

Former FDNY lieutenant Michael Finer saves a man from suicide on George Washington bridge

BY WIL CRUZ AND JONATHAN LEMIRE
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITERS

Friday, April 24th 2009, 4:00 AM

Real heroes never really retire.

A former **FDNY** lieutenant who quit the job he loved soon after pulling a suicidal woman out of the **Hudson River** last year stopped a man from jumping off the **George Washington Bridge**, officials said Thursday.

Michael Finer, 58, was driving along the span to a former colleague's awards banquet early Wednesday evening when he saw a man climb onto the outer railing of the bridge, he said.

"He was over the railing, holding on with one arm," said Finer. "It was precarious. He was ready to go."

Finer pulled over and ran toward the man, dodging rush-hour traffic on the busy bridge.

"I just said, 'Let me see what I can do to help,'" recalled Finer, who spent 30 years with the FDNY after working for the **NYPD** for five before that.

As other onlookers gawked at the dangling man, Finer began talking to the would-be-suicide, he said.

When the man told Finer he was depressed about not having "been with a woman in two years," Finer assured him that people cared about him.

"No one wants to see you do this," Finer recalled telling the man, who gave his name as Lloyd.

Ignoring a Port Authority police officer who warned him to back off, Finer told Lloyd that the fall might not kill him - a notion that gave the suicidal man pause.

Eventually, Finer coaxed Lloyd into climbing back up to safety.

Finer, who retired from the FDNY after suffering a shoulder injury, had been assigned to Marine 1 and helped rescue a drowning woman from the water off **Battery Park City** in September.



Simmons/News

Lt Michael Finer, rescued man attempting to commit suicide off the George Washington Bridge last night.