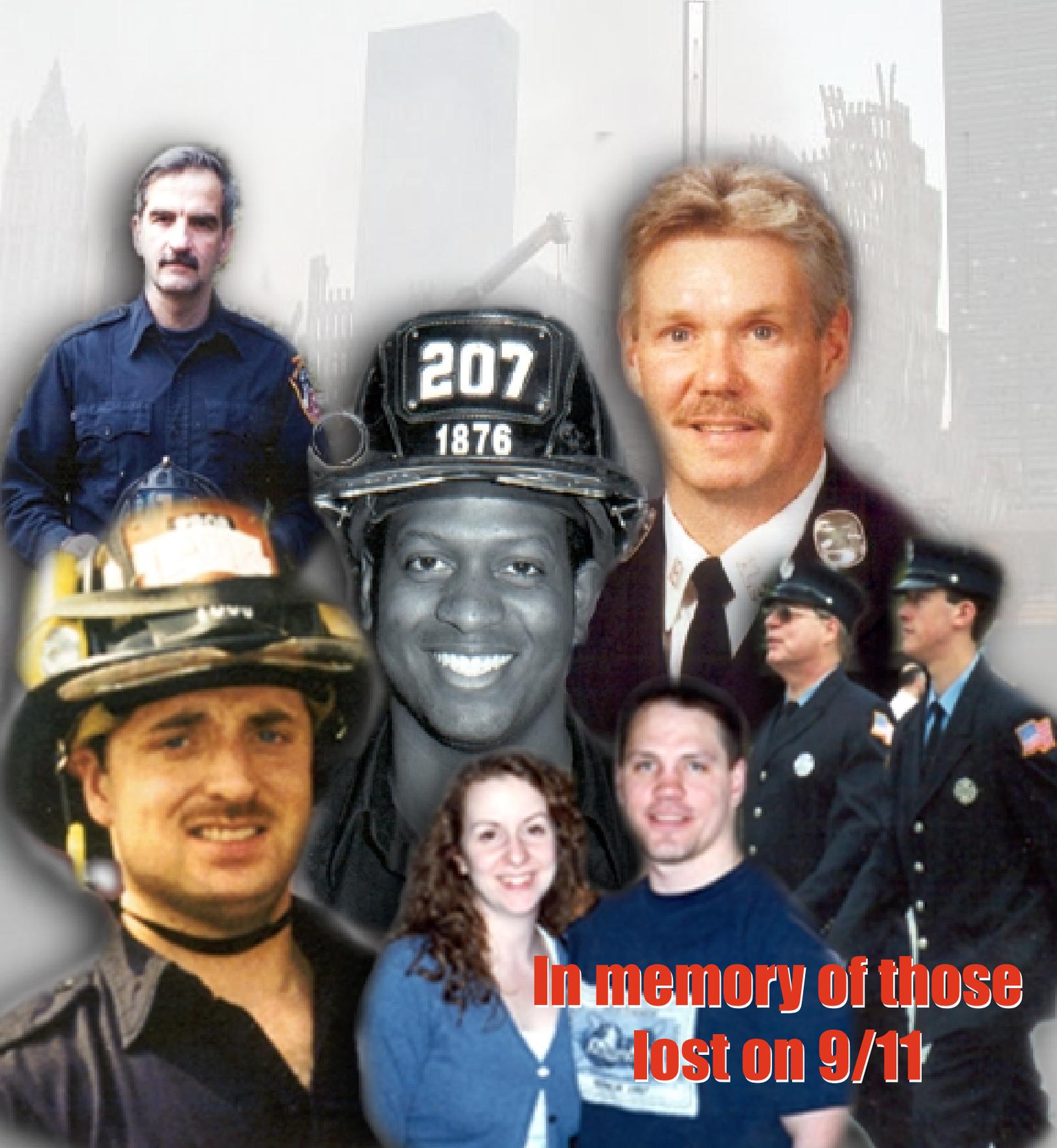


# *LIBERTY TORCH*

Serving the soldiers of the 77th Regional Support Command, Fort Totten, N.Y. 11359  
September 2002 Vol. 16 No. 1



**In memory of those  
lost on 9/11**

# LIBERTY TORCH

*About the cover...* One year later after 9/11, fallen 77th soldiers are remembered.



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Mr. Chet Marcus

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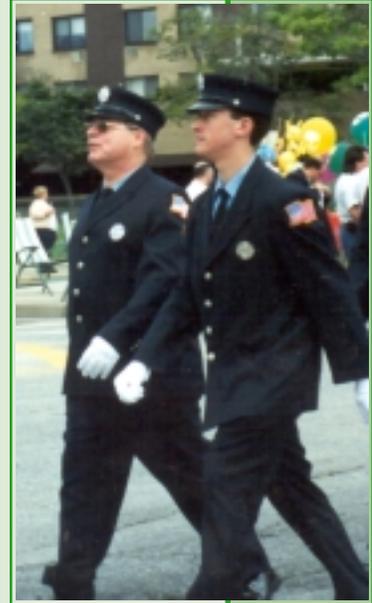
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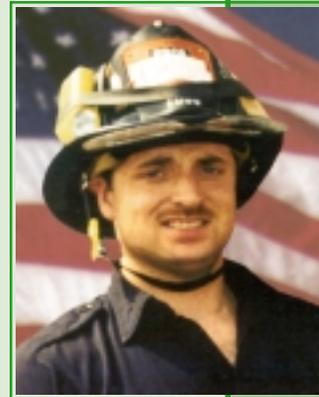
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**William H. Pohlmann**



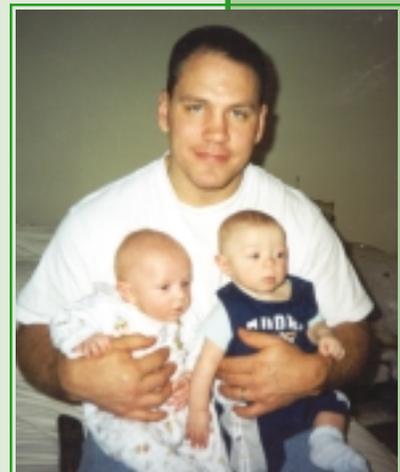
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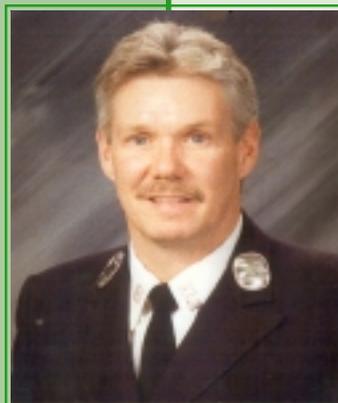
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# 77th soldiers, heroes commemorated



*Commentary by  
Maj. Gen. Richard S. Colt  
Commanding General*

**G**reetings dedicated soldiers of the 77th Regional Support Command (RSC). Much has changed since the last issue of the Liberty Torch. Not the least of which is the passage of one year since that terrible day when terrorists targeted innocent civilians working at the World Trade Center (WTC). August 25 was the 85th birthday of the 77th Infantry Division. During that week, we observed four events commemorating all those 77th Division, Army Reserve Command and RSC soldiers who have sacrificed their lives in defense of our nation.

On August 26, I received a proclamation from Ms. Clarice Joynes, Deputy Director, Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs, declaring 77th RSC Appreciation Week in the City of New York. The proclamation was read in Times Square while the names of our campaigns scrolled across our Liberty Patch on the big screen, ending with those who lost their lives in the WTC attack. On the afternoon of that same day, I had the honor of participating in a memorial ceremony in 307th Infantry

Battalion Grove in Central Park. In this ceremony, we remembered all those great soldiers of the 77th RSC who gave their lives in service to the nation again including those who lost their lives in the WTC. The French Consul, Mr. Richard Duqué, also made some commemorative remarks in gratitude for the heroic service of the 77th Infantry Division in World War I.

On August 30, our new Chief of Staff, Col. Margrit Farmer, visited the Lost Battalion Community Center in Rego Park, Queens. She passed on a proclamation from the Queens Borough President declaring "Lost Battalion Community Center Day" in Queens to the director of the community center, Ms. Joanne Ciorciari. This center holds much of the legacy of the 77th RSC and was once the 77th Infantry Division headquarters.

