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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

If you overlooked it, annual dues for fiscal year June 2001 - May 2002 are overdue. An asterisk* on the mailing label indicates that PARA records do not show your current dues payment. If you've already renewed your membership, ignore the reminder. If you haven't please complete the form inside and mail together with your remittance. Thank you!

A TIME FOR REMBRANCE, RECOGNITION AND REFLECTION

Many of you were understandably unable to attend the memorial service at the Theatre at Madison Square Garden On Oct. 4, 2001 for the victims of the horrible World Trade Center bombing disaster owing to distance, other commitments, ect. However, many of you, as well as your PARA Board of Directors representing you, did attend and can attest to a moving 2-1/2 hour tribute in the highest Port Authority tradition.

We are including here excerpts from the program that was distributed so that those of you who were unable to attend might share in this stirring tribute. First and foremost is a listing of those PA employees who gave the ultimate sacrifice on September 11, 2001. In loving tribute, they are:

Joseph Amatuccio	Stephen J. Fiorelli	Paul Laseczynski	Nancy E. Perez
Christopher C. Amoroso	Donald A. Foreman	David P. Lemagne	Dominick A. Pezzulo
Jean A. Andracke	Gregg J. Froehner	John J. Lennon	Eugene J. Raggio
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Maurice V. Barry	Patrick A. Hoey	Robert H. Lynch	James A. Romito
Margaret L. Benson	Uhuru G. Houston	Myrna Maldonado	Kalyan K. Sarkar
Daniel Bergstein	George C. Howard	Kathy Mazza	Anthony Savas
Edward Calderon	Stephen Huczko	Donald J. McIntyre	John P. Skala
Liam Callahan	Anthony P. Infante Jr.	Walter A. McNeil	Edward T. Strauss
Robert D. Cirri	Prem N. Jerath	Fred V. Morrone	Walwyn W. Stuart
Carlos Dacosta	Mary S. Jones	Joseph M. Navas	Kenneth F. Tietjen
Dwight D. Darcy	Paul W. Jurgens	Pete Negrón	Lisa L. Trerotola
Niarka Davila	Deborah H. Kaplan	James Nelson	Nathaniel Webb
Clinton Davis	Douglas G. Karpiloff	Alfonse J. Niedermeyer	Michael T. Wholey
Frank A. De Martini	Robert M. Kaulfers	David Ortiz	
William F. Fallon	Frank Lalama	James W. Parham	

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A TIME FOR REMBRANCE.... (from Page 1)

The program itself was a stirring tribute to not only those who gave the ultimate sacrifice but to unite our spirit and honor all Port Authority employees, past and present, family members and friends. The program is reprinted here in its entirety to provide you with the flavor and deep appreciation on the part of the Port Authority for all who have gone before.

Entrance Music:	Claremont String Quartet	Choir:	"How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place" (Johannes Brahms)
Program Opening:	The Port Authority of NY & NJ Police Department Emerald Society Pipe Band		The Riverside Choir, Helen Cha-Pyo conductor
Posting of Colors:	The Port Authority of NY & NJ Honor Guard	Remembrances:	Milton H. Pachter Sr. Litigation counsel, The Port Authority of NY & NJ
Welcome:	Ronald Shiflan Acting Executive Director The Port Authority of NY & NJ		Edward K. McQuade Police Officer, The Port Authority of NY & NJ
Congregation:	"America The Beautiful" (Katharine Lee Bates)		Ernesto Butcher Chief Operating Officer, The Port Authority of NY & NJ
Call To Prayer:	Cantor	Soloist:	"Amazing Grace" (Traditional) Kathleen Battle, soprano
Reading:	Psalms 121:1-2 "I Will Lift Up My Eyes" Reverend Jean R. Smith Seaman's Church Institute	Reflections:	Reverend Monsignor Mark J. Giordani Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist, Paterson, NJ
Soloist:	"Ave Maria" (Franz Schubert) Kathleen Battle, soprano	Choir:	"Shall We Gather at the River" (Aaron Copeland, arranged by John Carter) The Riverside Choir
Tributes:	Hon. Lewis M. Eisenberg Chairman, The Port Authority of NY & NJ Hon. Charles A. Gargano Vice Chairman, The Port Authority of NY & NJ Hon. George E. Pataki Governor, State of New York Hon. Donald T. DiFrancesco Acting Governor, State of New Jersey Hon. Rudolph W. Giuliani Mayor, City of New York	Closing Words:	Rabbi Isaac Heeshel Chaplain, The Port Authority of NY & NY
		Congregation:	"Battle Hymn of the Republic" (Julia Ward Howe)
		Recessional:	The Port Authority of NY & NJ Police Department Emerald Society Pipe Band
Remarks:	Christy Ferer Levin		

