

City agrees to list retired firefighter Capt. James Corrigan's name on WTC Memorial

By Thomas Zambito
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Capt. James Corrigan, a retired firefighter, was among the first responders who died in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.



Capt. James Corrigan

The city has agreed to list the name of a retired firefighter who died on 9/11 among first responders when a memorial wall is unveiled in September, the Daily News has learned. Capt. James Corrigan's name will be inscribed beside fellow members of Ladder 10 in the FDNY section of the memorial wall, under a settlement Corrigan's widow, Marie, reached with the city.

"We are extremely happy that Jim will be properly memorialized at the site of his sacrifice," Marie Corrigan said.

"At the same time, we are terribly disappointed by the lack of compassion shown in this case by the City of New York.

"It is reassuring to know that even when the empty suits are gone, Jim's name will be permanently etched on the WTC Memorial with the FDNY, where it belongs."

Corrigan, 60, retired from the FDNY in 1994 and was working as a life safety coordinator for Silverstein Properties when he died helping firefighters evacuate a day-care center in the towers.

On July 26, 2010, a Queens judge sided with his widow, saying there was "no rational basis" for keeping the 30-year-veteran's name from appearing beside fellow firefighters. A day later, Mayor Bloomberg vowed to fight Justice Augustus Agate's decision in an appeal.

"The Fire Department has a reasonable decision they made a long time ago," Bloomberg said. "You had to have been an on-duty fireman, an active firefighter or officer, to be included."

The suit was quietly settled two months later.

"We feel that the settlement was in the best interests of everyone, and we hope it provides some closure for Capt. Corrigan's family," said Kate O'Brien Ahlers, a city spokeswoman.

Corrigan's lawyer, James DeRose, argued that the city had already awarded the Corrigan family death benefits for FDNY personnel killed on 9/11.

The fallen firefighter's family is starting a foundation in Corrigan's name to aid children with terminal and life-threatening illnesses.

www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2011/03/11/2011-03-11_city_agrees_to_list_retired_firefighter_capt_james_corrigans_name_on_wtc_memoria.html