The week culminated in an evening baseball game between the N.Y. Mets and Philadelphia Phillies. Many of you attended that game. I was pleased to share this event with you and with some of our soldiers of the 455th MP Detachment just returned from Guantanamo Bay. During the pre-game activities I was televised on the big screen

narrating a brief history of the 77th and highlighting those brave firefighters and one JAG corps member who lost their lives helping others in the WTC attack.

On September 11, I participated in a commemorative service held at Fort Totten. The commemorative ceremony included our full-time personnel and served as a time for prayer and healing for those able to attend.

On November 3, we will again honor those who lost their lives in the WTC attack with the unveiling of a monument dedicated to them and a memorial service in the Ft. Totten Chapel.

Meanwhile the war on terror continues and while many units and soldiers are redeploying, more are being called to active duty. We have welcomed home the 306th Engineer Company and the 455th Military Police Detachment. Thank God, everyone came home safe and sound. My thanks to all for your continued sacrifices in service to this great nation. Keep vigilant and know that we are here to support you. God bless you and God Bless America.



## In the zone

*Maj. Gen. Richard S. Colt, Commanding General, 77th Regional Support Command (RSC) delivers a high-but-perfect strike to New York Mets catcher, Mike Piazza. Colt was honored to throw the first pitch at a New York Mets versus Philadelphia Phillies game last month. The Mets and Shea Stadium paid tribute to the 77th on its 85th birthday during 77th RSC Appreciation Week. (Photo by Bruce Hill)*

# Final moments of selfless service cited



*Commentary by  
Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Harry Lovell, Jr.  
77th RSC Command Sergeant Major*

Margaret Mead, the renowned anthropologist, said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

Six soldiers of the 77th RSC gave their lives in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on New York City. Five of these citizen-soldiers were firefighters. The other fought injustice in the courtroom as a lawyer. All continued the proud 77th legacy of selfless service. The soldiers who died epitomized the example of citizen-soldier. They gave their lives in service to others. We mourn them as we mourn all the "Liberty Patchers" that died keeping democracy alive, but the story

doesn't end there.

This national emergency was a 'call to arms' that, for many of our soldiers, did not require any official mobilization. Soldiers from the 77th, from the moment it was determined that our country was under attack, donned their uniforms and reported to their centers. Many, who were not immediately needed, went into New York City to assist in any way they could. No one had to ask. I know of at least one Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) soldier that used his leave time in order to assist at Ground Zero. That instinctive urge to be the part of a bigger picture and help your fellow man is selfless service in action.

Some civilian jobs, such as fire fighting and police work, are intrinsically more dangerous than others. They can not wake up in the morning and know that they will put in their 8-hour

workday and come home every evening. Nor can soldiers. It takes a particular streak of unselfishness to take on the challenge of life-threatening careers - a streak that is inherent in every member of the military. In fact, the very thing we take for granted, putting on the uniform and going to work, when we could be home with the family, watching television or going to a ball game -- that is selfless service.

We are unique breed of individuals. We choose to take the hard route when we could just as easily, without criticism, go about our daily lives.

Those six soldiers who died lost their lives helping others. The bible tells us that, "No greater love hath a man than to lay down his life for a friend." I would add that defending our fellow man at the possible cost of our own lives qualifies as well.

## *Chaplain's Corner*

# *Courage may be found in hidden voice*



*Commentary by  
Chap. (Lt. Col.) Marvin Mills*

One year ago the United States of America was attacked. Injury and death took its toll on Americans and citizens of foreign countries. Dreams were shattered, future aspirations crushed and plans deferred for at least awhile. But the city that is affectionately referenced as the "city that never sleeps" has continued this legacy with its determined resolve to memorialize the deceased, care for the living and to move forward with hope and courage.

Today we light candles from the torches of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Indelibly inscribed on our hearts and minds are words, ideas and glimpses of images that were near and dear. Through an amazing gift of God, the gift of memory we are able to embrace and cherish relationships that shall forever be revered.

To ensure we remember and

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*"Today we light candles  
from the torches of  
those who made the  
ultimate sacrifice."*

---

remember well, plans are being considered for the 16 acres whereupon the World Trade Center stood alongside other structures. Establishing a memorial site allows a central place for families, friends and visitors to gather and appropriately memorialize the victims. It is wise that the architectural planners do not hastily act to simply meet a mandate. More importantly, as expected, the planners will consider the total spectrum of present and future needs of surviving victims and visitors.

Expressed in interviews and everyday conversations are concerns

about copycats, who may attempt to initiate actions reminiscent of 9/11.

Fear, depression and anxiety and other similar feelings are being felt and articulated by residents in and beyond New York City. To combat these feelings we may discover hidden courage by hearing the voice of the Psalmist, who poignantly conveyed, "I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord." (Psalm 27:14).

Now, let the buildings rise high enough to validate our resilient spirit, but low enough to sense our frailty and humility before a sovereign God. A memorial site will engender the "courage to be" in all Americans to persevere and protect the principles of Democracy.

# A community member, a volu

Story by Cpl. Kyle Reeves  
Photos courtesy of Linda Pohlmann

September 11, 2002 marks the anniversary of the World Trade Center (WTC) attack. A nation looks back with sadness and hope as they mourn their fallen brethren whose lives were lost when two planes were deliberately flown into the towers as an act of

terrorist aggression against the United States.

While many of those who perished in the attack had commitments to loved ones and careers, some also took on the additional burden to their country as citizen-soldiers in the U.S. Army Reserve. As our service members are mobilized overseas to pull the reins in on terrorism, the absence of those who are no longer here is deeply felt by those who were fortunate to have known these individuals.

Lt. Col. William Howard Pohlmann, military lawyer with the 4th Legal Support Organization; 77th Regional Support Command, Bronx, N.Y. was one of these individuals.

Pohlmann was working as an Assistant Commissioner to the New York State

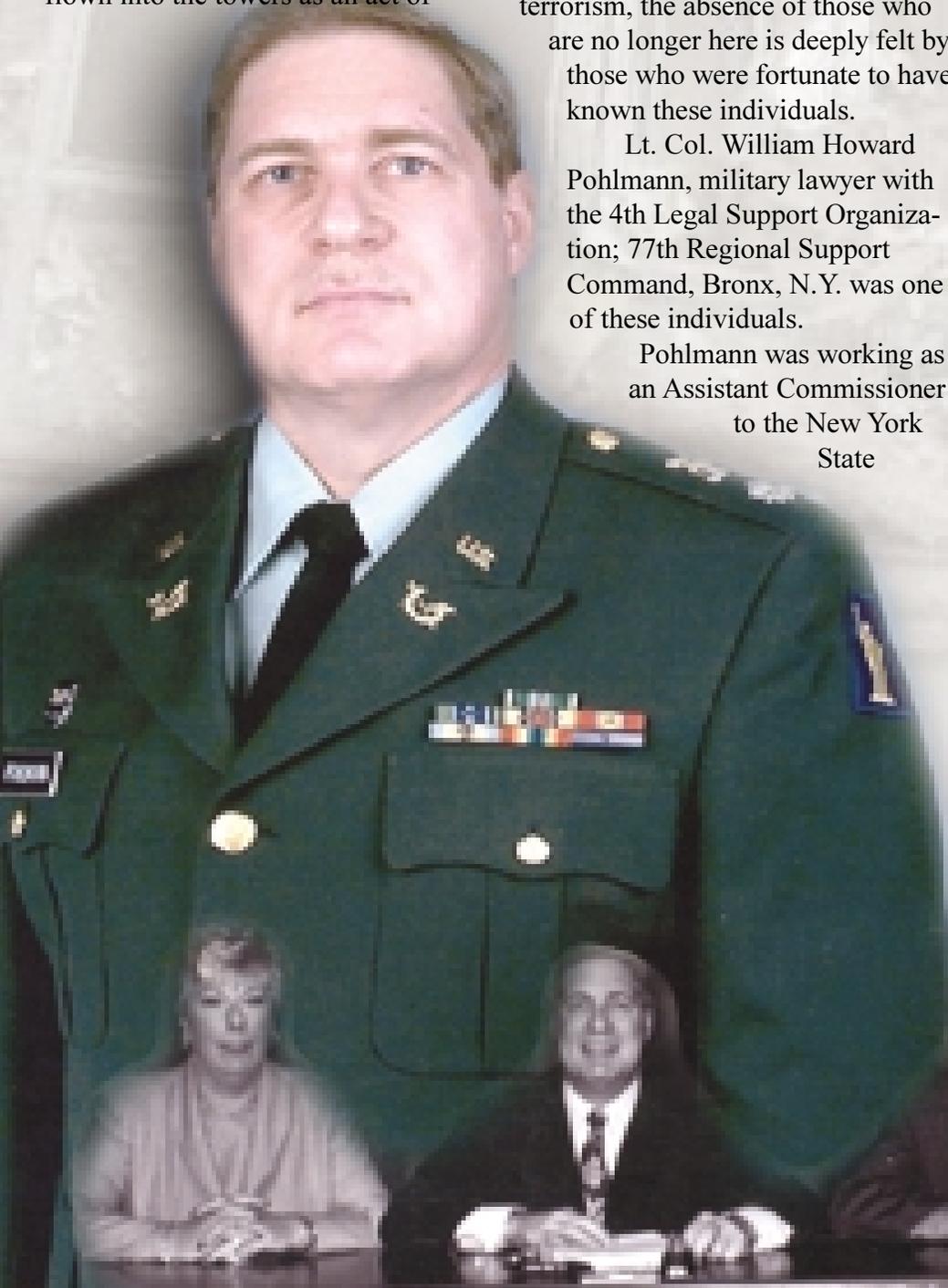
Department of Taxation and Finance, 87th Floor of Tower Two of the WTC when the second airplane hit it.

