

### REPORT OF MERITORIOUS ACT

**Patrick Wall**  
Name of Member  
**11/20/2006**  
Date of Act

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

RANK	NAME	UNIT
B.C.	John Collins	Batt 2
L.T.	James T Zodkovic	Mar 1

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

NAME	ADDRESS

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

Other area (specify in detail):  
**HUDSON RIVER**

11. DESCRIPTION OF ACT:

On the cool fall morning of Nov 20, 2006 at 1047 hrs , all members of Marine 1 were alerted by the teleprinter message followed by the voice alarm, for a male victim in the water in the vicinity of the Holland Tunnel ventilation towers. Marine 1 Safe boat crew of one officer and 3 firefighters sprang into action, time was of the essence. Northwesterly winds were gusting up to 15 knots with water temperatures in the 40's and a strong outgoing tide ripping at 2 to 3 knots would mean our victim would be moving fast southbound towards the Battery. With only 1/2 mile to travel to the location of the Holland Tunnel vents, the Safe boat and crew arrived in minutes, this fact would prove crucial for our victim Mr. Santaniello After arriving at the reported location, workers on the pier were pointing southward towards a field of perilous old pier pilings., Fr Petersen maneuvered the Safe boat thru a maze of exposed, and dangerously submerged old pier pilings. With the Safe boat properly positioned and little time to ponder the perilous situation he was about to encounter.Fr Wall assisted by Wiper Mayott was tethered to his Mustang Rescue Exposure suit and ready to go. Without hesitation Fr Wall plunged into the frigid, turbulent Hudson River to begin his very arduous swim towards the victim maneuvering his way through the jagged submerged pilings, fighting wind and current. With his sinking victim on his last breaths, Fr Wall reached his helpless victim just in time as he was going under.With his semi-conscious sinking victim firmly in his arms, and unable to offer any assistance in his own rescue. Fr Wall needed to summon all his strength now,once again fighting both wind and current to bring himself and his helpless victim back thru the jagged pilings.Once safely away from the pier pilings and in a straight line back to the Safe boat was the assistance from the life line needed to bring both victim and rescuer safely back to the stern of the boat. With both victim and rescuer safely aboard. CFRD qualified Fr Wall accessed the victim's vitals, while barely breathing and not communicating it was obvious that our victim was suffering from extreme exposure and severe hypothermia and in critical condition. After wrapping the severely shivering victim in blankets, administering oxygen and placing him on a backboard. Fr Wall exhausted continued to monitored his victim on the short trip back to quarters where he was was safely loaded into the ambulance and trasported to St Vincents.

If not for Fr Patrick Wall act of extreme bravery performed in treacherous waters with dangerous obstacles to overcome Mr. Anthony Santaniello age 73 would undoubtedly have perished in the frigid waters.Fr Wall actions described here clearly epitomizes what truly is the highest standards we all as members of this Great Department strive to achieve. It is in this regard I respectfully request Patrick Wall be considered for a meritorious act for this rescue.