

**The 9/11 Info Resources Series
Presents**

9/11 First Responders: Voices From The Pit

**7:00 - Sunday June 25th
Community Church
40 East 35th Street, New York, NY
(Between Park & Madison Avenues)
Doors open 6:00**

The environmental disaster caused by 9/11 conjures up images of the massive dust clouds caused by the collapse of the three steel-framed buildings which were part of the World Trade Center complex. Thousands of first responders from many agencies hurried to the scene and remained for months afterward to take part in the rescue efforts and cleanup operation.

Join us for this important event to hear various first responders to the 9/11 attacks share their experiences of that day and the ensuing weeks of unimaginable hardship and incredible heroism. Between the EPA saying the air quality was safe to breathe, the absence of leadership from local authorities, and the lack of respirators and supplies, they were subjected to conditions that were far beyond acceptable levels of toxicity. They'll describe the lack of health precautions and which have now left thousands with serious health challenges, most of which are incurable. You'll learn how the support system has failed these heroes who gave so selflessly to help their brothers and sisters who fell in harms way that fateful day, as well as legal and financial challenges they now face. Also, we'll present information on services which are now available to attend to their physical and emotional healing and look at actions that can be taken by the general public to support their cause. Speakers include:

Donna Flayhan – Professor at SUNY-New Paltz

Donna Flayhan, Ph.D., is the director of The Lower Manhattan Public Health Project. She is an associate professor in the Communication and Media department at SUNY New Paltz and has worked in communication and public health research and on public health campaigns since 1990. Flayhan has conducted grant-funded research and directed health campaigns on tobacco use prevention programs, low-level carbon monoxide exposure, West Nile Virus and Gulf War Syndrome. The Lower Manhattan Public Health Project is supported by two grants from SUNY New Paltz.

John Sferazo – Iron Worker

Union Structural Iron worker Jonathan began working at ground zero on the morning of September 12th before sunrise. He helped remove crushed vehicles, worked on search and rescue, burned iron to tower areas of the pile in the effort to search for survivors of the disaster. For more than 30 days he worked at ground zero. Mr. Sferazo's breath and lung capacity had deteriorated from the exposure to 9/11 pollutants, as verified by the Mount Sinai Center for Occupations and Environment Medicine. He has been unable to work since August 2004 because of his health impairment. His workers compensation claim was not settled until July 31, 2005.

Michael J. Arcari

Michael J. Arcari is the program director and founder of Faithful Response. Faithful Response is an innovative, faith-based mental health program designed to assist Long Island residents who continue to struggle with mental health, emotional or family issues related to 9/11, including the war on terror in Afghanistan and Iraq. This program provides free, confidential counseling and support. Mr. Arcari is a former lieutenant and commanding officer of the New York City Police Department's Early Intervention Unit, where he introduced Clinical Incident Stress Management and created its Critical Incident Response Team. With more than 16 years of experience in trauma services, he also has a wide background in disaster response services, including Coordinator of Disaster Response and Administrator of Catholic Charities USA World Trade Center Disaster Relief Fund. He has also worked with Project Liberty and Project Home Ground, and served as Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rockville Centre's liaison for disaster response to the federal, state and local governments.

John Feal - Demolition Supervisor

Demolition supervisor John Feal worked at Ground Zero from September 12th until September 17th, supervising and carrying out demolition and recovery work, until his foot was crushed on site. He was hospitalized for two months. His foot developed gangrene and half his foot was amputated. He has since had some 30 surgeries. In addition to his severe foot injury, Mr. Feal suffers from respiratory illness. While he received a small Workers Compensation award after his claim was challenged, the funds are not enough to cover his medical expenses. The September 11th Victim Compensation Fund denied his claim on the technical grounds that anyone injured after 96 hours was not eligible.

Major Mike McCormack – Medic; specialist in collapsed infrastructure rescue and hazmat

Major Mike McCormick, at the time holding the rank of Captain with the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary Patrol, arrived at Ground Zero about three hours after both towers had collapsed. He worked throughout the first six days of the rescue effort, until it changed from search and recovery to recovery only. While engaged in this work, he found the World Trade Center towers' flag, which was later displayed at the Olympics. Major McCormick now suffers from respiratory illness and gastro-esophageal reflux disease. He was awarded a Congressional Certificate, a thank you letter from the President, and a commendation from Governor Pataki. He was denied coverage by the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund because it asserted that he had not proven that he was there.

More speakers being added...

Requested Donation - \$8