“My husband called me when the first tower was hit,” said his wife Linda. “We were still talking when we were both cut off. I knew then that something was definitely not right.” It would be their last conversation.

Although his family has received some closure, according to Linda, they still grieve over the brevity of his life at age 56 and the accomplishments set by his children that he will never share. His oldest son, Craig, recently received his Certified Public Accounting license for New York State.

“Because his father died at 51,” she said, he always suspected he would as well, so he tried to always be there for his three sons.”

Pohlmann tried to be active in his children’s lives coaching their little league



# unteer, a saint

baseball and soccer team and helping them with their homework. He was an ardent chess player, Chris, his second oldest son said, "I played my dad 50 times and only beat him once."

"He was very bright and well read," said Linda. "He strove to work hard and be successful in whatever he did."

The son of German immigrants, Pohlmann was born and raised in the Bronx. He graduated from Baruch College in 1966 and received his law degree from St. John's University in 1968. His legal career from 1976 to 1990 included a position as a judicial assistant and principal law clerk to the New York State Supreme Court in White Plains. He met and married his wife Linda in 1973.

An active member in his community, Pohlmann was a volunteer fireman and a perennial Republican

candidate in Ardsley, N.Y. where he and his family lived.

For Lt. Col. Michael A. Connell, military lawyer with the 351st Civil Affairs Command, Pohlmann served as an inspiration. Connell had worked with Pohlmann at separation boards while at Fort Totten, N.Y. "He was willing to pitch in to serve as Legal Advisor. He was sharp, very pleasant and mild mannered, and loved to wear the uniform and serve his country," said Connell.

"He was a very intense in everything that he did," said Linda. "He didn't deserve to die like that. He will be greatly missed."



# A singer, a soldier, a lifesaver

Compiled by Chet Marcus

Like any other normal kid, Michael Mullan was a child filled with many dreams. One was to be a train conductor and work for the Metropolitan Transit Authority. His parents on the other hand were

convinced he was going to be the next Elvis Presley because he loved to sing and play the piano.

It wasn't until he grew older that he learned his heart was truly set on helping people. For those of us lucky enough to have known Mullan during his too-short 34 years of life, we came to know someone who had dedicated the majority his life to the service of others in one way or another, while at the same time living every moment of every day to the fullest.

He was a true renaissance man,

whose talents at a piano could rival his personal musical hero Jerry Lee Lewis, and also a dedicated life-long fan of Elvis and of the New York Yankees. He was constantly exercising in order to maintain the peak physical conditioning dictated by the demands of his fire-fighting responsibilities. Yet at the same time he was one of the most fun-loving guys you would ever meet, known everywhere for his practical jokes, stories and his sense of humor.

Mullan was a firefighter, a nurse and a soldier. A resident of Bayside Queens and member of Ladder Company 12, New York City Fire Department, he was reported missing in the early hours after the World Trade Center terrorist attack.

Mullan was conducting rescue operations in the chaos and catastrophe at the Marriott Hotel in the second tower shortly after the first tower had collapsed. When he reached the third floor stairwell, the tower began to lose stability and firefighters were told to evacuate. Mullan received an emergency "May-day" call from two other firefighters



on higher floors. He said, "I'll go get them," and left the stairwell. The building collapsed shortly thereafter and nothing further was heard from him. Mullan's heroics on the last day of his life, were prime examples of how he had constantly lived - in the service of others.

Mullan was a graduate of Holy Cross High School in Queens, and went on to graduate from the nursing program at Queensboro College. Prior to his death he had attended Hunter College in order to complete his Bachelors of Science in Nursing degree. His talents as a nurse, soldier and firefighter made him well-suited to the emergency room where he could be expected to take charge and remain calm no matter what the situation.

Like his father before him, Mullan served in the armed forces of his country. Mullan enlisted in the United States Army in 1986. After discharge from active duty, in 1991 Mullan joined the United States Army Reserve. He became part of the 344<sup>th</sup> General Hospital in 1993. Mullan was a staff officer in the training and operations section, responsible for physical security, especially for the tactical operations center when the command trained in a field environment.

Performing annual

training with Mullan, meant laughing constantly from his sometimes over-the-edge jokes or the e-mails that would constantly find their way throughout the year to his friends, family and co-workers from his various careers.

Family and friends recognized that Mullan was honoring his mother by becoming a registered nurse. He honored his father by serving in the United States Army and he honored himself by serving in the New York City Fire Department.

Mullan is survived by his mother Theresa, father Patrick, brother Patrick, sister Kelly Ann, sister-in-law Ann Marie, nephew Patrick and niece Nicole.



# Super dad, super soldier, sup

Story by Bruce Hill

Photos courtesy of Renee Whitford

Often times when children are asked what they want to be when they grow up, many of them give the same answers – a doctor, a nurse, a police officer or a firefighter. As they grow older, many tend to veer away from their childhood dreams, but for some, the dream becomes a reality.

It was Capt. Mark Whitford's committed desire to help people that kept his dream of becoming a firefighter alive. It wasn't long after graduating from Seton Hall University, N.J. that he found himself donning a firefighter's uniform and working for what is internationally known as "New York's Bravest," the Fire Department of New York City. He was also one of the more than 400 firefighters and six 77th Regional

Support Command (RSC) soldiers who perished last year in the World Trade Center (WTC) terrorist attacks.

"Mark was his usual happy self that morning when he left for work," said Renee, his wife of five years. "He was the driver of the rig that morning. He called me before he left to go fight the fire and that was the last time I spoke to him. He was a natural born leader," she added. "People just followed him because he had such integrity, pride and strength and people looked up to that. When he walked into a room, people were just drawn to him." Ironically, the night before that tragic day, Mark received word that he was going to be transferred to another station.

According to 1st Sgt. Lee Carrus of 331st Military Intelligence Company, Whitford was a very personable man, who led his fourth platoon by example. "He was a real go-getter and got along with his team well. He will truly be missed."

Renee said that in spite of his magnetism, he was a very quiet and reserved man, who never yearned to be the center of attention. His attention mainly focused on his family, his wife and toddler twin boys, Max and Timothy, and his love for the outdoors. In addition to his love for firefighting, he loved to hike, climb and scuba dive. "He did everything outdoors," she said.



# er hero

The boys were barely 13 months old when they lost their father; they had just celebrated their first birthday party. Whitford was very involved in the birthday planning. Just a month before 9/11, they had taken the twins on pony rides at the zoo as part of the celebration. Renee added that the fraternal twins serve as a reminder of him because the both look like their father.

