

REPORT OF MERITORIOUS ACT

Timothy Moynihan

Name of Member

09/16/2008

Date of Act

8. NAME(S) OF TWO MEMBERS WHO ACUALLY WITNESSED ACT(IF AVAILABLE)

RANK	NAME	UNIT
Lt.	Michael Finer	Mar-1
FF.	Michael Lambert	Mar-1

9. NAME(S) OF TWO CIVILIANS WHO ACUALLY WITNESSED ACT(IF AVAILABLE)

NAME	ADDRESS
None	

10. WAS VICTIM REMOVED FROM: Immediate fire area Directly above fire

Other area (specify in detail):

Drowning 200 yards off shore in the Hudson River.

11. DESCRIPTION OF ACT:

While monitoring NYPD's SOD frequency, A report was heard of a woman in the waters of the Hudson River near North Cove Marina. Lt. Finer took the initiative and turned out the crew of Marine 1 Alpa and radioed this response and its particulars to the Manhattan Boro dispatcher while responding. The weather conditions this night were windy with a severe chop in the water and extremely dark. Marine One Alpa responds with one Officer and two Firefighters. One firefighter to pilot the boat and one firefighter to perform technical water rescues. FF. Moynihan knowing the prospects of having to enter the water to make a rescue were high immediately donned his dry suit upon boarding the boat. On arrival to the reported area an intensive primary search in the dark choppy water was made with no results. In desperation members began calling out into the darkness while Lt. Finer was sweeping the area with a high intensity hand held light. Within what seemed to be an eternity the victims half raised arm with her head under water was spotted in the beam of the hand light signaling for help in response to the verbal calls from the boat The victim was now 30 yards from the boat and 200 yards from shore in a fast moving current and slipping under the water.

The pilot immediately maneuvered the boat into position for a rescue, now she was completely under water. Lt Finer could not take the hand light off the spot were the victim was last seen because she would have been lost forever. No one on board the vessel was left to attach FF. Moynihan's tether line and perform the function of his safety man.

FF Moynihan having been trained in swift water rescue knew all to well the life of this victim was lost if he did not act fast so with total disregard for his own safety he plunged himself into the darkness of the swift moving river without being tethered. Upon entering the water he swam to the light where the victim was last seen she was now a few feet below the surface. FF. Moynihan was able reach under the water and grab the victim by her hair an bring her up to the surface, he positioned her head above the water and swam struggling against the current to the boat. At this point he notified Lt. Finer that the victim appeared to be pregnant, exhausted he hoist her onto the deck of the boat. FF Moynihan immediately started patient assessment opening her airway starting her to vomit and breath. The assigned Battalion was notified that EMS was needed forthwith and to meet at North Cove Marina the closest point for a water to land transfer. FF.Moynihan continued first aid attempting to save her life and the life of the unborn child though he was exhausted. The boat was piloted to North Cove and FF. Moynihan assisted in her transfer to EMS. This rescue was carried out in the finest traditions of the FDNY. FF. Moynihan put himself in great personnel risk to save the life of Latisha Rawlings and her unborn child. The conditions mentioned above saved two lives and deserve recognition, his unselfish act of entering the swift moving water without tether go above and beyond an already dangerous water rescue protocol.

