

SERGEANTS BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

POLICE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK



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Edward D. Mullins
President

May 4, 2009

Robert Ganley
Vice President

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Robert W. Johnson, Esq.
Treasurer

Maureen Murphy
Recording Secretary

Dear Representative Maloney:

Gary DeRosa
Financial Secretary

I am writing on behalf of the more than 11,000 members of the Sergeants Benevolent Association of New York City to advise you of our continued strong support for H.R. 847, the "James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2009." While we realize that the bill is not perfect, we also know that it represents our best opportunity to create a permanent, nationwide program to care for those who continue to suffer from 9/11-related health conditions.

Jerry Leary
Health & Welfare Secretary

Paul Capotosto
City-Wide Secretary

The heinous terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, changed our city and our nation in countless ways. No New Yorker is without some reminder of the devastation unleashed on 9/11—the missing colleague at roll call or the empty seat at the dinner table. For those of us who responded to the attacks, and who spent countless hours engaged in the rescue and recovery efforts at Ground Zero, we did so with the knowledge that our work there might have a profound impact on our long-term health. Unfortunately, we now see in our fellow officers and citizens the signs of just how right we were. The death of Detective James Zadroga in January 2006—the first 9/11 responder to have his death directly attributed to exposure to the toxins at Ground Zero—was a stark reminder of the health effects that potentially hundreds of thousands of our fellow New Yorkers will face in the years ahead.

The legislation you have introduced is critically important to ensuring the continuation of the Federal government's role in caring for those whose health was directly impacted by the 9/11 attacks. Specifically, this bill will provide for long-term medical monitoring and treatment for the first responders who labored at Ground Zero through the creation of a World Trade Center Health Program within the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health. It will also reopen the September 11th Victims Compensation Fund to those who did not file before, or became ill after, the original December 22, 2003. Finally, the bill will ensure the continuation of research into the diagnosis and treatment of 9/11 health-related conditions, and the adequacy and coordination of care for victims. In so doing, it honors the sacrifice that so many of our fellow officers continue to make for carrying out their sworn duty to protect and serve on that fateful day.

The SBA has been proud to work with you and your staff to enact this critically important legislation. We are grateful for your strong leadership on behalf of our nation's first responders. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or the SBA's Washington representative Chris Granberg at (202) 457-7770, if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Mullins".

Ed Mullins
President

cc: The Honorable Jerrold Nadler, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Peter King, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Michael McMahon, U.S. House of Representatives