“He loved his boys. He was with them all the time,” she recalled. “Being a fireman, your schedule allows you to be with your children more, and that was one of the things he loved about it. He constantly played with them and would teach them wrestling moves.”

Wrestling was another long-time

passion of Whitford's. He wrestled throughout his high school and college years and received many medals and ribbons for the sport. He and his younger brother, Christopher, also a wrestler, were very close. They grew up on Staten Island, N.Y., and were bonded by their love for wrestling, their commitment to helping others and their dedication to the military. Christopher, a New York City police officer, is also a staff sergeant in the same unit.

Standing at 5-feet-11-inches and weighing more than 200 pounds, it seemed natural that Mark Whitford would love wrestling, but his first love was being a fireman. His courage led him to rush into the WTC to save lives as people frantically ran for theirs. Recently, the National Collegiate Athletics Association awarded him the Medal of Courage and inducted him into the Wrestling Hall of Fame in Oklahoma.

“He was a wonderful man, father and husband. He gave me the best years of my life and I will miss him,” Renee said.



# Our dad was a hero,



On September 11, 2001, Eve Bucca received the last phone call from the love of her life and best friend, New York City Fire Marshall Ron Bucca. “He had called that morning at the hospital where I was working,” She said. “He said to me, ‘A plane went into the World Trade Center. I’m on my way down to the building’, and I said be careful. Then I waited a couple of beats and I said, *Be Careful.*”

She went on to say that the phone call was typical of Bucca, that if he was going into danger, he would call to reassure the family first. She said that her husband had believed for quite some time that after the 93' attack there would be another attack on New York City. She said, “This is something we had discussed with our children from when they were young, not to be afraid but to be aware. I know that as soon as the plane hit he knew what it was. He wasn’t thinking that it was accidental. I know that he knew what he was saying to me (when he called). He was saying I’m turning the ball over to you for the family. He knew what he was going into when he went down there,” she said.

Ron Bucca perished in the World Trade Center that day, doing what he had always done, helping to save lives. He was a 23 year veteran of the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) and had served with Engine 95, Ladder 2, the Fitness Unit, Rescue One and the FDNY Terrorist Task Force. He rose to Fire Marshall, (an investigative office) in 1992. He was also a licensed practical nurse and held degrees in occupational safety, fire science and public safety.

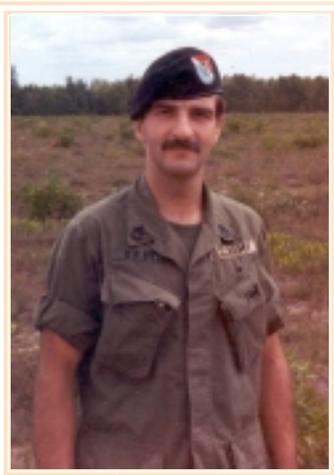
He was also a soldier for 29 years, first with the 101st Airborne on active duty, spending the bulk of his career in the 11th Special Forces, Army Reserve and the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) as a military intelligence analyst. He had recently been promoted to warrant officer in the 3413th Military Intelligence Detachment. Said Eve Bucca, “He loved the challenge of the military,

particularly the physical challenge of the Special Forces.”

He was also a member of the 5th of the 5th Field Artillery. According to Eve Bucca, “The 5th of the 5th gave him the managerial and organizational skills that really came into play with him later on when he came into DIA. When he went into DIA that really challenged his mind. (His varied experiences) made him very well rounded.”



**- “but we knew that a long time ago.  
It just took a terrorist attack for it to be publicly known.”**



Ron Bucca was a man of many accomplishments, a leader with a flare for facing danger and helping others with skill and compassion, according to his family and fellow reservists. With all his accomplishments, he was most proud of his family. According to Eve Bucca he brought his family into the Army family. Said Eve, “Any time he could he would bring us into the Army, any type of family day.

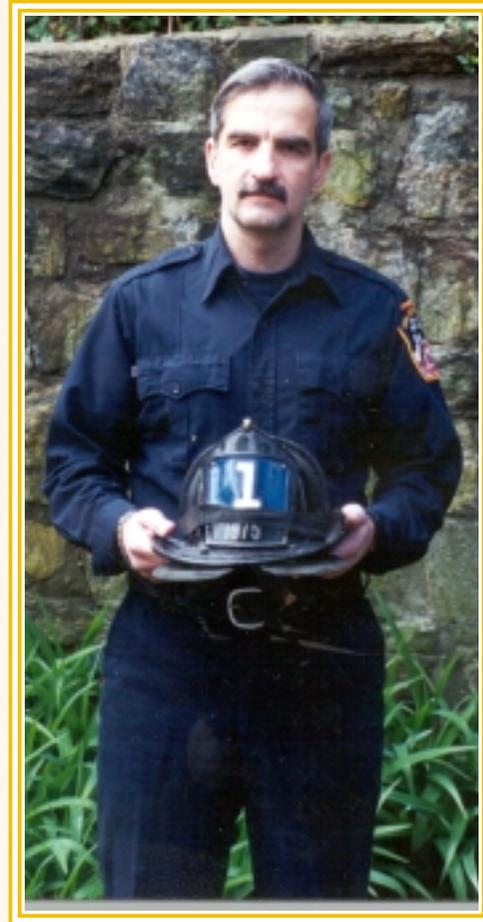
“He was always promoting (family) among his troops, any time he could he would

bring us together and have us be support networks for one another,” she said.

She also said that she has made lifetime friends with military families, all of the reserve units particularly. “We get maintenance calls every couple of weeks -- Is everything okay? - Do you need anything?,” said Eve. Her son is carrying on the family tradition by speaking with recruiters about getting into the intelligence field.

A eulogy written by his son and daughter, Ronald and Jessica, talked about his heroism.

“Our dad was one of the firemen who responded to the World Trade Center on September 11. He was heading towards the 74th floor of the second tower when he was separated from his supervisor, who left to help a woman out of the building. Our dad was in the second tower when it

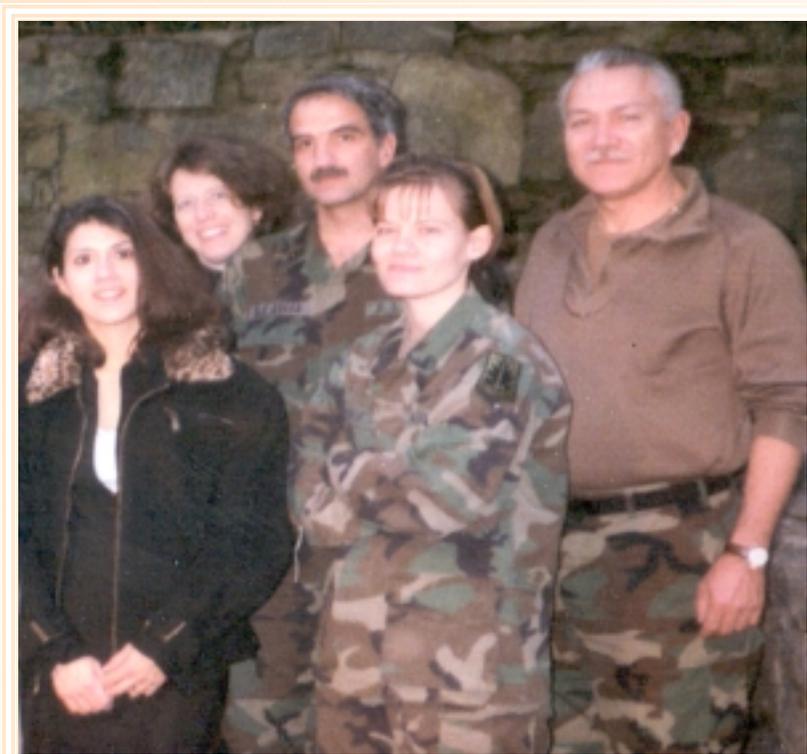


collapsed. They recovered his body close to one of the stairwells. He was the first fire marshal to be killed in the line of duty.

