NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

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Good Knight, Rudy

Over the past month, New York's police, firefighters and emergency-services workers — led by the reassuring presence of Mayor Giuliani — have been *knights in shining armor* to those struggling to cope with the effects of Sept. 11.

Now, they've earned their knighthood, literally — if only on an honorary basis.

Great Britain's Queen Elizabeth yesterday named Giuliani a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik and Fire Commissioner Thomas von Essen were given similar honors, but without the knighthood.

Officially, the honors represent Giuliani's "outstanding help and support to the bereaved British families in New York" and the commissioners' "remarkable dedication and professionalism" in the wake of the World Trade Center attack.

But they truly represent a fitting recognition of these three men's heroic leadership for all people — American and non-American — caught up in the Twin Towers outrage. And, as the mayor said, it's also a salute to "*all the people of New York.*"

Don't start calling him "Sir Rudy" just yet. But we consider this knighthood an appropriate honor for a mayor who, in the opinion of many, has no peer.

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