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Praise by Bush comforts cop's grieving mom

By ERIKA MARTINEZ

Arlene Howard, mother of fallen Port Authority cop George Howard, takes comfort in knowing President Bush singled out her son's sacrifice in the World Trade Center.

"Now everybody in the world knows that my son and his police and fireman buddies, and all those other people didn't die in vain," the grieving Howard said.

The day after she buried her hero son, Arlene Howard watched "overjoyed" with her family as President Bush showed her son's shield to the nation in his televised address to Congress.

"Each of us will remember what happened that day and to whom it happened," Bush said of Sept. 11, holding up Howard's police shield.

"We will remember the moment the news came, where we were and what we were doing. Some will remember an image of a fire or story or rescue. Some will carry memories of a face and a voice gone forever. And I will carry this. It is my reminder of lives that ended and a task that does not end," he added.

Arlene Howard gave Bush the badge when he toured the rubble last week.

"The whole family was together. We were just delighted and overjoyed when he mentioned George's name," she said. "It was marvelous. I thought it was such an honor."

Officer Howard, 44, was off-duty the day the towers fell, but rushed there from Kennedy Airport, where he was assigned to the Emergency Service Unit.

In his 16 years as a cop, the father of two helped save many lives, including the hundreds of people he helped escape the 1993 terrorist bombing at the trade center.

Arlene Howard gave her son's badge to the president when she met him at the Jacob Javits Center during his visit last week.

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