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PA inspector, fireman and trader remembered

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A sister cried for her big brother's hugs, the governor praised a friend and the Bravest saluted one more lost firefighter in another day of services for those killed in the World Trade Center attacks.

As church bells rang and a bagpipe wailed, mourners in Summit, N.J., paid their respects to one of the heroes of the Port Authority.

As people fled the devastation on Sept. 11, Inspector Anthony Infante, 47, rushed into 2 World Trade Center. Mourners, including Gov. Pataki and Mayor Giuliani, praised Infante yesterday for saving countless lives.

"On Sept. 11, he was the shepherd for hundreds and hundreds of people who might have otherwise died," Pataki, a friend of Infante's, told the tearful crowd at St. Teresa of Avila Church.

Giuliani said he was awed by how Infante and an army of emergency personnel helped evacuate tens of thousands of people.

"Tony helped direct an effort that was the most effective rescue effort in the history of the United States," the mayor said.

Infante, of Mountainside, N.J., was the commanding officer at Kennedy Airport. But to three people in the church's front pew — his wife, Joyce; daughter, Marie, 23, and son, John, 19 — he was the rock they leaned on.

Infante's body is still missing in the rubble of the twin towers, but his loved ones took solace in hearing accounts of the action he took so that many others could live.

Frederick Infante shared an E-mail message his family received from one survivor his brother helped lead to safety.

"You could all imagine what a comfort it was to see Anthony in the stairwell and to hear his comforting words," the E-mail read. "He assured us that the stairwell was clear and that it was a straight shot out of the building."

Frederick Infante paused to gaze out at a crowd filled with police from across New York and New Jersey, then read a passage that prompted many to dab their eyes: "Anthony going up the stairwell as we were going down gave us all hope."

His job was a calling

In Brooklyn, firefighters more than 300 strong saluted another brave brother still lost in the rubble.

Firefighter Gregory Saucedo, 31, of Ladder Co. 5, was remembered as a man who loved to dance and to make people smile and who believed his job was a calling.

"He had charm, he was pleasant and his strength gave depth to his character," the Rev. William Dulaney told mourners who packed Mary Queen of Heaven Catholic Church in Gerritsen Beach. "He made you feel good, safe, secure."

A 10-year veteran of the department, Saucedo was the youngest of four brothers, and was an All-City guard on his South Shore High School football team.

His brother, Christopher, said he "made *everything* you did fun."

"He always tried to play silly, but he never played the fool," Christopher Saucedo said. "He hugged the people he loved all the time."

Firefighter Anthony Smaldone of Engine Co. 321 said Saucedo was that "person we come across who changes your life."

Tears trickling down his cheeks, Smaldone found something to smile about as he eulogized his friend.

"Greg was the most reliable person I ever knew," Smaldone said. "If he said he would be there for you, he'd be there — and he'd be late.

"Life is going to be a little less exciting, and a little less colorful now that he's gone."

Loved being husband, dad

At St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre, L.I., friends and relatives were comforted by memories of the big smile that was always on John Wright Jr.'s face.

Mourners filed past a photo collage of the 33-year-old bond trader, grinning in every snapshot.

There was a picture of him in the pool with his 4-year-old daughter, Emily, another of him in the snow with his 2-year-old son, Robert. But he looked the most radiant in a photo taken five weeks ago, cradling his newborn son, John 3rd.

"John Wright truly grew more and more into the person God was calling him to be," the Rev. Thomas Harold said. "Being a husband and a dad was very much the right fit. He loved being a dad. His ideal was early retirement . . . to find more time to spend with his kids."

Wright, a managing director at Sandler O'Neill & Partners, was on the 104th floor of 2 World Trade Center when the second hijacked jet struck it on Sept. 11.

His younger sister, Melissa Barrett, said she would miss her big brother's hugs perhaps most of all.

She told Wright's wife, Martha, she would help make sure his children grow up knowing the kind of person their father was.

"They need to know how devoted he was to them," said Barrett, 32. "And to know that he named his dog Messier. That he was a bond trader, but a Democrat. To tell them about his quiet wit and his Archie Bunker imitation."

Another sister, Victoria Vine, talked of special moments to come when it will be impossible not to think of her brother — "such as Emily going to kindergarten, Robert playing his first Little League game or John 3rd speaking his first words."

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