

STANDING FAST
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF O'KANE FDNY RETIRED
9/11/2001 - 25 Years Later We Shall Never Forget

Membership application is available on our website
www.okanefdnynretirees.com.

WELCOME to
 "Standing Fast." The
 official newsletter of the
 Gene O'Kane Division of
 FDNY Retired, the first
 and oldest FDNY retirees
 organization in the U.S.
 We have been chartered
 in the state of Florida
 since 1979.
 Postal Address: FDNY
 Retired, 2053 Blue Beech
 Ct., Trinity, FL 34655



Who Are We?

We are an organization of retired New York City Firefighters living on the west coast of Florida in the areas of Pasco, Hernando, Citrus, Pinellas, Hillsborough counties.

Although now retired, we share the bond of having had the privilege of protecting lives and property of the residents of the City of New York as members of the greatest fire department in the world, the FDNY. As retirees of the FDNY, in 1978 we banded together to form the first chapter of the FDNY RETIRED, received a charter from the state of Florida and named our organization after our founder, Gene O'Kane. Thus we are "THE GENE O'KANE DIVISION OF FDNY RETIRED." Our division is the oldest of all the divisions of FDNY Retired, one of nine divisions located in Florida and one of twenty six divisions scattered across the United States. We are also a member of the the URFA, the United Retired Firefighters Assn. We welcome all FDNY retirees, of all ranks, retired volunteer firefighters from all other municipalities, and non-firefighters to join us in friendship and brotherhood as members of our proud organization.

Membership and Meetings: Membership in the Gene O'Kane Division of FDNY Retired is open to all FDNY retirees of all ranks, paid and volunteer firefighters from all cities across the U.S.A., also non-firefighters are accepted as "Associate Members." Applications for membership can be obtained by completing the application located on our website and mailing it in as directed. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month with the exception of June, July and August, at 7 p.m. at the America Legion "Paradise Post" located on Veterans Drive in New Port Richey, FL 34654.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 10/20/2026. 7pm,
 American Legion Paradise Post, New Port Richey, FL.



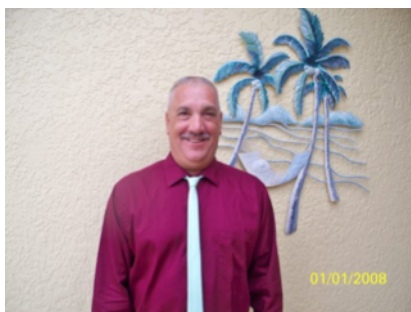
okaneclubfdny@icloud.com

email us for more info.

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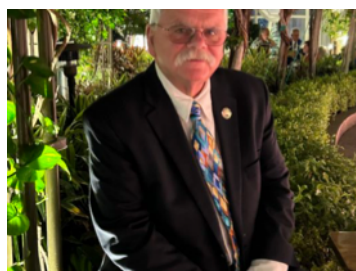
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**PRESIDENT'S
REPORT -
OCTOBER 2026**

Dear Members, Family and Friends,

Welcome to the October issue of "Standing Fast." September was certainly a busy month. We observed the 25th Anniversary of the September 11th Terrorist Attacks. We held our first membership meeting following our summer hiatus. Now it is time to prepare for all the upcoming activities and events for fall.

I would like to take a moment to say how proud I am of our club and the work we do in ensuring that **We Never Forget**. Several of our members are on the planning board of major events in both Pinellas and Pasco counties and many members participate in these events. So many of our members and their family and friends turn out every year to honor those who perished on that day, and to pay tribute to the many others who have passed on since then. The numbers continue to grow each year and we need to take every opportunity we can to ensure that the generations before us understand what occurred on that day.

In this month's newsletter you will find details about our fall picnic which is set for Saturday, October 24, 2026. We will be bringing back our Oktoberfest theme, including some great German-style meats and treats.

I would like to thank those of you who attended our first meeting after our break and recognize those members who added to their support of our club through boosters and paying their 2027 dues. Remember, dues are coming up, so don't wait until the last minute! The boosters and dues help us bring you all the great parties and picnics.

Stay safe and be well.