Finally, the program concluded with a statement from Acting Executive Director Schiflan as follows:

On Tuesday, September 11 the world as we knew it changed forever. Thousands of our friends neighbors and colleagues lost their lives. We lost 74 of our own. We also lost our home.

Port Authority Police and civilians performed extraordinary acts of heroism that day. Many of them gave their own lives to save others.

Though the towers are gone, what stands in their place is the indelible memory of the family we lost. We will never forget their courage, their spirit, their friendship and their love.

Our hearts are broken, our loss is overwhelming, but our resolve is stronger than ever. The Port Authority honors those who sacrificed so much and those who carry on

in their spirit of selflessness and dedication.

Therefore, my brethren,

Be ye steadfast unmovable,

Always excelling in the work of the Lord.

Because you know that in the Lord

Your labor is not in vain.

—1 Corinthians 15:38

Your PARA cannot add much more to this stirring tribute. However, shortly after the horrible event, on September 15, we sent the following letter to Jeffrey Greene, General Counsel with copies to Ernesto Butcher, Chief Operating Officer and Louis La Capra, Chief of Staff:

(Please turn to page 3)

September 15, 2001

Jeffrey Green, General Counsel
The Port Authority of New York/New Jersey
Journal Square Transportation Center
One PATH Plaza
Jersey City, NJ

Dear Jeff:

Confirming our verbal offer transmitted by Dick Helman to your staff, this is to formally advise that the 4200 strong Port Authority Retirees Association is available to assist in any way possible to help in the recovery from the terrible WTC tragedy.

If for some reason records of retirees were destroyed, we can furnish a computer run of all PARA members complete with addresses and telephone numbers should you wish to choose selectively some retirees with particular expertise who could be of assistance.

You have our heartfelt sympathy for those co-workers who were lost. We cannot express the shock and anger we all feel.

Very truly yours,
All Rubbert, Pres.

Some of you have already been selectively chosen, specifically from Engineering Department, to bring your expertise to help in the World Trade Center debris clearing process. At present, most World Trade Center Port Authority staff are spread out amongst the many facilities. We do understand that negotiations are underway to rent another building in New York City to bring former World Trade Center PA employees under one roof once again. This could be accomplished within the next several months and as soon as semi-permanent locations are announced, we will try to disseminate key telephone numbers to all of you to help you reach appropriate parties.

The response by you to our letter suggesting donations be sent to the World Trade Center Port Authority Memorial Fund, 241 Erie Street, Room 313, Jersey City, NJ 07310 has been enormous. As of Nov 1, over two and one half million dollars has been received according to the Funds Administrator, Chief Engineer, Eugene Spruck. PARA has pledged \$10,000 which is not included in that amount but with Board approval on November 1, it will be sent prior to this mailing.

On behalf of all the Board and the Port Authority Relief Fund, we say "Thank You One and All.!"

One last note. You can obtain a video tape copy of the PA Memorial Service at Madison Square Garden by sending a \$25.00 donation to the WTC-PA Memorial Fund to:

Port Authority Tribute
Port Authority Technical Center
241 Erie Street - Room 212
Jersey City, NJ 07310

Note the room number differs from that for all other donations.

"Three-fourths of the mistakes a man makes are made because he does not really know the things he thinks he knows."

SIGNAL 82 CLUB OF FLORIDA

Periodically we make mention and probably not frequently enough of the Police Signal 8-2 group and their activities in Florida. This is a group of retired Port Authority Police Officers who come together on certain special occasions and we would like to share with you a letter authored by Robert Miller regarding a gathering from October 5-7 in Cocoa Beach, Florida. Here it is en toto:

"Well, its over, the most historic and most memorable gathering in the annals of our organization.

To try to put all the events on paper will be most difficult, but I will do my best.

