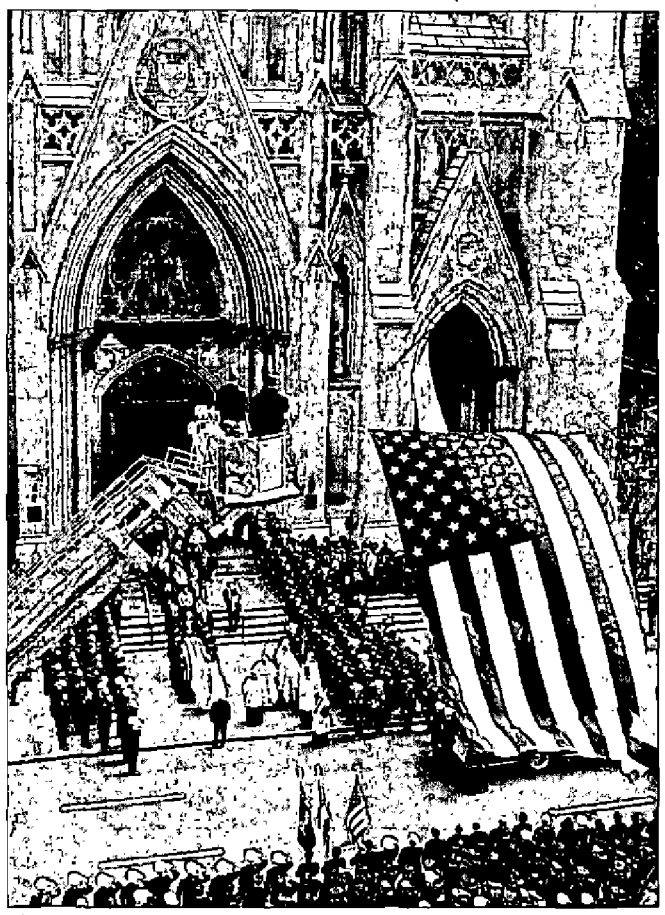
NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

ONE LAST DRUMROLL FOR A GENTLE GIANT



FAREWELL SALUTE: Firefighters stand at attention yesterday as Firefighter Durrell Pearsall's casket is borne out of St. Patrick's Cathedral. AP

By DOUGLAS WIGHT

The full New York City Fire Department Pipes and Drum Band was at St. Patrick's Cathedral yesterday to pay a moving tribute to firefighter Durrell Pearsall, who died in the World Trade Center attacks.

Members of the band, which had split up to cover the 254 services held since Sept. 11, were all on hand to perform for Pearsall, who was a member of the elite Rescue 4 company and played in the band.

His body was pulled from the rubble at ground zero two weeks ago.

Pearsall's drum was carried ahead of the 70-piece band and his casket was carried in a Rescue 4 firetruck.

Conducting the Mass, the Rev. Jim Kissane said Pearsall, 34, of Hempstead, L.I., was a great family man — even though his parents, Durrell and Carmela, died within the last 10 years and he was an only child.

Unmarried, he had been planning a life with girlfriend Karen Jelinek, who attended yesterday's funeral.

Kissane said, "He considered many to be his family: his cousins he was close to, his hopes for a new family with Karen, and his family at the Hempstead FD and, most important, the New York City FD."

Pearsall, "Bronko" to his friends, was remembered as a gentle giant who loved playing football for the FDNY's Bravest and as a drummer who thrilled at dressing in his kilt to sing Irish folk songs.

Band member Lt. Mike Meyers said his ideal image of Pearsall was in a bar "with a pint of Guinness, wearing an FDNY football shirt two sizes too small, singing 'Wild Rover.'

"He could walk into a bar full of strangers and come out with a bar full of friends," he said.

Emotional firefighters, inspired by the recovery of Pearsall's body, vowed to carry on the search for their missing colleagues.

Meyers said, "I want to thank Co. 4 for their diligent efforts in trying to find him."

He received a standing ovation from hundreds of firefighters and mourners when he added: "We will continue to do so until everyone of those guys is brought home."

And band member Liam Flaherty said: "We will not leave [the site] until the last brother is found and the last stone is turned."

Pearsall was buried at Holy Rood Cemetery in Westbury, L.I.

Services today for 6 heroes

Today's services for heroes lost in the World Trade Center attacks:

■ **Firefighter Richard Allen**, Ladder 15. At 11 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Church, 129-16 Rockaway Beach Blvd., Belle Harbor, Queens

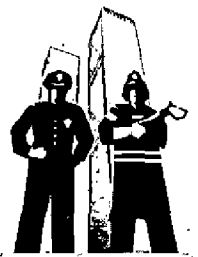
■ **Firefighter Matthew Barnes**, Ladder 25. At 11 a.m., St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 21 Still Road, Monroe, N.Y.

■ **Firefighter Capt. Patrick Brown**, Ladder 3. At 2 p.m., St. Patrick's Cathedral, Fifth Avenue

■ FDNY **Firefighter Robert Cordice**, Ladder 152. At 10 a.m., Our Lady of Angels Church, 1 Main St., Little Falls, N.J.

■ FDNY **Lt. Vincent Halloran**, Ladder 8. At 9 a.m., St. Patrick's Cathedral, Fifth Avenue

■ **Firefighter Kenneth Watson**, Engine 214. At 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Church, 280 E. Main St., Smithtown, L.I.



TWIN TOWERS FUND

Where to mail your checks:

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

P.O. Box 26999
General Post Office
New York, NY 10087-6999

How you can help

Join Mayor Giuliani and Americans everywhere in supporting the Twin Towers Fund to ensure the financial future of the families of uniformed firefighters, police and other city workers affected by the Sept. 11 World Trade Center disaster. The mayor established the fund so a coordinated and accountable response would be available for those in need. More information is available at nypost.com, nyc.gov and libertyunites.org. To donate by phone call — in the United States — (877) 870-4278. International: (518) -457-0837.

More 9/11 victims ID'd

These names were added yesterday to the medical examiner's list of confirmed dead in the World Trade Center attacks:

Gavin Cushny, 46; Stephen Patrick Driscoll, 38; Sebastian Gorki, 27; Stephen Paul Lefkowitz, 50.

In Memoriam



Calixto Anaya Jr.
FDNY Firefighter
Engine 4

Survived by wife Marie, daughters Kristina, Rebecca and Marie, son Brandon; parents Lydia and Calixto, sister Melissa and brother David



Thomas Farino
FDNY Capt.
Engine 26

Survived by wife Mary, daughter Jane and son James



John Fischer
FDNY Capt.
Ladder 20

Survived by wife Jeannie, sons Tim and John Jr., daughter Laura, brothers George, William, Robert, and sister Maureen



Durrell Pearsall
FDNY Firefighter
Rescue 4

No survivors



Hector Tirado Jr.
FDNY Firefighter
Engine 23

Survived by children Hector, Ronald, Ashley, Denzel and Devon

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