Fraternally Yours,

Kevin Doherty, President

Note: Booster Reminder: It's never too late to start being a Club Booster. **Boosters are open to anyone, including your spouses, family and friends** - so take a look at the Booster pages coming up in this newsletter and think about showing your support. Every Booster runs for 1 year and we greatly appreciate each one.

OKANE BOOSTERS: reminder...if your number is a 4 it's time to renew! Boosters run for 12 months. The number following your name indicates when your booster will expire.

Thank you for your support. Anyone can be a booster. Family members, friends, etc.
(Rev. 4/26)

Byrnes, Brian 1/27 Lt. Gene Sullivan, E39
Byrnes, Brian 1/27 Firefighter James Byrnes 1824. Batt 21
Byrnes, Brian 1/27 BC Carlo Andersen 456. Safety Batt
Byrnes, Brian 1/27 Firefighter Marty Celic Murdered 7/2/77 13108. T.L.18
Chichester, Dan 10/27 Members of E275 1963-1987
Chichester, Dan 10/27 Members of L126 1963-1987
Chichester, Dan 10/27 Members of E234 1963-1987
Dunscornb Jim 11/26 Honoring all members of E82
Dunscornb, Jim 1/27 Always in our hearts, E82
D'Andrea, Jack 10/26 Members of Ladder 126
Incarnato, Charles 10/26 Rockapulco - E268, L137 - Best on the Beach
Incarnato, Charles 10/26 On The Edge - E314 Members LOL
Incarnato, Charles 10/26 Never A Dull Moment E72, For Sure
Incarnato, Charles 10/26 Mid-town High Rise E8, L2, Batt8
Incarnato, Charles 10/26 The Bronx, must I say more? Great Memories
Incarnato, Charles 10/26 In memory of John Askin, E48, my friend and brother
Kikis, Louis 1/27 E22/ L13 "The Yorkville Nine"
Kikis, Louis 1/27 343 Never Forget
Kikis, Victoria 7/27 Honoring the memory of those who gave their all. 343 Never forget.
Kikis, Victoria 7/27 RIP John Braunagel Jr.
McCarren, Charles 1/27 BC Richard De Prima. Batt 49
McCarren, Charles 1/27 Lt. James McCarren E48
McCarren, Charles 1/27 Lt. Charles McCarren III FDNY Safety Command
McCarren, Charles 1/27 Lt. Daniel McCarren E298
McCarthy, William 11/26 Members of L25, 9/11 Never Forget
Martinsen, Ron 1/27 Mem BC Tom Neary L134
Martinsen, Ron 1/27 Mem BC Chris Scalone E332
Miccio, Rich 6/27 Tom Gambino L163 - 9/11/01 - RIP
Miccio, Rich 6/27 L163/E325 - Woodside Warriors*Nilsson Mike1 L 126
Nilsson, Mike 1/27 Remembering members of E303, L126
Nilsson, Mike 1/27 September 11, 2001. 343 - Never Forget
Powers, Jim 1/27 Honoring members of E35
Ragusso, Rob 11 Honoring all members of E289
Ribbe, Donald. 10/27 Always remember September 11th - 343
Ribbe, Donald 10/27 Honoring our fallen brothers, always in our memories

Boosters continue on next page.....

BOOSTERS CONTINUED.....

Savarese Jim 11/26 The Tin House Gang E-232/L176 BMA

Savarese Jim 11/26 Watkins St. E-231/L-120/44BN

Savarese Jim 11/26 Briggs Ave E79/L37/27BN

Savarese Jim 11/26 RIP Ron Quartuccio

Segreto, Vincent 1/27 DC T. Campbell

Segreto, Vincent 1/27 All the members of FDNY who died on 9/11

Segreto, Vincent 1/27 All the members of FDNY who have died since 9/11

Segreto, Vincent 1/27 In honor of all FDNY members

Tarantino Ron 1/27 In Memory of Louis Tarantino

**BY SENDING IN YOUR BOOSTER!
YOUR MESSAGE COULD BE HERE. SHOW YOUR SUPPORT**

Becoming a Booster is simple. Just enter the name of your honoree and the message as you want it to appear. Each message is \$5.00 and runs for 1 year.

