NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

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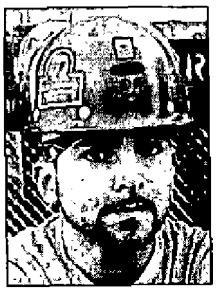
Volunteers are lining up by the thousands



IN LINE: Ironworker Luis Rivera wants to help. N.Y. Post: Nury Hernandez

By MARK STAMEY

Thousands of willing workers from all over America began lining up at 2 a.m. yesterday at the Jacob Javits Convention Center to volunteer their skills and services to the World Trade Center rescue efforts.

"It's unbelievable," said retired NYPD narcotics detective Joe Guarascio, who was guarding the entrance. "Everyone wants to help."

Registration was scheduled to begin at 7 a.m. and continue through the day, but after a half-hour registrars were overwhelmed with people willing to help, and stopped signing up people at 9:30.

Guarascio advised people to check at the center on a day-by-day basis.

"We're going to need volunteers for a long time. The people who are working now will need to be replenished," he said.

Volunteers stood in a long line that wove down the block, doubling on itself several times. They filled out cards listing their skills and where they can be contacted.

Those whose skills are needed immediately are sent to a staging area and dispatched to ground zero.

Yesterday, certified welders and steel burners were in high demand.

"We're here to do whatever it takes. Anything to do with steel, I can do it," said welder Paul Knaak.

Bob Cartlidge came from Long Island with other members of Local 3 of the electricians union.

"I'm here to do my part," he said. "I need to help out a little bit."

"We're here to help as much as we can," said Daniel Szabo, a Columbia undergrad who was there with 11 other students. "We have strong arms and strong hearts."

Police are screening volunteers at the staging areas to keep unqualified people out of danger.

"The police said they would arrest you if you don't have certification," said steelworker Alex Downey, who drove from Boston to help.

Heroes

Not even America's worst terror attack could crack the bond between best friends **Ed Beyea** and **Abe Zelmanowitz**.

When the planes hit the WTC, quadriplegic Beyea could not escape down the stairwell. Zelmanowitz would not leave his Blue Cross-Blue Shield co-worker behind.

Both are missing

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