

Steven F. Devaney



Steven F. Devaney

September 19, 1971 - September 05, 2021

DEVANEY - Steven F., formerly of Richmond Hill and Franklin Square, passed away suddenly on September 5, 2021. He was a decorated fireman who served the FDNY for 20 years, only retiring from issues related to 9/11.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Diana, and his beloved children, Nicolas, Shannon and Ryan. He is the adored son to Patricia and Francis Devaney and the dear brother to Kevin Devaney and Meghan Forte. He is a fond brother-in-law and is treasured by his many nieces and nephews.

Sadly, he will never meet his future grandchild. Steve will always be looking down at us wearing his superman cape cargo shorts and flip flops. Reposing Thursday, 2-5 & 7-9 PM at the Charles G. Schmitt Funeral Home, Inc., 3863 Merrick Rd., Seaford, (2 Traffic Lts. East of Rte. 135). Mass of Christian Burial Friday 10:45 AM at St. William the Abbot RC Church, Seaford. Disposition will be private.

Steven Francis Devaney was born on September 19 in Richmond Hill, Queens. The oldest of three siblings, he attended Holy Child Jesus School, Archbishop Molloy High School and Stonybrook University.

In November 1999, he began training in the FDNY Academy, the fulfillment of his lifelong dream. He spent many weeks at Ground Zero after 9/11 during rescue and recovery efforts and was detailed there during the month of March, 2002. Several years later, Steven was awarded a medal and citation by Mayor Bloomberg for saving a 10 year old during an off-duty fire rescue.

After twenty years, he retired in April, 2020, due to lung issues from his service at Ground Zero. Emergency open heart surgery in January, 2021 slowed down one of "New York's Bravest" but did not dim his sense of humor.

*In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to:
Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10306. (718) 987-1931

OR

St. Francis Hospital, 100 Port Washington Blvd., Roslyn, NY 11576 (516) 562-6000

Dr. J.W. Goldenkranz Medal

FIREFIGHTER STEVEN F. DEVANEY

Engine Company 46

November 22, 2005, 1530 hours, Box 9467, 137-03 Booth Memorial Avenue, Queens

Appointed to the FDNY in November of 1999. Previously assigned to Engine 242. Member of the Holy Name and Emerald Societies. Holds a BA degree in Political Science/Sociology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Cited for bravery on three previous occasions. Resides in Franklin Square, Long Island, with his wife, Diana, and their three children, Nicolas, 17, Shannon, 14, and Ryan, 6.



Similar to a Marine, a Firefighter is always a Firefighter, even when off-duty. On November 22, 2005, FF Steven Devaney proved the veracity of this statement.

While off-duty, FF Devaney, Engine 46, was passing by the area of 137-03 Booth Memorial Avenue in Queens when he heard screaming. He looked to his right and saw heavy smoke coming from all floors of a three-story, non-fireproof multiple dwelling.

The screams came from Mabel Valenzazo. She was on a second-floor ledge and threatening to jump. While approaching the building, FF Devaney called 911. He noticed two civilians placing a portable ladder to the woman's position. After FF Devaney ensured that the woman reached safety, she told him there were still people trapped inside.

The door to the first floor had been left open, thus blocking the primary means of egress from the upper floors. Once inside the building, the Firefighter entered the fire apartment and conducted a search. Finding no one, he exited the apartment and closed the door behind him, preventing extension to the upper floors.

At this point, he heard a sound coming from the floor above. He ascended the stairs and found John Hu between the first and second floors in the heavy smoke. FF Devaney assisted the 10-year-old down the stairs to safety.

FF Devaney then re-entered the building to search the upper floors. While searching the second floor, FF Devaney teamed up with FF Thomas Morgan, Ladder 18, who also was off-duty. The pair proceeded to the third floor and attempted to force this door. After repeated attempts, they were forced to leave the building due to deteriorating conditions.

The first FDNY units now were arriving on-scene. FF

Devaney apprised the units of conditions and the actions taken. The Firefighter then was transported to Flushing Hospital and treated for smoke inhalation and CO poisoning.

FF Devaney exhibited tremendous initiative and bravery by his actions. He put himself at risk by searching the fire apartment and twice passing and going above the fire to perform the search. All of his actions were performed without the protection of a charged hose-line, bunker gear or self-contained breathing apparatus.

Deputy Chief John Acerno, then the Division Commander of Division 14, mentioned in his endorsement of FF Devaney that two civilians jumped from the upper floors and there were three other injuries. That comment attests to the gravity of the situation.

FF Steven Devaney acted in the finest traditions of the New York City Fire Department. For his brave efforts, he is recognized with the Dr. J.W. Goldenkranz Medal.



Engine 46 apparatus.

photo by Joe Pinto