Example:

Your name and address

Your booster message:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

**Send your Booster. (\$5.00 per message) to:
Mike Doyle, Financial Secretary
5157 Silent Loop. Condo #314
New Port Richey, FL 34652**

You may also find booster applications on our website:
www.okanefdnyretirees.com.

Boosters run for 12 months. The number following your name indicates when your Booster will expire. Thank you for your support. **Anyone can be a booster. Family members, friends, etc.**

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REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH: FRIDAY, 9/11/2026 MARKED THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11TH TERRORIST ATTACKS; THE DAY THAT BEGAN AS BRIGHT AS COULD BE TURNED INTO THE DARKEST DAY IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY. THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY PROPLE CAME TOGETHER TO COMMEMORATE THAT DAY THROUGH NATIONAL CEREMONIES, COMMUNITY VIGILS AND NATIONWIDE TRIBUTES.

IN NEW YORK CITY (GROUND ZERO), VICE PRESIDENT J.D. VANCE AND ALL THE LIVING PRESIDENTS (BILL CLINTON,, GEORGE W. BUSH, BARACK OBAMA, AND JOE BIDEN ATTENDED THE NATIONAL 9/11 MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM OBSERVANCE. FAMILIES READ THE NAMES OF

THE VICTIMS AND, FOR THE 1ST TIME, A **7TH MINUTE OF SILENCE** WAS ADDED TO HONOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED FROM 9/11-RELATED TOXIC EXPOSURE ILLNESSES OVER THE PAST 2 DECADES.

AT THE PENTAGON, PRESIDENT TRUMP DELIVERED REMARKS AT A CEREMONY AT THE NATIONAL 9/11 PENTAGON MEMORIAL IN ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA HONORING THE 184 PEOPLE KILLED THERE.

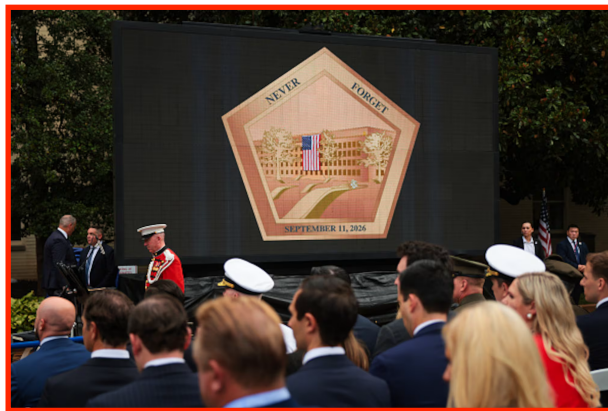
IN SHANKSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA, FEDERAL AND LOCAL OFFICIALS GATHERED AT THE FLIGHT 93 NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO REMEMBER THE PASSENGERS AND CREW WHO FOUGHT AGAINST THE HIJACKERS.

THE FOLLOWING ARE PHOTOS FROM THOSE AND OTHER EVENTS FROM THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.



Left photo shows(R-L) Vice President Vance, Former NYC Mayor Bloomberg, Former President George W Bush, Former First Lady Laura Bush, Former President Joe Biden, and Former First Lady Jill Biden at the memorial service in New York City (Ground Zero).

PENTAGON: 9/11 MEMORIAL SERVICE IN ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA, PHOTO (L) PRESIDENT TRUMP PAYS TRIBUTE. (R) THE MEMORIAL CEREMONY.



SHANKSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA: 9/11 REMEMBRANCE AT THE FLIGHT 93 NATIONAL MEMORIAL. PHOTO (L) THE MEMORIAL AND VIDEO HONORING THE VICTIMS. (R) ATTENDEES PAY TRIBUTE AT THE WALL.



STEEL ACROSS AMERICA
TUNNEL TO
TOWERS TOUR: -
PHOTO (L) BEAM
ARRIVES AT
GROUND ZERO
ON 9/11/26,
ENDING THE
NATIONWIDE
JOURNEY.

GENE O'KANE DIVISION OF FDNY RETIRED COMMEMORATES 9/11 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The Gene O'Kane Division of FDNY Retired paid tribute to the victims of the September 11th Terrorist Attacks in a series of events throughout Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties.

