

**Jay S. Winuk**  
**Remarks for Dedication of**  
**Firefighters Memorial Wall**  
**June 11, 2006**  
**New York City**

(FINAL)

Good morning and thank you.

A few years back, when Brian first outlined for me his dream to build a memorial in tribute to my brother Glenn and New York's firefighters, I thought, "Very nice idea, but how in the world is he going to pull this off?" Given the cost, the financial competition posed by other worthy 9-11 memorials, the design challenges, and other issues, I mean, "*How's he going to pull this off?*"

Of course, had I known Brian as well then as I do now, I wouldn't have even questioned it. When something is right, Brian just doesn't give up. I admire that in him, as I admired that very same quality in Glenn. I thank you, Brian, and Theresa and Angela and Hal and Chief Meyers, the Rambusches and everyone else who contributed to bringing this Memorial to life.

And so here we are. My family and I are so pleased to be with you this morning. It truly is a special day.

I can tell you that deep down, and *very* privately, Glenn would be bursting with pride about what is transpiring here. And if you knew Glenn at all, then you know he'd also be embarrassed. *Very, very* embarrassed. But that's okay, little brother.

There's a line from "It's A Wonderful Life," a favorite movie of Glenn's, that I think applies here today. Clarence the angel says to

George Bailey, the character played by James Stewart, “*Each man’s life touches so many other lives, and when he isn’t around he leaves an awful hole, doesn’t he?*”

Of all the people I know, Glenn touched perhaps more lives in meaningful ways than any other. And he has left an awful hole. Today we gather to pay tribute to his life and the lives of the 343 FDNY firefighters who died with such valor. Together we recognize the holes left by so many. But we also celebrate the good they did, the worthy lives they lived and the shining examples they set.

This dedication unleashes many mixed emotions. I’ve been searching back through all that has transpired since that horrific September morning almost five years ago.

I thought about the people of Holland & Knight -- you of such strong character, and loyalty, and heart. True heart. Glenn cared deeply about so many of you.

And about Bill Honan and John Reilly and Bob Feagin and Brian and others, who masterfully steered a shaken worldwide law firm through its darkest days, and who were a source of great strength to our devastated family.

And about Lars Forsberg, also of Holland & Knight – a military man who sprung into action much like Glenn that morning, but whose life was spared when he was just a few minutes behind Glenn, every bit as courageous and capable.

I thought about all that I have learned about the firefighting community -- how resilient and brave and unwavering are its members and its families.

And about those many members of the Jericho Fire Department who lost a close friend and comrade in arms. Many of them are here with us today.

In fact, I've been thinking a lot lately about Glenn Winuk the firefighter. Glenn was a volunteer firefighter for 20 or so years – but not only a firefighter – he was also an EMT, and a former officer of his engine company and a commissioner of the Jericho Fire District. Five years before 9-11, he earned a special certification -- in Building Collapse Rescue Training.

These pursuits were so much a part of Glenn's life for his whole life. From the little kid held by our late uncle, Lieutenant Harold Einhorn, sliding down the fire pole in his arms at Engine Company 281 in Brooklyn, to the brave soul who raced toward the South Tower as a 40-year-old rescuer with so much to lose and so much to live for. Glenn was a fireman through and through.

And so when he headed from a position of safety at his law office to the Trade Center to help, he surely had one thing in mind: saving lives. Just as he had in 1993 when the Trade Center was attacked.

In fact, researchers of an upcoming 9-11 documentary have told me they believe that Glenn was likely the first of nearly 10,000 volunteer firefighters and rescue personnel who answered the call September 11th. The first of 10,000 . . .

Glenn had many friends in the FDNY, and we are honored by those representing the Department here today. For those city firemen here who did not know Glenn personally, I can tell you this: Glenn would have your back, and you would be glad for it. He was brave. He was skilled. He was smart. And he was the consummate team player.

I've learned a great deal since September 11, 2001.

I've learned about the character of my parents, Elaine and Seymour Winuk. In the face of life's greatest kind of tragedy -- the loss of a child -- they have demonstrated a quiet dignity and strength that should inspire us all. I thank you for that, Mom and Dad.

And I've learned that, even after someone passes on, they can still earn the true friendship of honorable people whom they did not know in life. Glenn surely has.

They include Congressman Peter King; Governor Pataki; former Fire Commissioner Tom Von Essen; New York legislators Charles Lavine and Carl Marcellino;; EMTs Lisa Gloffke and Joe Sanders of the FDNY; and especially attorney and volunteer firefighter Andrew Maloney. Each has worked in his own way to ensure proper and official recognition of Glenn's valor and actions as a rescuer. And Glenn would be honored to know each of them.

To those of you here from Holland & Knight, please know that our family has not forgotten that you, too, suffered -- not only the loss of a colleague and friend, but true trauma on 9-11. I'm sure some of that lasts to this day. I am hopeful, though, that in some way this Memorial Wall provides you with some measure of comfort, some sense of satisfaction, some healing. I know that it does for me.

For this is truly a special place for many reasons. On its face, it may be the most beautifully crafted Memorial I have ever seen.

But it is so much more than that. That this Memorial was largely funded by the generous people of Holland & Knight is a gift beyond description. This Memorial says everything one needs to

know about the soul and character of the fine people of this firm and their friends.

But this is not only a gift to the FDNY and this amazing city. I think this Memorial is nothing short of a statement to the world. It announces that here, in this city and in this country, we value life. We value courage. We value honor, and we honor those who sacrifice for others. We are at once compassionate and resilient. We are principled. We survive adversity, and then we flourish. And I suspect these sentiments are embraced by every person who contributed to this Memorial.

I have some hopes for this Memorial Wall, some expectations. I hope that it will teach, really teach, future generations the other side of September 11. That in the face of our nation's worst tragedy, Americans came together as one, doing whatever we could to help each other. And no one represents that phenomenon more stunningly than those firefighters and other rescuers who sacrificed their lives on September 11.

On a personal note, I'd like to share one more thought with you. At the time of Glenn's death, my wife Carolyn and I had one child. Justin was then four, just barely old enough to understand that he wouldn't get to see his uncle anymore. And now Justin has a sister, three-year-old Melanie.

Anyway, as I told some at Holland & Knight at a meeting in Florida last year, when the time is right, this will be the place for Carolyn, Justin and me to take Melanie to explain what really happened to this uncle she never met. To describe the decency of his colleagues at Holland & Knight. And to help her understand that, on the last day of Glenn's life, he proudly walked among giants, 343 of New York's bravest.

And my family, as I'm sure do the families of all the other firefighters, thanks Holland & Knight for creating such a wonderful place.

Thank you.

###