The reunion was attended by about two hundred men and women. It personally gives me pleasure to see the young coming and the out-of-state crowd. It was good to see Phil Leonard from Colorado, Phil and I were cops together at LaGuardia, I think that was about the time the Wright Brothers invented the airplane. Also Tom and Marge Coughlin, Bobby Dennenbaum, our rep, on the all PA Retirees Council and so many more.

The tale-swapping, the story-telling (some lies) the exchange

of memories, but as the reunion unfolded you could not miss the pall that hung over the reunion because of the tragic events that had happened at the World Trade Center. The static displays of the 34 young officers both male and female that had made the supreme sacrifice. And, of course, the tears flowed and that's the way it was. General Schwartkopf, our commanding general in the Gulf War was quoted as saying 'I don't want any man in my command that doesn't know how to cry.'

And, our reunion was graced by the presence of our two elder statesmen, Sgts. George Marino and Joseph Rarsin. Joe, those pants....give us a break!!

On Saturday, October 6th, elections were held. The following are your officers for the next two years: Tom Grozier, President; Clen Murola, Vice President, West; Jim Heffernan, Vice President, East; Bill Backes, Treasurer; Jerry Barnickle, Recording Secretary; Bill Griffinkranz, Trustee; Pat Heslin, Trustee; Gene Podrazza, Trustee. "and your reporter as the newly created position of Historian."

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SIGNAL 82 CLUB OF FLORIDA (From page 3)

Later a Memorial Service was held. The Invocation was given by Father McDonald. Holy Cross Fathers, Pledge of Allegiance by all. 'Amazing Grace' by a bagpiper, Color Guard from Brevard County Sons Of The American Revolution, thank you offerings from State and local dignitaries, introduction of three young local Brevard County firemen who had responded to New York, they were also our guests at our banquet Saturday night, more tears and on it went. Thrilling, doesn't cover it.

Extensive television and news coverage was there.

One incident that has to be mentioned. There was a ladies group coincidentally having a working meeting at the Holiday Inn. They had met to make some mementos for their favorite charity. When they spotted our banners, they inquired as to what Signal 8-2 was. As a result, they subsequently donated their collective monies to us for sending to New York. An appropriate thank you letter was sent.

In-conclusion, and a personal note aside. On February 23,

1945. I saw five of my fellow Marines and a Navy corpsman raise our National flag on top of a mountain called Surirbachi, on an island called Iwo Jima. Shortly after September 11, 2001, I saw pictures of members of New York's Bravest (NYFD) perform a similar flag raising amidst the rubble of the World Trade Center. Both have been inspirations to the American people.

God bless you all, especially our ladies and my wife, Janice, for their support. God bless our President and God Bless America (Thank you, Kate Smith)"

Your president spoke to Bob Miller on the telephone recently to get his permission to use the forgoing in our Newsletter. In the context of this conversation Bob reported that the Central Florida Fire Chiefs Association, of which he is a member, collected \$240,000 for the Part Authority Memorial Fund in addition to contributions toward New York Fireman and Police Memorial funds. Again, thank you Bob and all our Florida retiree alumni!

"The only courage that matters is the kind that gets you from one minute to the next!"

COLA STATUS

The proposed COLA bill improvements that were reported in PARA's Spring 2001 Newsletter were introduced in late June 2001 by the Senate Rules Committee. The legislation is identified as the "COLA Enhancement Bill" under S.5675. Although the bill was not acted upon before the summer recess it was expected that the Assembly would submit the same bill sometime in the late fall. (Note: 2001 is the first year of the two year 2001-2002 legislative session. Therefore all pending bills from 2001 carry over into the 2002 session.) The three prime improvements of the bill would be (1) to increase the COLA from 50% of the CPI to 100% of the CPI; (2) to increase the maximum CPI benefit from 3% to 5%; and (3) to increase the cap from \$18,000 to \$25,000. The COLA enhancements would affect retirees that have been retired 5 years and who are 55 years old or older.

As everyone is aware the shock of the September 11, 2001 attack on the WTC had a serious impact on the stock market and consequently it reduced the NY State Pension fund substantially. Therefore, the possibility of the COLA enhancement bills being acted upon favorable in this session of the legislature is questionable at best. However, PARA and the Alliance will continue to press on in Albany to keep our bills at the forefront. We will advise you as to status and progress in our next Newsletter. While the Legislature is still in session. letters, phone calls, Fax's, E-mail, etc. from PARA membership to your respective Legislative representatives certainly will add to any hope for passage that we might cling to in the months ahead.