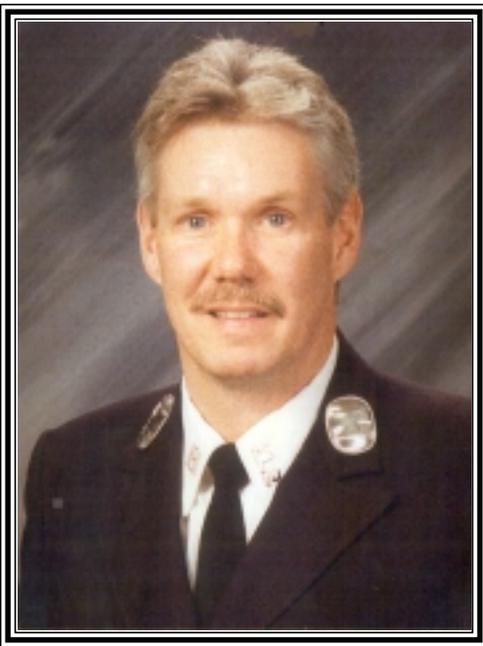
“There is no doubt in our minds that our dad helped a number of people escape from the building. There is also no doubt in our minds our dad knew exactly what he was getting into when he entered that building. (Our) dad was in the Army, working for military intelligence, and previously to that he was a Green Beret. Between his training in the Army and the Fire Department, he knew what he was going into that day.

“(Our dad was) a hero, but we knew that a long time ago. It just took a terrorist attack for it to be publicly known.”

*Compiled by Lt. Col. Ann Freed from various sources photos courtesy of Mrs. Eve Bucca*



# An empty space in our skyline



On the morning of September 11, 2001, Mary Ill, was at work, glued to her television like everyone else. She knew her husband, Staff Sgt. Frederick J. Ill Jr., a captain in the New York City fire department, was probably at the World Trade Center, in the thick of the rescue work. "That was his nature," she said.

When she returned home from work that evening, there was this terrible message on the telephone answer machine to her son, Fred, also a firefighter who was asleep after working the night shift. Fred senior's voice came out of that recorder saying, "Fred get up. A plane has hit the World Trade Center. Turn on the TV." Although her husband had survived the first attack on the World Trade Center in '93, she said that when she saw the first building collapse on TV, she knew he wasn't getting out of this one.

Ill was lost to his unit, his ladder company, his family and the nation on 9/11. He perished helping others on that day. According to all who knew him, he died as he had lived, an everyday hero, a firefighter's firefighter, a soldier's soldier and a model citizen of the United States of America.

To his fellow soldiers at the

854th Engineer Battalion he was a crack engineer, ready to go out of his way for anyone. Said Staff Sgt. Donald Provost of the engineer battalion, "What I remember is the fact that he didn't try to impress you with what he did. I never knew he was a captain in the fire department until someone in the unit happened to mention it to me. He was an outstanding leader; people would follow him to hell."

To Ill's platoon sergeant, Staff Sgt. Nick Condoulis, "He was the best. Everybody who met him immediately wanted to be his friend. People in the unit would ask to work for him, because he put his soldiers first, the mission second. He was with me overseas in Panama and Guatemala when we were doing humanitarian projects. One I particularly remember was a school we built. I could not have done that project without him there. He inspired and motivated. He was my friend and a real hero."

According to a fellow firefighter's account, "Fred Ill Jr. was a skinny kid from the Bronx, and he made up for it by being better than you." As a captain in the New York Fire Department, Ill once saved the life of a man who was pushed onto the subway tracks. Some might say the duty of a firefighter ends there, but simple lifesaving was not enough for Captain Ill. He kept in touch as the man learned to walk on artificial legs, and he helped to find scholarships for the man's children. "Everything he did, he did it over the top," said Chris Flatley, a firefighter at Ladder Company 2 in Manhattan.

The firefighters of that company remember him as the first captain to fully dedicate himself to

the house.

His wife, Mary Ill, thinks of herself as having an extended military family with the Army. She said, "Fred loved it and he took it so seriously, seriously enough that he felt he had to go back into the Army." (He left the Army National Guard for awhile and was asked by a fellow firefighter to rejoin in the Army Reserve.)

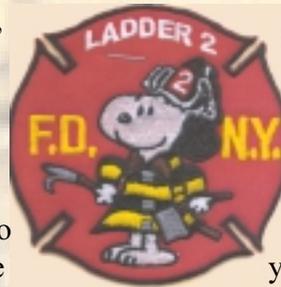
Mary spoke emotionally about her family's relationship to the Army. She said, "I have made friendships that will last me a lifetime. A group came from Ft. Totten at Christmas time and my 13-year-old daughter was just thrilled."

The following is an excerpt from a description of Ill by fellow firefighter from Ladder 2, Flatley.

"On September 11, 2001 at 9:09 a.m., just 11 minutes after the first of the World Trade Towers were struck, Fred and his (firefighters) were called to the scene. Without hesitation, he and his (firefighters) entered the burning tower. They went to assist in what has been described as the most successful rescue mission of all time.

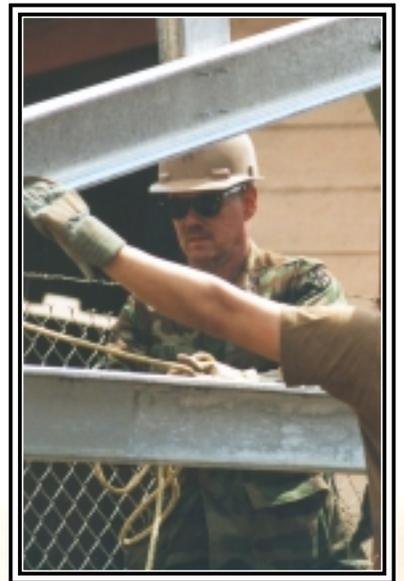
"Fred made the decision to enter the burning towers that day the way he had made many decisions before. He didn't ask anyone to do anything he wouldn't do himself. This decision caused him to make the supreme sacrifice. At no time did he question his duty or his dedication.

"To sum up Fred's life in a few words is unfair, for Fred was a complex man. He had earned the respect and admiration of his superiors and colleagues alike. He was a family man, a religious man, and a leader. Fred will surely be missed."



# e, a soldier lost in the line of duty

*Compiled by Lt. Col. Ann Freed from various sources  
photos courtesy of Sgt. Gregory Moore,  
New York National Guard*



Poem by Sister, Janie III

Once...we had twin towers.  
Tall and majestic,  
they stood against the blue sky  
like generals,  
standing erect and proud,  
saluting clouds and rain and fog,  
soaring high, filled with life,  
prosperity and a future.

Once...I had a brother.  
Tall and proud,  
he stood for family, friends and country,  
a pillar of strength  
for his wife, his kids and me.  
Always ready, always there.  
Willing to do, to go, to help.

And then...in an instant,  
after the foot soldiers ran in  
to try and save the generals,  
a crumbled ruin smolders,  
strewn with our loved ones,  
their hopes and dreams,  
their strength - collapsed,  
taking along,  
all we loved and cherished  
about life in America,  
leaving behind an empty space  
in our skyline,  
a space filled to the brim  
with tears and despair, anguish  
and heartache.

When the smoke clears,  
and the rubble is gone,  
when our hearts mend a bit  
and weak smiles return....  
will we rise again? And when  
will we see our loved ones?

Thinking of you Freddie -  
Love,  
Janie



# A cub scout, an artist, a giver, a

Story by Pfc. James Arnold  
Photos courtesy of  
Ruth Powell

Whether serving as a health care noncommissioned officer for the 4220<sup>th</sup> United States Army Hospital, volunteering at local theaters as a wood worker or lifting the spirits of Engine Company 207, Sgt. Shawn Powell dedicated his life to helping others.

The September 11 attacks took Shawn, 33, before his time. He went into the World Trade Center with the New York Fire Department's Engine 207 but never came out. Reflecting back on Shawn's life, he should be remembered as an optimist who led by example, according to all who knew him.

"If there

wasn't any fun going on, he would find a way," said Matthew Dwyer, a fellow firefighter. "With Shawn, the glass was half full, never half empty." At the Engine Company 207 in downtown Brooklyn, he was a friend to many and an enemy to none.

Shawn was born on June 28, 1969 in Brooklyn, New York to James and Ruth Powell. As soon as he came of age, his mother and father enrolled him in the Cornerstone Vacation Bible school to learn more about his faith. Shawn became fascinated by his newfound faith and continued to attend worship services on a regular basis after being baptized at the age of 12.

