



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Jeffrey D. Klein

Senator Klein Hosts Seventh Annual First Responder Appreciation Barbeque

JEFFREY D. KLEIN September 25, 2017

| ISSUE: **FIRST RESPONDERS, CONSTITUENT CORNER, COMMUNITY**



First responders from across The Bronx and Southern Westchester were honored for their service

Bronx, NY - Senator Jeff Klein along with **Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj** hosted the seventh annual First Responders Appreciation Barbeque on Saturday at Orchard Beach.

“This annual event is a special day where we give back to the first responders who selflessly serve us everyday. These brave men and women go above and beyond to protect us, and I’m

proud to be able to give them the recognition they deserve,” **said Senator Jeff Klein.**

“I am proud to have joined Senator Klein to celebrate the bravery and hard work of our first responders. These honorees safeguard and serve our community and deserve this special recognition,” **said Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj.**

Saturday’s event included a barbeque lunch, live music by FDR Drive, children’s games, popcorn, cotton candy and much more. Retired New Yorks Knicks player John Wallace made a special appearance.

Senator Klein honored local heroes who demonstrate exemplary courage and bravery protecting the people of New York. Also recognized were three New York City first responders who died in the line of duty this year. The following men and women were recognized during the ceremony:

- Officer Stephanie Batista-Fernandez, PSA 8
- Officer Joselyn Paulino, PSA 8
- Lieutenant Reymond Meyer, 41st Precinct
- Lieutenant Neftali Betance, 41st Precinct
- Inspector Fausto B. Pichardo, 43rd Precinct
- Officer Michael Lagani, 45th Precinct
- Officer John Souhrada, 45th Precinct
- Officer Carlos Perez, 45th Precinct

- Officer Patrick McGovern, 49th Precinct
- Detective Kenyatta Rouse, ESU #4
- Detective Robert Goldstein, ESU #4
- Sergeant Kevin O'Doherty, ESU #4
- Dr. Michael Murray, 50th Precinct Medical Division
- Lieutenant Thomas Hilliard, 50th Precinct Medical Division
- Officer Jerry Gonzalez, 50th Precinct
- FDNY Engine 88/Ladder 38
- Firefighter James P. Lee, Jr., FDNY Rescue Company 1
- Lieutenant Phil DeSimone, Pelham Fire Department
- Firefighter Frank Bellantoni, Pelham Fire Department
- Firefighter Artie Viggiano, Pelham Fire Department

In memoriam:

- Officer Miosotis Familia, 46th Precinct
- Battalion Chief Michael Fahy, FDNY Battalion 19
- EMT Yadira Arroyo, FDNY Station 26