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Tears for the loving & heroic

Another day of memories

By BRIAN HARMON and OWEN MORITZ
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITERS

One was a vice president of a commodities firm who "treated life as if she was a performer on stage."

Another was an accountant for Cantor Fitzgerald who decided to return to work a day early so she could have Halloween off with her 4-year-old daughter.

Still another was a Port Authority police officer who rushed to rescue people in the fiery debris of the World Trade Center.

One month after terrorists did their unspeakable deed, New York continues to bury its dead. Yesterday, those three people were among more than 20 victims, including 14 firefighters and police officers, remembered in services.

And in Brooklyn, a special memorial service for the eight members of Engine 205 and Ladder 118 who lost their lives rescuing others drew more than 1,000 people.

'Uncommonly beautiful'

At St. Paul the Apostle Church on the West Side, hundreds turned out for a memorial Mass for Diane Lipari of Fairview, N.J., who was vice president of Carr Futures, a commodities futures firm on the 92nd floor of 1 World Trade Center.

Judge Joseph McLaughlin of the 2nd Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals called the 42-year-old Lipari "an uncommonly beautiful woman," one who would be "remembered more for her warmth, her sense of humor and unparalleled devotion to her family and friends."

"She was," the judge added, "truly a godchild of the angels."

Her sister Susan Kraljic said Lipari "treated life as if she was a performer on stage."

The most moving passage came from her husband of two years, Edward Tigue, a labor-relations attorney for the National Football League who had clerked for McLaughlin.

"You had what dreamers call a 'tireless heart' — warm, genuine and true," Tigue wrote in a letter to his wife made public at the service. "Your smile came early in the day. You favored simple flowers and lived by simple rules: Love is the gift of self."

Raced to the scene

In Port Washington, L.I., colleagues and friends mourned Port Authority Officer Antonio Rodrigues, who was last seen in the basement of the World Trade Center. He had rushed to the scene from his post at the Port Authority Bus Terminal.

Rodrigues, an aeronautical engineer who emigrated as a youth from Portugal, became a city cop in 1995. Last year, he switched to the Port Authority police force.

"He could have done so many things, yet he chose to do police work," Deputy Mayor Anthony Coles said. "On Sept. 11, Antonio Rodrigues met the worst of humanity with the best of what America had to offer."

Seven-year-old Sara Rodrigues, in a lavender dress, could not bear to look at her father's coffin being gently hoisted into the hearse. The officer also leaves his wife, Christina, and a son, Adam, 4.



WILLIE ANDERSON DAILY NEWS

COMFORTING Antonio Rodrigues' widow, Christina, with daughter Sara at Mass for Port Authority officer yesterday.

'There are no answers'

In Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, a heartrending service was held for Adriane Scibetta, 31, of Cantor Fitzgerald. Homilies in St. Mary Mother of Jesus Catholic Church were in both English and Italian.

Addressing her husband, Charles, a mason for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority; their children, Gabriella, 4, and Vincenzo, 15 months; Adriane's brother, Sal Venuto, and mother, Caterina Venuto, Msgr. Rocco Villani said, "I'm not going to try to give you any answers, because there are no answers to give for this violent destruction that took place one month ago today."

The pastor read a letter from President Bush and the First Lady praying that God would comfort the family.

Scibetta, friends said, was supposed to be off work Sept. 11. But she decided to return a day early so she could take Halloween off. The day before, Gabriella had started prekindergarten.

Charles and Adriane were childhood sweethearts — they met on the playground of Seth Low Junior High.

First to respond

Before a packed memorial Mass at Assumption Catholic Church in Brooklyn Heights, spectators and well-wishers lined scenic Cranberry St. as fire trucks accompanied by bagpipes passed by.

Eight men from Engine 205 and Ladder 118 were among the first to respond at the twin towers and never came back. All told, there were 20 firefighters killed in three firehouses within a 20-block area on the Brooklyn side of the East River.

"God is gathering His troops, all of the saints and angels in heaven," said the Rev. Michael Carrano. "He's saying, 'Gather around because eight of My best friends are coming. We are going to greet them in the most ceremonial way.' Then God says, 'Well done, My faithful group of friends. Come with Me to eternal life, where there is no pain and suffering! God bless you!' "



DEBBIE EGAN-CHIN

COMFORT Adriane Scibetta's husband, Charles, her mom, Caterina Venuto, and the Scibettas' son, Vincenzo.



TODD MAISEL DAILY NEWS

STUNNED Mourners at memorial Mass for lost firefighters from Ladder 118 and Engine 205 in Brooklyn Heights.

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