Seeking curiosity and adventure, as most young men do, he joined the Cub Scouts with a few of his friends. Encouraged by the values taught and self-respect learned, Shawn continued on to Troop 409 of the Boy Scouts of America. Only leaving the Cornerstone Scouting Program in 1983 to join the Air and Sea Explorers on the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum.



# trooper

Shawn proved he could follow in his father's artistic footsteps by painting a tugboat that was entitled "Full Steam Ahead" and carving a small wooden crucifix for his grandmother when he was a small child. As he became older he learned how to construct theater stage props at the Henry Street New Federal Theater. After making a name for himself at Henry Street Theater, he was urged to assist at other local theaters as well by those who have seen his work. The Alonzo Players Masonic Temple Theater, The Paul Robertson Theater, The Billie Holiday Theater, and later on the Apollo Theater in Harlem were just a few of the community involvements that Shawn participated in.

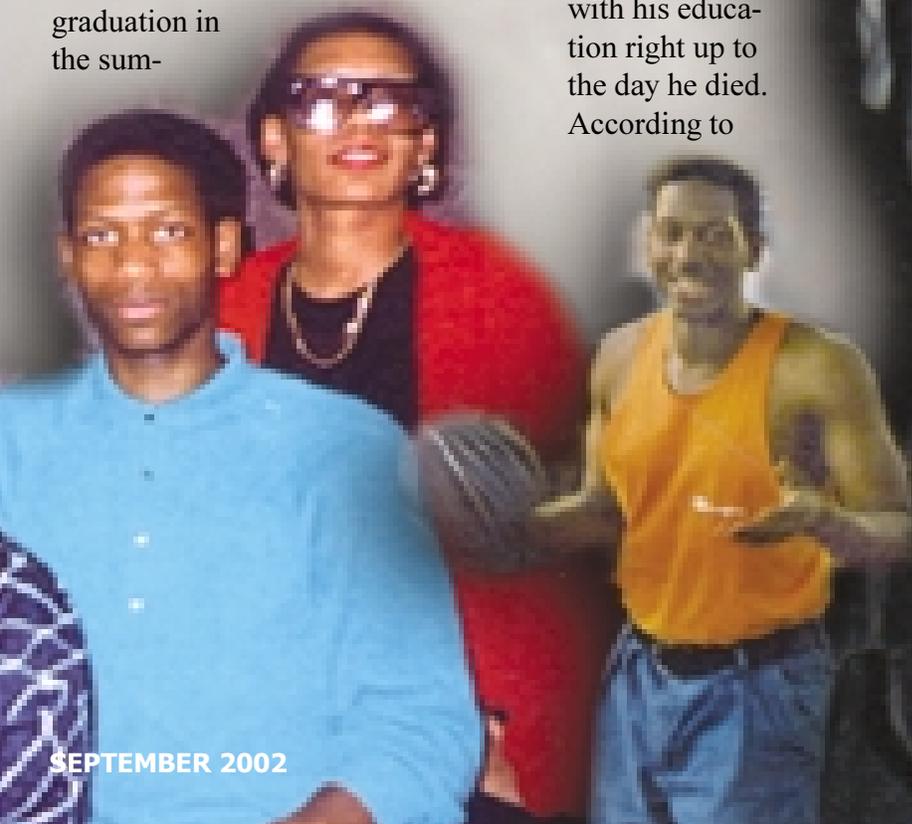
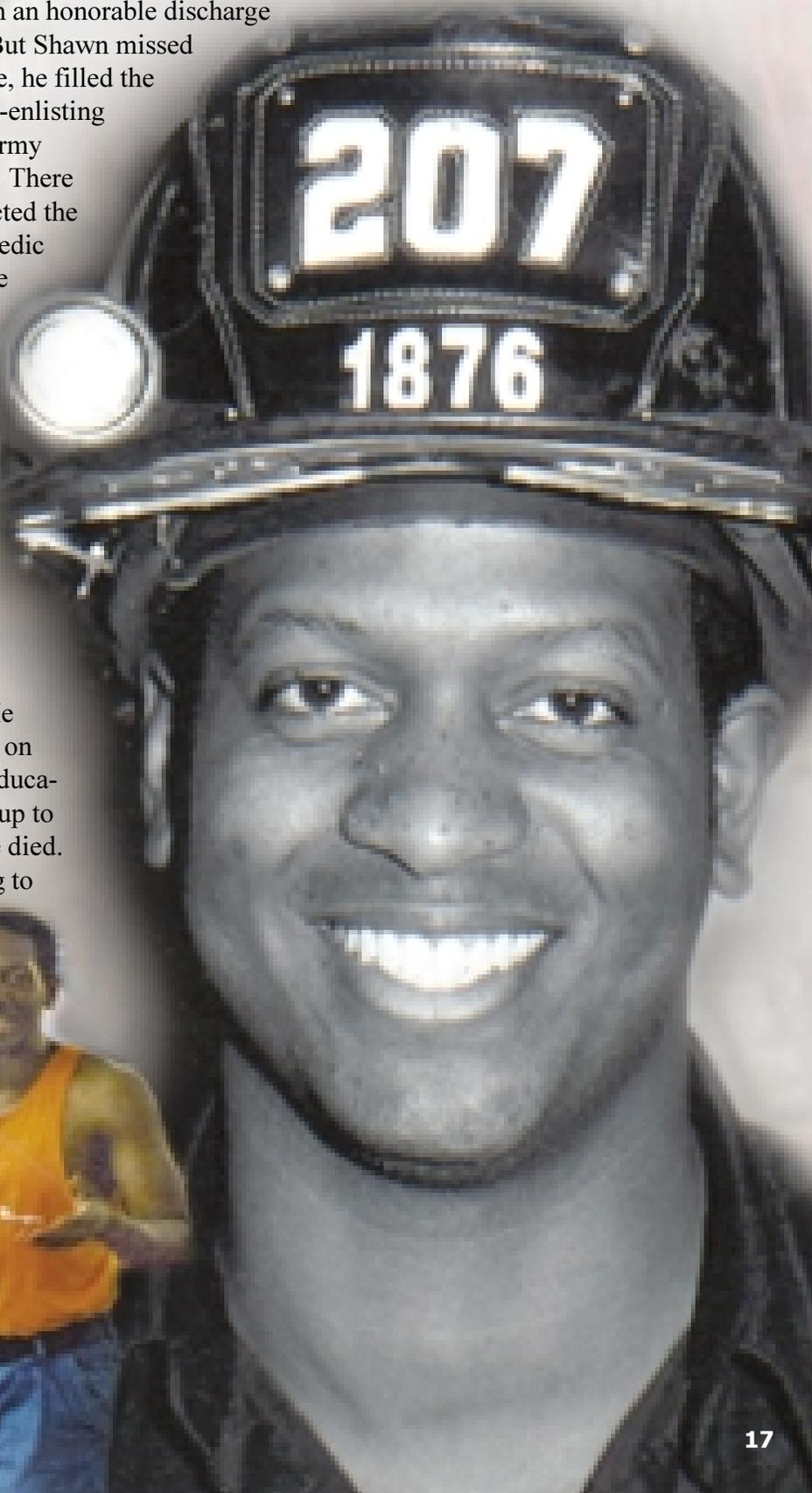
After learning his ABC's at P.S. 08, he went on to develop his academic career at I.S. 324. From there he continued on to the George Westinghouse Vocational and Technical High School where he completed an Electro-Mechanical Drafting course. After graduation in the sum-

mer of 1987, he was accepted into the architecture program of the New York City Technical College. While attending NYTC, he graduated from the New York City Fire Department Academy in 1996.

In 1989, he went to Germany with the United States Army. After four years of service, Shawn returned home with an honorable discharge in 1992. But Shawn missed the service, he filled the void by re-enlisting into the Army Reserves. There he completed the combat medic course, the primary leadership development course, and the emergency medical technician course. He continued on with his education right up to the day he died. According to

his mother, "Shawn was always a gifted student."

On November 10, 2001, numerous members of his family and friends attended his funeral. Shawn Powell may be gone, but in the hearts and minds of all that knew him, he will never be forgotten!



