

Arlene Harrison Remarks

GPBA Members Party at the National Arts Club - 6/10/14

Tonight we are honored to welcome many of our local first responders from the NYPD 13th Precinct, Emergency Service Truck #1, Manhattan South Detectives, Police Academy, FDNY Ladder 3 and Engine 5. They come to our neighborhood every day to keep us safe and are certainly a treasured part of our community family.

Each day our public protectors come to work they never know if they will return home at night. On September 11 2001, when unimaginable death and destruction fell from the clear blue skies, many of our local public protectors answered their final call.

The most vivid memory of many who worked at the Trade Center, were the young faces of the rescue workers who were rushing up the stairs as they themselves fled the buildings. "They saved everyone but themselves" was the headline that flashed around the world.

Thirteen years ago the families of those who died that day asked only one thing, **THAT WE WOULD NEVER FORGET**, and so we will remember them tonight.

One block away at the 13th Precinct and Emergency Service Truck 1, we lost police officers Moira Smith, Robert Fazio and Brian McDonnell, on 20th St at the Police Academy, officer Glen Pettit. On 19th St at Cabrini Medical Center emergency medical technician David Mark Sullins.

In the Fire Department from Ladder Company 3 on 13th St, the company which participated yearly in our National Night Out Against Crime and over the years had become our friends, we lost Capt. Patrick Brown, Capt. John Williamson, Lt. Kevin Donnelly and firefighters Michael Carroll, James Coyle, Gerard Dewan, Jeffrey Giordano, Joseph Maloney, John McAvoy, Timothy McSweeney, Joseph Ogren, Steven Olsen. From Engine 5 on 14th Street, Manuel Delvalle.

May we please have a moment of silence now to remember them while we listen to Taps.

For many months following 9/11, the Gramercy Park Block Association organized a round-the-clock community relief effort at the 13th Precinct, where we served thousands of meals, and distributed critical supplies to police, fire, emergency and other support units.

Tens of thousands of children from across the country sent letters, pictures, homemade banners of support, and cookies they baked. Each night we wallpapered the 13th Precinct with their messages.

Every night the officers told us that those expressions of love and support from the children brought them to tears and helped them face yet another day of unimaginable devastation at the site.

Much of the information detailing our community's World Trade Center projects, and the children's letters, are now archived at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center site.

We will always remember the courage of our first responders during that time, and we are so proud to welcome many of them here tonight. Let's recognize them now to thank them.