"Plan ahead: It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark."



STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER (From page 4)

1. September 11, 2001 has become and will continue to be for all of us a significant date in our history. As reported elsewhere in this Newsletter, your PARA sent a \$10,000.00 contribution from your dues money to the World Trade Center P.A. Relief Fund. Many of you have donated to this and other relief funds for families who lost loved ones in this disaster, possibly a number of times. PARA is your organization and we try to represent you in the best way we can in Albany and Washington. Your Board members are volunteers who give freely of their own time to try to accomplish your objectives, principally a full COLA in your New York State Pensions. We were successful last year in obtaining at least a 50% COLA and are pressing on in this Legislative session for further increases.
 With the \$10,000 donation to the World Trade Center P.A. Relief Fund, we may possibly unfortunately have to cut back on the size of our semi-annual Newsletter. Our expenses are roughly \$4500 per Newsletter for printing, mailing, etc. with no cost for the contributing writers. We also continue to be a member of the Alliance of Public Retiree Organizations in Albany with dues contribution of \$500 per year for lobbying, visitations, rallies, etc.
 For those of you who have not paid your nominal \$5.00 annual dues for the year June 2001-May 2002, we request that you please consider doing so. A remittance slip is enclosed with this Newsletter. For those of you who have paid your annual dues we thank you as do all the families of Port Authority World Trade Center victims who received PARA's support.
2. Owing to the horrible World Trade Center bombing on September 11, we cancelled PARA's Board of Director's meeting scheduled for the next day at the PABT. The Board did finally meet at JSTC on Nov. 1 on the 8th floor to decide on next steps for PARA. As we mentioned in our lead article, the PARA Board voted to donate \$10,000 to the World Trade Center P.A. Relief Fund.
3. The Alliance of Public Retiree Organizations resumed monthly meetings in September in Albany after a brief 2 month Summer hiatus. Monthly and Special meetings will continue to be held throughout this New York Legislative session with the main focus on an improved COLA next year. Your President and Vice President have been appointed to the Alliance 2002 Legislative Committee which will put emphasis on an improved COLA next year.
4. To date, only 13 Port Authority employees have retired this year and each received the usual PARA membership invitation package. It is presumed a large number of P.A. employees will wait until December to make retirement commitments as has been the case over the last several years. Last year 156 PA employees "put in their papers" in December and 127 in December 1990.
5. Bob Foote a bobfoot@adelphia.net (note new E-mail address) continues to accept e-mail addresses for you who have not yet signed on to the P.A. retirees network that Bob runs. It's a great way to be in touch!
6. Just to repeat a previous request, we ask that all members paying dues indicate the amount paid in the appropriate box on the dues form. In addition, any Sponsor contributions to help with our record keeping.
7. With the destruction of the World Trade Center on September 11, several changes have been made to offices tracking retirees and benefits. Address changes should be sent to: Brenda Jimenez, P.A. of NY-NJ, Journal Square Transportation Center, One PATH Plaza, First Floor, Jersey City, N.J. 07306. A copy should also be sent to one of the Post Office boxes listed on PARA's Newsletter masthead. P.A. benefits can now be reached at 201-792-3951 or 201-792-3418.

Other Sources of Help:

Retirement System: 518-474-7736
 Prudential: 800-772-4683
 United HealthCare: 877-259-1391

"Life is the first gift, love is the second, and understanding the third."

Port Authority Retirees Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 331, Ship Bottom, NJ 08008-0212

Please print or type:

Check

P.A. Employee
 P.A. Retiree

_____ (_____) _____
 Last Name First Home Phone Number Year

Address _____ Town _____ State _____ Zip _____
 CHECK :

Name, address, or phone number changed? Yes No

Enclosed is \$5.00 Annual Membership Dues (June 2001 through May 2002)

Enclosed is \$_____. I would like to contribute as a sponsor. Receipts in excess of annual dues are credited as sponsor contributions.

Please submit checks only payable to: Port Authority Retirees Association, Inc.