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THE NEW YORK POST, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2001

STUDENT DIARY

Valiant acts routine for missing PA cop

By DAN MANGAN

Port Authority Police Officer Liam Callahan became a hero Sept. 9, 1982, when he saved the life of a distraught young man who tried to jump from the PA Bus Terminal's roof.

Callahan's heroism continued in February 1993, when he carried disabled people out of the World Trade Center after the bombing there.

Last Tuesday, the 46-year-old Sunnyside, Queens, native — a father of four set to mark his 20th wedding anniversary the next day — disappeared as a hero while on duty at the Twin Towers.

"He's still missing," said Siobhan Berga, Callahan's sister.

Callahan was just a three-year veteran of the Port Authority police force when he saved 20-year-old Spider Johnson from a suicide attempt. The Post's account was headlined "Hero Cop Saves Homesick Youth from Death Leap."

"Suddenly, he slid closer to the edge, and I grabbed him. If I didn't get him then, he would have been gone," Callahan told a Post reporter that day.

Nineteen years later, almost to the day, it was his family's turn to fear for him.

Berga's husband saw the towers collapse Tuesday, and he immediately telephoned his wife, who in turn called Callahan's wife, Joan. "Yeah, I know he was there," Berga recalled her sister-in-law saying.

It was a fluke for Callahan to be at the Twin Towers at that time. The Rockaway Township, N.J., resident normally works nights on the PATH trains, but he had switched to a day shift that morning because he planned on taking a rescue-investigation class that evening.

Despite not having heard any accurate news of Callahan being found, Berga still believes he could be found alive.

"I'm very hopeful," she said. "I have strong faith in God, and he was a fighter."



'HE'S A FIGHTER': Port Authority Officer Liam Callahan, pictured with his wife, Joan, was no stranger to dangerous situations.

NYC fund will aid Finest, Bravest

People looking for a way to help the families of New York City police, fire and emergency-services workers killed during rescue efforts at the World Trade Center can now contribute to the Twin Towers Fund — established to aid those whom Mayor Giuliani called "the most direct victims of this tragedy."

The fund, which has principally received pledges of $60 million, according to a mayoral spokesperson, is being coordinated by New York City Public/Private Initiatives Inc., a City Hall-based organization.

Tuesday's terrorist attack was the worst single day for the city's Police and Fire departments, in terms of lives lost. Some 350 firefighters, 23 city cops and roughly 40 Port Authority police officers are missing and feared dead.

The Post will promote the fund, as well as endeavor to publish the names of those who contribute.



TWIN TOWERS FUND

Where to mail your checks:

Checks payable to the Twin Towers Fund can be sent to:

P.O. Box 26998
General Post Office
New York, NY 10087-6999

Backstreet roadie will never see his new baby



BITTERSWEET ARRIVAL: Kellie Lee cradles Backstreet Boys roadie Danny Lee's daughter Allison Danielle Lee in Los Angeles yesterday. AP

By RITA DELFINER

A Backstreet Boys roadie who was flying home to Los Angeles to be with his wife for the birth of their second child died when terrorists crashed his plane into the World Trade Center's north tower.

Two days later, Danny Lee's daughter, Allison Danielle Lee, was born, and his widow grieved for the dad who will never hold his new baby and the child who will never know her father.

"I've had a hard time trying to be happy," Kellie Lee said after the birth of their second daughter.

"Danny would have held my hand, I know. He would have been there in the room for the birth," London's Sunday Mirror quoted her as saying.

Lee, 34, was on American Airlines Flight 11 from Boston after getting the hir band's OK to leave the tour to be with his wife.

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