

## **Fleet Spotlight: Honoring James Joseph Sottile, Jr. of FDNY**

By: Lenin Fierro

Last week the U.S. passed federal legislation to ensure support of first responders and others who have suffered the physical effects of response, clean-up, and recovery efforts tied to 9-11. Among those impacted were fleet mechanics and operational support staff who played critical roles in the aftermath.

On July 29, FDNY said goodbye to retired mechanic James “Jimmy” Joseph Sottile, Jr. Jimmy was born in Brooklyn and joined FDNY in September 1969.

Jimmy held various mechanical assignments for FDNY Fleet Services. He served 12 years as a roadside mechanic on the Emergency Crew. FDNY’s roadside teams perform onsite repairs to help get response units, ambulances, ladders and engines quickly repaired without expensive and time-consuming towing.



Jimmy later transferred to the 58 Street Ambulance shop in Maspeth, Queens where he worked on specialized response vehicles and ambulances for most of his career, with some time as well at the 34 Street Engine and Ladder Shop.

Following 9-11, Jimmy took part in the cleanup and salvage of the FDNY equipment from Ground Zero. While assigned to the Electrical Shop, he also assisted in repairing equipment that was recovered from Ground Zero.

Jimmy retired in 2002 until succumbing to World Trade Center related illness on July 24 in Port Jefferson, NY.



John Groves, a retired Supervisor of Mechanics, was Jimmy's apprentice for three years when he was Auto Service Worker. John fondly remembers Jimmy because of his great personality, and said he was funny, a gentleman, and all-around good guy.

Jimmy reminded many of Dean Martin not just because of his looks but because he liked to sing, mostly in Italian, while in the shop. John said "Jim was a great guy and would do anything for anybody, Jimmy was

a good man, one of the best."

Supervisor of Mechanics William Roberts recalls that when he started in 1988, Jim was a mentor to him and taught him a lot.

NYC Fleet and FDNY Fleet Services would like to extend our condolences to his wife Barbara and his children and thank them for Jimmy's 32 years of dedicated service to our great city.

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