood tall and proud: fighting
for our freedom; our way of life.*

*In the midst of many ashes of innocence and
sorrow,*

We, America, will always remain forever.



FOR SERVICE TO A HIGHER CALLING

**G
R
O
U
N
D

Z
E
R
O

R
E
C
O
V
E
R
Y

A
T

W
O
R
L
D

T
R
A
D
E

C
E
N
T
E
R**



**F
R
O
M

T
H
E

D
A
Y

I
T

A
L
L

B
E
G
A
N

U
N
T
I
L

T
H
E

V
E
R
Y

E
N
D**

NEVER FORGET†

THANK YOU RESCUE WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS



Ex-Chief Terrence Farrell

Terry, as he was affectionately known, joined Chemical Engine Company No. 3 in December 1974. He quickly became an active and dedicated member of the company and was elected 2nd Lieutenant in 1980, 1st Lieutenant in 1981, and subsequently served as the company's 30th Captain in both 1982 and 1983. Throughout his career, Terry served as a member of the Hazardous Materials Response Team and the Rescue Squad. He was also certified as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT-D) from 1989 through 1991.

Following his service as Captain, Terry was elected Assistant Chief in 1984 and went on to serve as the 55th Chief of the Hicksville Fire Department in 1989. During his term as Chief, the Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) was implemented by the Fire District. This landmark program provided volunteer firefighters with a pension system in recognition of their dedicated service to the community. Hard work and dedication were second nature to Terry, and he was recognized on numerous occasions for actions that went above and beyond the call of duty. He received awards from the Elks Club and the American Legion, as well as a Certificate of Merit and the Department Service Award from the Hicksville Fire Department. Terry was also the recipient of three Unit Citations for his participation in the Seaford-Oyster Bay Propane Tanker Incident, the All-Boro Propane Incident, and the Avianca Airline Crash. Terry was a Life Member of the Exempts Benevolent Association and was an active member of the department's Ice Hockey Team, where he served as one of the team's starting goalies alongside George Howard. He was also a longtime member of the "Hicks" Drill Team and served on the Labor Day Committee.

Committed to his profession, Terry became a member of the elite Rescue 4 of the New York City Fire Department, located in Maspeth, Queens. After sixteen years of service with the Hicksville Fire Department, Terry moved his family to South Huntington in 1991. Upon relocating, he immediately joined the Dix Hills Fire Department, where he continued his service as an Assistant Chief. Despite leaving Hicksville, Terry always kept the department close to his heart. Each Labor Day, he proudly returned to Hicksville to march in the annual parade, often leading a division and demonstrating his enduring pride in the department and the community he so faithfully served.





Honorary Chief George Howard

George entered the Hicksville Fire Department in April 1976 as a member of Emergency Company 5. He immediately became involved in his company and served as 1st Lieutenant from 1987 through 1988 before being elected as the 44th Captain of Emergency Company No. 5 in 1989 and again in 1990. George was a member of the Hazardous Materials Response Team, where he served as a Team Leader, and was a registered New York State Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). He served on numerous department and company committees and was the starting goalie for the Hicksville Fire Department Ice Hockey Team for many years.

George quickly became a strong advocate for firefighter training and was a tremendous asset to the Hicksville Fire Department as an experienced and highly trained firefighter. His exceptional rescue abilities earned him recognition throughout New York State. Through his persistence, dedication, and extensive experience, he obtained a position as a 2nd Deputy Chief Fire Instructor at the Nassau Fire Service Academy, where he served as both a motivator and disciplinarian, helping to shape future generations of firefighters. George became an expert in victim extrication, utilizing innovative rescue techniques during vehicle emergencies. He developed specialized training programs for emergency service personnel in confined space rescue operations, and his passion for training and education led him to author hundreds of articles on firefighting and rescue procedures. His work established him as a dynamic and innovative leader in the fire service. His articles frequently appeared in numerous fire service publications, and he served as a contributing writer for Fire Engineering, where he regularly authored the publication's "Training Notebook" column.

George was a twenty-three-year member of the Hicksville Fire Department and a sixteen-year veteran of the Port Authority Police Department of New York and New Jersey. On September 11, 2001, he made the ultimate sacrifice while helping others escape from the World Trade Center. The impact George had on the fire service and his community continues to be recognized today. His hockey jersey and number were retired by both the Port Authority Police Department Hockey Team and the Hicksville Fire Department Hockey Team. He was inducted into the Chaminade High School Hall of Fame, and one of the highest tributes bestowed by the Hicksville Fire Department was granted to George when he was posthumously awarded the rank of Honorary Chief, recognizing his extraordinary dedication, leadership, and sacrifice.



Once Called Hicksville Home



Nancy Bueche - Nancy drafted insurance contracts for Aon Corp on the 102nd floor of Tower Two. Nancy grew up in Richmond Hill and moved to Hicksville after getting married.



