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6 women honored for 9/11 response

By SCOTT SHIFREL and MAKI BECKER
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITERS

After barely making it out alive from beneath the rubble of the twin towers, Police Lt. Terri Tobin found she had broken her ankle and that a shard of glass was embedded between her shoulder blades.

But as an ambulance prepared to whisk her away to a hospital Sept. 11, she insisted that the paramedics also take Daily News photographer David Handschuh, who lay nearby with two broken legs.

It was such acts of selflessness and bravery in the aftermath of the World Trade Center attacks that earned Tobin and five other women recognition last night from the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund.

The women's group gave out its new Liberty Award for Valor during its 22nd Annual Equal Opportunity Awards Dinner at the Grand Hyatt.

Handschuh presented Tobin's award to her, calling her "one of my guardian angels that day."

"She never let on to how injured I was and held my hand," he said, recalling their ambulance ride, "and she never let on to how injured she was."

"I was just doing my job," Tobin said. "I went into cop mode. All my training kicked in."

Other extraordinary acts

The other award winners were:

- Bonnie Giebfried: An emergency medical technician and volunteer firefighter, she was buried twice in the collapses. She refused to be evacuated and continued to treat the injured until she was overcome by an asthma attack.
- Fire Lt. Brenda Berkman: Although she wasn't on duty Sept. 11, Berkman, the city's first female firefighter, raced from her Brooklyn home to lower Manhattan and helped rescue some of her colleagues.
- Sandra Lynch: The bus driver volunteered at Ground Zero, handing out supplies and working on the bucket brigade.
- Sharron Sellick: A Con Edison employee and a single mother, she reported immediately to work and went on to work a month of 12-hour shifts.
- Lois Isaksen: Also a single mother, Isaksen put her carpentry skills to work by helping out at Ground Zero.

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