

Meritorious Act of Firefighter John Cashman Marine Co. 1
June 11,2005

On the morning of June 11,2005 at approximately 9 am. Marine Co 1 was alerted by Manhattan Fire Dispatcher of a person in the waters of the Hudson River in distress. The location was given as "off the 79th street Boat Basin". This response would develop into an unusual and dangerous event. Firefighter John Cashman and two other firefighters of Marine Co. 1 responded to the reported location with the units auxiliary fast rescue boat. Thinking ahead Firefighter Cashman prepared his equipment to effect a water rescue if the need arose.

Approximately 200 yards south of the 79th street boat basin and 150 yards off the shoreline Marine 1 observed a small boat empty and adrift. A search for a person in the water was immediately focused on in this area. Almost immediately after coming upon the drifting small boat a person surfaced approximately 100 feet north of the drifting boat thrashing in the water and then disappeared below the surface. The FD rescue boat went to that location and Firefighter Cashman dove into the cold water and began to search for this individual. Firefighter Cashman found this person just below the surface and proceeded to bring him up. Upon surfacing with him the individual became combative and resisted Firefighter Cashman's efforts to take him to safety. It was now becoming evident to Firefighter Cashman that he was dealing with an emotionally disturbed person. Firefighter Cashman once again swam to the individual trying to take him to safety and once again this person resisted this time trying to strike Firefighter Cashman when he approached. Both the individual and Firefighter Cashman were swimming in a swift moving current of about 1½ knots, fatigue and hypothermia were becoming a factor. FF. Cashman knew that if he could not gain physical control of this person, this individual would tire and drown. Once again this person fatigued and slipped below the surface of the water and FF. Cashman dove to find him. Making contact with him just below the surface FF. Cashman brought him up and physically restrained him long enough for the FD rescue boat to safely come along side and aid with the removal of the victim from the water into the boat. He was then transported to the 79th Street boat basin and turned over to EMS and NYPD.

Firefighter John Cashman at great personal risk to himself dove into the cold waters of the Hudson River coping with the effects of a fast moving current, hypothermia and an emotionally disturbed person. This action brought a successful end to what was a difficult rescue. His actions here epitomize what truly are the highest standards we all as members of this great Department strive to achieve. It is

in this regard I respectfully request Firefighter John Cashman be considered for a meritorious act for this rescue.

AFFIDAVIT OF RESCUER

**CITY AND COUNTY
OF New York**

**I DO SOLEMNLY
AND TRULY SWEAR THAT THE FOREGOING STATEMENTS ARE TRUE, TO THE BEST OF MY
KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF.**

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SWORN BEFORE ME THIS

DAY OF 2005