Mark Colaio - Mark worked at Cantor Fitzgerald on the 104th floor of the World Trade Center's north tower and was a graduate of Hicksville High School.



Stephen Colaio - Stephen worked at Cantor Fitzgerald on the 104th floor of the World Trade Center's north tower and was a graduate of Hicksville High School.



Terence Connelly - Officer Connelly served the New York City Police Department for 20 years and was assigned to the 112th Pct. Officer Connelly died as the result of an illness that he developed following his assignment to the search and recovery efforts at the World Trade Center site following the 9/11 Terrorist Attacks.



Scott Fusco - Scott joined the New York City Police in 2000. He responded to the World Trade Center during the rescue and recovery efforts. He was a Hicksville High School graduate and a member of Emergency Co. 5 of the Hicksville F.D .

Once Called Hicksville Home



Gilbert Granados - Gilbert was a loss control consultant for Aon Corp on the 98th floor of Tower Two. He also served as a Coast Guard reservist for 20 years and moved to Hicksville while attending the US Merchant Academy at Kings Point.



Ronald Kerwin - Ronald was an FDNY Lieutenant, Squad 288 and was working on 9/11 when the attacks took place. He was a graduate of Hicksville High School and after moving to Levittown, he became a volunteer firefighter where he served as Chief.



William Leahy - William joined the Port Authority police in 1992. He responded to the World Trade Center during the rescue and recovery efforts. He was a Hicksville High School graduate before moving to Levittown. He would succumb to his 9/11 related illnesses on June 6, 2019.



William Minardi - William was working for Cantor Fitzgerald, where he traded derivatives when he was killed on 9/11/2001. He was born in Hicksville and graduated from Chaminade High School, before getting married and moving to Bedford, New York.



Thomas McHale - Tom was a mortgage Security Broker with Cantor Fitzgerald working on the 104th floor of the World Trade Center's north tower and was a graduate of Holy Trinity High School.

Once Called Hicksville Home



Raymond Pfeifer - Ray grew up in Levittown and moved to Hicksville in 1989. He was at the World Trade Center after the buildings collapsed and he battled 9/11-related cancer before succumbing to his illnesses on May 28, 2017. He was a former member of Protection Hook and Ladder Co.# 1 and the East Meadow Fire Department and retired from the FDNY and called Hicksville his home.



Steven Policino - Steve was a Vice President at Cantor Fitzgerald on the 104th Floor of the World Trade Center. Steve graduated from Hicksville High School in 1971 prior to moving to Plainview after he married his wife Jane.



Thomas Pedicini - Thomas was an institutional equities broker for Cantor Fitzgerald on the 104th floor of the World Trade Center's north tower. He graduated from Hicksville High School in 1989. Thomas's brother-in-law, was Mark Colaio, and Mark's younger brother, Stephen Colaio, both whom died on 9/11.



Kenneth Rice III - Kenneth was an assistant vice president in at Marsh & McLennan on the 96th floor of Tower One. He graduated from Hicksville High School in 1985. Ken earned his Vice Presidency and transferred into the developing Technology support area, where he used both his computer skills and customer knowledge.



Brian Terrenzi - Brian was a global network manager at Cantor Fitzgerald on the 101st floor of Tower One. He began his job in the World Trade Center in February 2001. Just prior to the 9/11 attacks, Brian and his wife bought their home in Hicksville and his daughter was born months after the attack.

Once Called Hicksville Home



Paul Tava - Paul was an electrical engineer with the Port Authority, who was in a staff meeting on the 71st floor on 9/11. He escaped the towers, but succumbed to cancer six months later. He was a graduate of Hicksville High School.



Walter Weaver - Walter was New York City Police officer serving in the Emergency Services Unit, Truck #3 out of the Bronx. He graduated from Hicksville High School in 1989 and became a police officer in 1992.

Photo
Unavailable

Arlene Zuzzolo - Arlene was taking financial classes in lower Manhattan on September 11th. She escaped the collapse but emerged covered in dust after the Twin Towers fell. She made her way across a bridge and back to Long Island.

“We Will Never Forget”



Hicksville Fire Department

Christopher Wright, *Chief of Department*
Michael Murphy, *1st Assistant Chief*
Matthew Keyer, *2nd Assistant Chief*
Christopher Moskos II, *3rd Assistant Chief*

Hicksville Fire District

Robert Dwyer, *Chairman*
Gerard Mulholland, *Commissioner*
Robert Chiz, *Commissioner*
Charles Coutieri, *Commissioner*
Christopher Moskos, *Commissioner*

Special Thanks to

Board of Fire Commissioners
Chiefs Office
Nassau County Police
Town of Oyster Bay
Verbena Designs
NICE Bus Transportation
Holy Family Parish
Vernon C Wagner Funeral Homes Inc
Nassau County Firefighters Pipe & Drums
Port Authority Police Department
New York City Fire Department
United States Marine Corps League
Sandwich Express
Dolores Cleaning Services N.Y.