Part of the mission of our club is to ensure, through communication and education, that we never forget that fateful day. Members of the club serve on event planning committees, donate their time volunteering, donate artifacts and other materials for display, and actively take part in the events themselves.

They have promoted education through an annual essay contest open to middle school children in conjunction with the Curlew Hills memorial event. Members have also taken part in media interviews including pod casts and pre-recorded and live interviews.

Here are some photos of these events.



**ANNUAL WREATH-LAYING
PRESENTATION AT GEORGE
STEINBRENNER FIELD, TAMPA,
FLORIDA. SEPTEMBER 10, 2026**



Members Charles Incarnato and Stephen McNally (L) place wreath (R) at the WTC Monument in Steinbrenner Field. The monument is at the main entrance to the stadium.

STEINBRENNER FIELD CONT'D



The monument at Steinbrenner Field contains a piece of steel recovered from Ground Zero and donated to the Yankee Organization by the Gene O'Kane FDNY Retired Club.



Members, family and friends gathered at the stadium to pay tribute to the fallen. From Left to Right: Dale Koster, Victoria Kikis, Ann Koster (9/11 survivor), Rich Miccio, Lenny Deszcz, Louis Kikis, Chris Cioffi, Donald Abrams, Stephen McNally, Charles Incarnato, Ruthann Incarnato, Kim Dell, Dennis Denninger, Herb Dell.

9/11 MEMORIAL, CURLEW HILLS MEMORY GARDENS, PALM HARBOR, FLORIDA



On Friday, 9/11/26, O'Kane club members, along with family and friends, paid tribute to the victims of the September 11th Terrorist Attacks on the World Trade Center at the annual memorial service at Curlew Hills in Palm Harbor, Florida.

The event is one of the largest in the nation and we are proud to take an active role in it. Several of our members are on the event planning committee, while others actively participate in the service. Still others volunteer their time helping with the extensive display presented by our club before and after the program. Our club loans these materials to Curlew every year (they are privately owned by our members).

In keeping with our pledge to educate and inform so that we may NEVER FORGET, our club supports the annual 9/11 student essay contest and takes part in media coverage every year.

Member Stephen McNally took part in the lighting of the monument's eternal flame. Members Rich Miccio, and Louis Kikis were part of the wreath laying procession. See photos on next page.

September 11th Memorial 25th Anniversary - Curlew Hills memory Gardens, Palm Harbor, Florida.



Photos from top to bottom: Members Rich Miccio and Louis Kikis are interviewed by Fox News Anchor, Mark Wilson before the event. Student essay winner with NYPD Retired Joseph Sprawls and Curlew Hills CEO Keenan Knople.. Member Louis and FDNY Lee Ielpi at O'Kane display tent. Mark Wilson addresses the crowd. Member Stephen McNally (l) lighting eternal flame.

More photos of these and other events may be seen in our website photo album.

September 11th Memorial Service at Simms Park, New Port Richey, FL

O'Kane Club members took part in yet another memorial service honoring the victims of the September 11th Terrorist Attacks at Simms Park, on the Coatee River in New Port Richey, Florida. Member Louis Kikis and his wife, Victoria serve on the planning committee for this event.

As at Curlew Hills, the club set up a display tent for attendees to visit before and after the event. Thank you to those members and their families who helped manning this area, greeting the people passing through and helping explain what they are seeing. This event is unique in that it takes place in a large city park and there are always many children who are able to see the ceremony. New Port Richey school children gave out hand-made "medals" of appreciation to our members and first responders.

O'Kane Treasurer, Louis Kikis, lead the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance. Later in the program, members Chris Cioffi, Charles Incarnato, Louis Kikis, and Stephen McNally participated in the procession of the Presentation of the Memorial Wreath.

Members were greeted by Florida Congressman, Gus Bilirakis, who was attending the event as an honored guest.



Photos from L-R: Member Louis Kikis leads pledge of Allegiance. Children visit our display tent. "Medals" of Appreciation. O'Kane Club members Louis Kikis, Charles Incarnato, Chris Cioffi, Stephen Mc Nally and NYPD Retired Joseph Sprawls with Congressman Gus Bilirakis.