# 142nd Trans Det. goes down range

Story and photos by Cpl. Kyle Reeves

The 142nd Transportation Movement Control (TC) Detachment (Port) left home station in August to support the war on terrorism. They went through the standard pre-deployment preparation and training at Fort Dix, NJ. But it took time for their families prior to their departure.

As deployment became imminent, the soldiers of 142nd TC Detachment eased the stress of rigorous training and the anxiety of waiting by throwing a family day picnic August 23 at Willow Pond Recreation Area, Ft. Dix.

1st Lt. Timothy Jones, Medical Logistics Officer, and Staff Sgt. Andrew Cupidore, transportation movement non-commissioned officer, organized the picnic. Its purpose according to Maj. Robert Henock, Commanding Officer to the 142nd, was to give soldiers and families last moments with each other and maintain morale before deploying.

“Such events familiarize

families with the training environment that the soldiers have been going through so it is less of an unknown for them. They can feel a level of comfort with their loved ones’ preparedness,” said Henock.

The unit is small, comprised of 18 members, which helps explain the relaxed approach he takes with his soldiers. “This is a very close-knit unit,” he said. “I have told the soldiers that I wanted them to consider their unit as their second family.”

After a day of fun, the next day it was back to the business of preparing for the mission. Getting ready for deployment included honing their common soldier skills. One of the skills tested was the ability to accurately fire a weapon.

On the day of weapons fire training the unit assembled outside their living quarters at 6 a.m. with backpacks and M16A2 rifles strapped over their shoulders. The threat of rain did nothing to deter the enthusiasm of this eager group as someone from the formation yelled out, “if it ain’t raining, we ain’t training.”



**Families enjoy themselves at the 142nd family day picnic, above, and soldiers hone their marksmanship skills at the range, below.**



# Quick action at WTC wins Mazel 2001 MacArthur Award

*By Capt. George Sava, Mr. Joe Burlas and Lt. Col. Ann S. Freed  
photos by Chet Marcus*

**C**apt. Joseph W. Mazel is a leader among leaders and he has a 15-pound bronze bust of MacArthur to prove it.

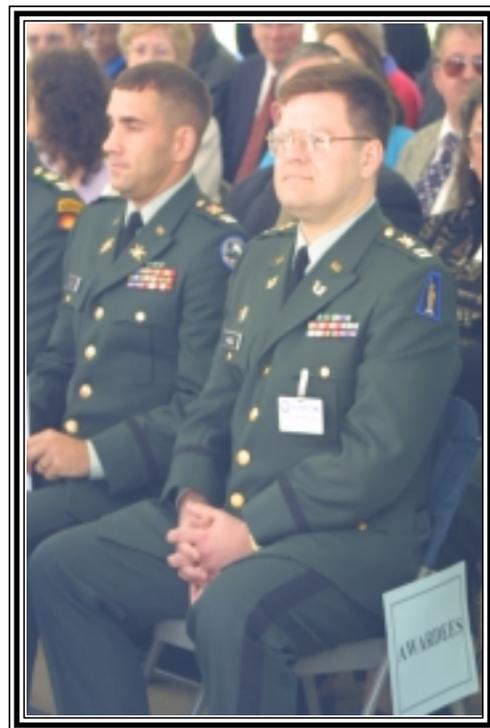
On May 22, 2002 he was awarded the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award, by the Chief of Staff of the Army, General Eric K. Shinseki.

The award nomination cited, among other things, his actions in the immediate aftermath of the World Trade Center terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Within hours of the attack, Mazel established and supervised one of the local Emergency Operations Centers (EOC). He wrote the standard operating procedures for the EOC, and personally supervised the security measures employed to protect the

EOC.

Also on hand for the ceremony, were the Honorable Thomas E. White, Secretary of the Army, Maj. Gen. Richard S. Colt, Commander of the 77th Regional Support Command, and Maj. Gen. Michael J. Marchand, the Assistant Judge Advocate General (JAG) of the Army.

Mazel was among 27 officers presented with the prestigious award that day. The award is the highest award given by the Department of the Army to its junior officers. The MacArthur Leadership Award is based on an officer's leadership performance, ability to influence others, understanding of human nature, technical and tactical competence, development of cohesive teams and demonstration of



leadership attributes. The award program was established by the General Douglas MacArthur Foundation, in coordination with the Department of the Army in 1987.

Said fellow JAG officer Cpt. George Sava of the 4th Legal Support Organization (LSO), "Captain Mazel is an officer who has always gone above and beyond the call of duty. He has put in hundreds of hours of his own time for the good of others. He makes the rest of us look good and we are very proud of him." Sava added that he knew of no one more deserving of such an award.

Mazel is both a father and active volunteer serving many organizations. At the time of the award Mazel had two careers; one at the New York County (Manhattan) District Attorney's Office and the other as a lawyer/soldier of the 4th LSO, U.S. Army Reserve. Mazel also served on the staff of the Fair Lawn, New Jersey Office of Emergency Management as the Director of the Auxiliary Police. He was recently called to serve his country as an operations officer at the Pentagon.



# Soldiers 'hook up' to honor fallen comrades

Story by *Lt. Col. Neil Skow*  
and *Lt. Col. Seth Gahr*

The tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001 have changed forever the sense of security that Americans have enjoyed and taken for granted throughout the 20th century. No single event since the bombing of Pearl Harbor has shaken our belief that we as Americans are secure within the confines of our borders.

Imagine then what incredible impact the World Trade Center collapse had on the emergency services of the City of New York, especially those of the New York City Fire Department (FDNY). They had 343 brothers lost in battle that day along with those of the New York City Police Department (NYPD) - 37 members lost along with the Port Authority Police Department.



*Lt. Col. Neil Skow, waiting to jump.*



*Lt. Col. Seth Gahr in Normandy.*

I, Lt. Col. Neil Skow, was a lieutenant with the FDNY assigned at the time to Ladder Company 2, a midtown ladder company trained in high-rise fire fighting. The company lost 10 members that day, including Captain Fred III, an Army Reserve Staff Sgt. with Co. A, 854th Engineer Battalion.

Lt. Col. Seth Gahr was a member of Truck 2 in the emergency services unit of the NYPD. He spent 4 months of long, grueling hours after September 11, along with thousands of other uniformed members from both departments digging and searching for lost brothers and civilians; hoping against hope that survivors would be found.

The effects of digging, searching and digging some more were dramatic to say the least. This combined with our attendance at too many friends' funerals began to have a numbing effect. We both began to feel there had to be something more we could do.

The opportunity presented itself in mid-May, 2002. Both Gahr and I, through U.S. Army channels, were invited by the people of St. Mere Eglise, Normandy, France to participate with other American, British and Canadian soldiers in annual memorial services commemorating D Day. The Town of St. Mere Eglise was the first town liberated by the 82nd Airborne Division during the early hours of June 6, 1944. The commemorative ceremonies included a parachute jump by joint airborne forces from those countries that jumped into Normandy on D Day.

We accompanied soldiers from the 1st and 2nd Ranger Battalions, 75th Ranger Regiment during our trip to Normandy, arriving on June 3 in the town of St. Mere Eglise. It seemed that most of the town came out to greet us. My hosts, the Fortin family, were incredibly gracious. Mr. Guy Fortin is a business contractor who serves as the volunteer fire chief. His wife Coreen, daughter Anne and son Francois offered me the warmest hospitality.

With the American, Canadian and British soldiers, we toured all five invasion beaches: Omaha, Gold, Sword, Juno and Utah, along with many other historic sites. As soon as we returned we changed into our fire and police department dress uniforms for separate ceremonies and commemorative services. Wherever we went French people wanted to talk to us about our experiences and express their unswerving support for the American people.

The school that Anne and Francois (ages 13 and 11) attended, asked us to come and speak about the events of September 11. It was an incredible moment for us. Students and faculty asked insightful questions about our experiences and the effects on our families. There were few dry eyes in the classroom that afternoon.

