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War history buff saluted as FDNY's own combat hero

By MARIANNE GARVEY and RITA DELFINER

Salvatore Calabro, a firefighter who loved reading about heroic Americans, "died an American hero" at the World Trade Center, Mayor Giuliani said at a memorial service yesterday.

Calabro's shift at Ladder 101 had just ended on Sept. 11 when planes struck the World Trade Center. He grabbed his gear and rushed to the Twin Towers.

"He even had a flag on his uniform," the mayor told more than 1,000 Bravest who joined relatives and friends at the service on Staten Island for the 38-year-old husband and father.

"He would read about heroes from World War II and the Civil War, and I wonder if he had a premonition that he'd be a war hero himself," the mayor said.

In Memoriam



Firefighter Salvatore Calabro Ladder 101

Survived by wife Francine, sons Daniel and Alexander, father Carl and brothers Carl and Richard

Calabro, of Ladder 101, married his high school sweetheart, Francine, and lived his lifelong dream of being a firefighter.

"He had a heart that was rare — fiery but gentle," said the Rev. Jim Devlin, who first got to know Calabro when he was an elementary school student in Brooklyn's Bensonhurst.

"I don't know that he ever raised his voice or yelled, and coming from Bensonhurst, that's rare," the priest said to warm laughter.

Lt. James Manning of Ladder 101 said: "Sal had the face of a young kid with a mustache of an old man and always said, 'Hey, my man.'

"He was a proud, highly motivated young man and little did we know how good he was. He wouldn't stand still, and taught all the rookies everything I taught him," he said.

Referring to the Calabros' two boys, Daniel, 4, and Alexander, 2, he said: "Sal's sons could never have a better father."

"I'll know I've reached heaven when I see his face pop up and say, 'Hey, my man,'" Manning said.

Many wept as Calabro's tearful widow, Francine, said, "My soul is beaten and Ladder 101, you are now my brothers because of your friendship with Sal."

She spoke of what a devoted father and husband he was and said, "Sal, please guide me to raise our boys into tremendous men like their dad was."

Capt. Tom Giordano said that "if any good can come out of this, Sal helped thousands of people and you should know he was a hero.

"He was the quiet leader of 101, and when he wasn't there everyone would ask, 'Where's Sal?' And when I meet my maker, I'll certainly ask, 'Where's Sal?' "



'MY SOUL IS BEATEN': Francine Calabro, with son Daniel, holds husband Salvatore's helmet and a flag at a memorial yesterday for the firefighter. Helayne Seidman

Today's service

One funeral service is scheduled today for a hero who died in the World Trade Center terror attack:

Firefighter Joseph Rivelli, Ladder 25. At 11 a.m., Our Lady of Good Counsel, 68 Wanser Ave., Inwood, L.I.

3 more dead ID'd

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

Sareve Dukat, 53; Timothy Patrick McSweeney, 37; Matthew Lancelot Ryan, 54

Backlogged Congress is stars & strapped for flags

For what is believed to be the first time in congressional history, the Capitol has exhausted its supply of American flags, according to the newspaper Roll Call, which covers the Hill.

Offices of members of Congress have been told it could be six months before new orders from constituents can be filled.

But congressional officials are scrambling to secure flags for victims and survivors of the Sept. 11 attacks, and the Capitol's suppliers report they can't meet the demand.

"We're sold out through the end of the year. We're sold out for next year," said Tibor Egervary, the marketing chief for the Valley Forge Flag Co. in Pennsylvania, one of the Capitol's two suppliers.

A spokesman for the House Administration Committee said Friday there are currently 30,000 requests that can't be filled. *Post Wire Services*

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