9/11 Health Update...25 YEARS LATER - LESSONS FROM THE WORLD TRADE CENTER HEALTH PROGRAM



The Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA) recently published “25 Years after 9/11 - Lessons From The World Trade (WTC) Health Program. The paper examines key insights that have emerged from the long-term follow-up of the 9/11 impacted population. The following is a summary of that report.

Read the complete study by visiting the CDC website; www.cdc.gov/wtc/research.

It has been a quarter century since the 9/11 Terrorist Attacks at the World Trade Center, The Pentagon, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania. These attacks exposed thousands of individuals to environmental toxins and hazardous materials. The enduring health effects of 9/11 exposures remain chronic, evolving and clinically significant. In the first decade following the attacks, health care was inconsistent and uncertain.

The WTC study sites key points examined to assess ongoing 9/11 health care:

Disaster-related health effects are often chronic, dynamic, and involve multiple organs of the body

Individuals exposed to the 9/11 attacks have a greater prevalence of chronic conditions and poorer health-related quality of life compared to the general population.(Those enrolled in the WTC Health Program have improved survival compared to those who are not.)

By integrating systems of care the Program provides a model of how health systems can respond to such events, not only in the immediate aftermath, but also in the long term.

As more health issues are identified, the need for a broader criteria of WTC-related illnesses is critical. FDNY researchers are seeking federal coverage for cardiovascular disease, cognitive decline, and other conditions as firefighters and EMS members

Reach out to the WTC Health Program for more information by visiting CDC.gov. You will find key facts including outreach and provider care and other key facts.



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN! OKTOBERFEST O'KANE CLUB FALL PICNIC!

DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026

TIME: 12NOON

PLACE: FRED HOWARD PARK

SHELTER #6

TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA

COST: \$10.00 PER PERSON

ALL ARE WELCOME...BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

DETAILS:

All reservations and payment need to be received by October 20, 2026. Make your check payable to: O'Kane FDNY Retired. mail your check to:

Louis Kikis, Treasurer
4973 West Breeze Circle
Palm harbor, FL 34683

YOU CAN ALSO PAY FOR THE PICNIC AT OUR OCTOBER MEETING: TUESDAY, 10/20/26.

THERE WILL BE OUR TRADITIONAL BURGERS AND FRANKS PLUS LOTS OF DELICIOUS GERMAN-THEMED MEATS AND TREATS.

BINGO IS BACK WITH FUN PRIZES! \$2.00 PER CARD. YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT.



Make Note Of These Upcoming Dates....You Won't Want To Miss Out!

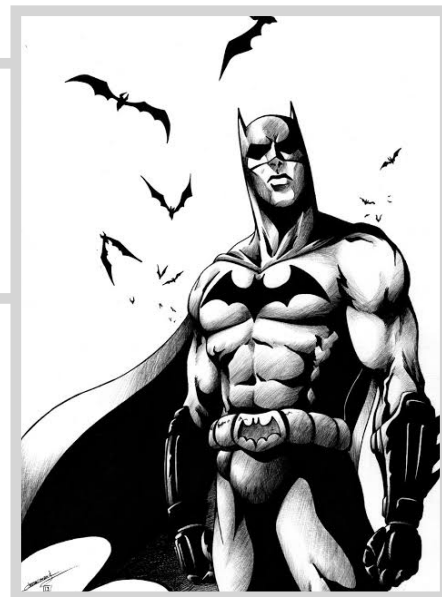
*Next membership Meeting: Tuesday,
October 20, 2026
American Legion Paradise Post, New Port
Richey, 7pm

*Oktoberfest Fall Picnic: Saturday,
October 24, 2026
Fred Howard Park, Tarpon Springs, FL
(Shelter #6) 12 noon

*December Holiday Party: Tuesday,
December 15, 2026
American Legion Paradise Post, New Port
Richey, 5pm. Santa will be there!

Dad Joke of The Month....

*My boss said, "Dress for the job you
want, not for the job you have." so I
went in as Batman!
DADADADA. DADADADA BATMAN!*



**Until Next Month, Stay Safe and Be
Well.**

**For any information about any of the
newsletter items, just reach out to an
O'Kane Board Member.**