

Chief Peter Hayden '64 – Stanner Hall of Fame – March 23, 2019

After graduating from the Fire Academy in 1968, Peter Hayden was first assigned to the FDNY's Engine Company 207 in Brooklyn. He would work with Company 110 and Rescue Company 2 for several years before being promoted to Lieutenant and assigned to Ladder Company 3 in 1979. In 1985, Lieutenant Hayden was promoted to Captain, and served as Executive Officer at the Bureau of Health Services. In 1987, Hayden served as Captain of Ladder Company 147 in Flatbush, and just three years later, in 1990, he was promoted to Battalion Chief and assigned to Battalion 2 in Manhattan. We're beginning to see a pattern here.

Yes, Battalion Chief Hayden was promoted again in 1993, this time to Deputy Chief, assigned to 1st Division in Manhattan. In 1995 he was promoted to Deputy Assistant Chief and was designated Chief of Safety. In 1997, he returned to Division 1 and became Division Commander. In

2002, Deputy Chief Hayden was promoted to Assistant Chief of Operations.

A New York City firefighter for 37 years, Peter Hayden's devotion, character, and determination not only kept New York City residents safe; these qualities earned him the rank of Chief of Department in 2004 – the highest uniformed officer in the Fire Department of New York. In this role, Chief Hayden managed the entire eleven-thousand-five-hundred-member uniformed force as well as major bureaus including Operations, Fire Prevention, Training, EMS, and Communications.

Chief Hayden's FDNY legacy includes his courageous actions on September 11th, 2001, and his selflessness in the many months after the tragedy. A plaque at the statehouse in Albany, NY, honors Chief Hayden's bravery. In his nomination letter, classmate Paul Hickey wrote of Chief Hayden: Quote: "Pete was present on the pile of smoldering rubble every day for over six months to make sure that every effort was made to recover, and account for, the missing and dead."

Chief Hayden has received five individual awards for meritorious acts of bravery. In 1986, he received the FDNY's award for administrative excellence: the Leon Lowenstein Award. In 2002, Chief Hayden was honored with the Marist College President's Award for professional achievement. Chief Hayden has also delivered speeches around the world on the subjects of fire safety and the need for disaster preparedness.

Chief Hayden, everyone here at Molloy thanks you for your nearly four decades of service to the city of New York. It is our great pleasure to induct you into the Stanner Hall of Fame tonight. Please step up to receive your plaque.