The highlight of our trip came on Saturday, June 8. At approximately 11:30 a.m. Gahr and I exited a C-130 aircraft at 1000 feet from opposite doors over the same drop zone that the 82nd Airborne Division used on the June 6, 1944. Gahr jumped in his NYPD emergency service duty uniform and I jumped with my FDNY bomber jacket so the French people below could see exactly who we were. Below us along the beautiful French countryside were thousands of towns people from the surrounding communities lining the road to watch as all three aircraft discharged the 93 jumpers representing the United States, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Poland and France. As for me, I memorized the first 50 names of the 343 firefighters who responded to their "last alarm" on 9/11. I was able to recite 37 of my brother's names before landing on free French soil.

It is tradition for each jumper to leave something small on the drop zone for the French children or else to hand them something as you walk off (like your beret or jump wings). Both Gahr and I left something more important that day; a laminated list of all emergency services workers who perished on September 11, along with miniature FDNY and NYPD flag.

For Gahr, the jump was to remember 37 fellow police officers; for me, it was 343 total brothers. Gahr and I both knew it could have been either one of us working that tour. We wanted to make a difference. We wanted to show the rangers and paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division that we knew that they had taken the Flag from us and had carried the fight against terrorism in our name. Who ever expected that the front lines would be between Church Street and West Street?

Gahr and I will never forget the friendships that we made with our fellow soldiers. We will never forget the incredible warmth and sincere feelings of compassion the French people showed us during our short stay.

In closing, to my 10 lost brothers from Ladder Company 2 and especially you Fred, I hope you know how much I miss you all.

# 411th Engineer gets new commander

photo and story by Spec. Brian Fraga



**Brig. Gen James L. Snyder**

It was a picture-perfect beginning for the new commander at the 411th Engineer Brigade in New Windsor, N.Y. The sun was out with nary a cloud in the sky and a gentle cool breeze blew across the parade field at

Stewart Army Subpost.

It was a good first day on the job for Brig. Gen. James L. Snyder, who was promoted and assumed control of the 411th in a change of command ceremony held on June 2, 2002.

Snyder replaced Maj. Gen. James A. Cheatham, who was given a new assignment in the headquarters of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

“It was with great pride and humility that I accept this assignment as commander of the 411th Engineer Brigade, the brigade of choice,” Snyder said, referring to the 411th’s slogan. “I have no doubt in my mind that this unit will be able to repeat past successes and enjoy new ones in the future.”

Snyder’s previous assignment was as the senior army reserve advisor and

executive officer to the deputy chief of engineers for reserve affairs at the headquarters for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Before that he completed a three-year tour as the first reserve installation commander at Fort Dix, N.J.

Snyder spoke of his leadership philosophy and vision for the 411th, challenged all company commanders and first-line supervisors to meet his requirements.

“As leaders at all levels, we must train soldiers right to meet their tasks and care for them in many ways, including pay, promotions, and family support in times of deployment,” Snyder said. “We must further retain these soldiers in the Army family and make it an organization they can all be proud of.”

## Meet the Commander

Currently, I am a senior analyst for BAHR, Inc. of Alexandria, Va. They are a government contractor specializing in management, and training. I am using my past experience and training in force structure and installation management to support the Army G3 in the Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA) Transition of Installation



**Citizen-soldier Mr. James Snyder**

Management (TIM), centralizing the management of Army installations worldwide under the new Installation Management Agency, a field operating agency of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management. This is a very large Army reorganization affecting almost 60,000 personnel and 8 billion dollars annually.

### **Q. What are your short and long-term goals for the command?**

Of course, short-term, to maintain the 411th Engineer Brigade status as a leading engineer element in the Army through a continued focus on peacetime readiness and our wartime capabilities. In the long-term, to contribute to the Army’s mission by providing engineer support to war fighting commanders as well as our installations and communities here at home.

### **Q. What do you expect from your battalion commanders and soldiers?**

Above all, to maintain Army standards and values. We have great respect from the American people as

an institution and we must do everything within our power to maintain that trust.

Standards also equate to training and readiness. All personnel, from soldiers to staff members, to commanders have to do our very best to know our jobs and mentor those around us into a cohesive unit that thinks of collective good versus personal gain.

### **Q. What are some aspects of either position that crossover and are used to benefit each other?**

As far as my position as a defense consultant for the Army G3, it has many areas of mutual benefit. My civilian contractor functions benefit from my military experience and training while my military position benefits from my close knowledge of the HQDA and current issues and policies that are being dealt with there.



**New York  
salutes the  
77th**

*Clarice Joynes, Deputy Director Mayor's Office of Veteran's Affairs, presents Maj. Gen. Richard S. Colt, Commanding General, 77th Regional Support Command, a proclamation from the city of New York designating August 26-30 77th RSC Appreciation Week. The ceremony, held in Times Square, N.Y., was the first of four events held in celebration of the 77th's 85th birthday. (Photo by Bruce Hill)*

**A salute to the fallen**

*Maj. Gen. Richard S Colt, right, Commander, 77th Regional Support Command bows his head in prayer while Staff Sgt. Kenneth Barnes of the 319th Army Band, below, plays Taps during the rededication ceremony at the 307th Infantry Battalion Memorial Grove in Central Park. The ceremony was to honor the fallen soldiers of the 77th from World War I to 9/11 and was part of the 77th RSC Appreciation Week. (Photos by Bruce Hill)*



# 77th RSC news notes

## Free college online

Military spouses can now register for free college courses through an online university scholarship program. The American Military University's Spouse Schoolmates Scholarship Program is providing 2,500 scholarships worth \$3.7 million to military spouses for undergraduate education in 2002.

The scholarship program, which was launched last month in Washington, allows spouses of service members who are taking AMU courses to enroll for free.

"They don't even have to pay for books," said Terry Grant, the program's director. "And that's unheard of." Grant said 85 percent of the wives of enlisted men do not have bachelor's degrees. "There is a need," she said. "There is definitely a need. Spouse employment and education is a big issue."

Spouses can register for the same number of courses as the service member and can take any course offered by AMU, Grant said. Spouses of active-duty, Reserve and National Guard service members are eligible. The scholarship covers \$750 per course. Students must maintain a 2.5 grade point average. Classes start the first Monday of every month. Students can take four,

eight or 15-week courses.

Students will need computers, though. Students attend an electronic classroom and can e-mail their instructors, chat online with other students, and download research materials and assignments.

For information or to register for the Spouse Schoolmates Scholarship, call (877) 468-6268 or log on to <http://www.apus.edu/apus/Spouses/>

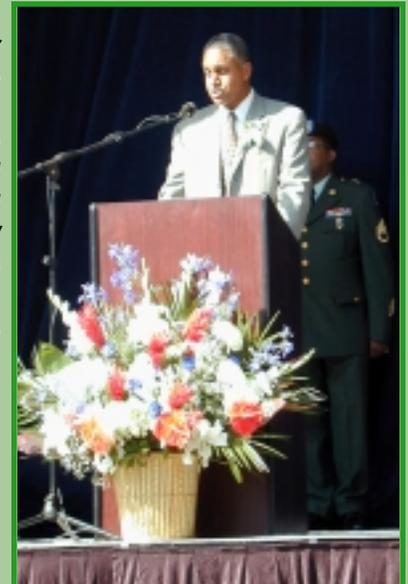
## Sound Off

The commanding general wants your ideas - ideas for improvement that is. To that end the 77th Regional Support Command web site has created a suggestion box just for you. This e-mail box can be reached at <http://www.usarc.army.mil/77thrc/77suggestion.Box.htm>. The purpose of the mail box is to allow soldiers with creative and positive ideas for change to give their ideas directly to the commander. Ground rules are: constructive comments only, this is not a substitute for issues that should be referred to the chain of command and/or the Inspector General. If you have a criticism offer a solution. Names are optional. Let's hear from you.



*At the 77th Commanders Conference, Maj. Gen. Colt joins with unit commanders in a memorial service for the six soldiers who died on 9/11.*

*Chet Marcus, Media Relations Officer for the 77th, narrates the September 10th Federal Employee Bureau 9/11 memorial event. Seven federal employees died on 9/11 and more than 3000 of their co-workers were on hand for the memorial ceremony.*





*From the Soldiers of Liberty,  
to the citizens of New York,  
We are proud to serve and thank  
you for 85 years of commitment  
and support to the 77th.*

**<http://www.usarc.army.mil/77thRSC>**