



# Chief John J. McElligott Medal/ FFs Fitzpatrick and Frisby Award

## CAPTAIN JAMES BROSI

*Division 6 (assigned), Engine Company 80 (detailed)*

**April 6, 2007, 1843 hours, Box 75-1621, 660 Riverside Drive, Manhattan**

*Appointed to the FDNY on July 25, 1993. Currently UFO at Ladder 23. Previously assigned to Engine 37, BFI and Ladder 55. Father, Lieutenant Joseph Brosi, is retired from Engine 88 and brother, Captain Joseph Brosi, is assigned to Division 14. Member of the Columbia Association, the FDNY Soccer Team and the Emerald and Holy Name Societies. Holds an associate's degree in business administration from Nassau Community College, a bachelor's degree in business administration from New York Institute of Technology and a masters degree in education from Queens College. Resides in Bayside, Queens, with his wife, Karen, and their daughters, Melanie and Madelyn.*

In the early-evening hours of April 6, 2007, as many New Yorkers reflected on the meaning of Good Friday, Captain James Brosi became one person's salvation after a fire erupted at 660 Riverside Drive in Manhattan.

At 1843 hours, a call was transmitted to Engine 80 for a fire at a six-story multiple dwelling in Harlem. Arriving as the first-due engine company, Captain Brosi found fire coming from one window on the top floor and smoke pushing out from several others. Captain Brosi directed his company to stretch an inch and three-quarter line to the top floor. However, he knew from CIDS information that the hose-line stretch would be arduous and time-consuming because the building's single staircase wrapped around the elevator, requiring between nine and 10 lengths of hose to reach the fire.

Captain Brosi entered the building and ascended the stairs. Reaching the fifth floor, he encountered a burned civilian being brought down by a neighbor. Though burned and disoriented, the victim told Captain Brosi his apartment (6G) was on fire and his wife was still inside.

The Captain transmitted a 10-45 for the victim being evacuated. He then proceeded up the last flight of stairs and began to crawl down the hallway. While making his way toward the apartment, he encountered two police officers who had tried to rescue the second victim, but were forced back due to an increasing smoke condition. Directing these officers toward the stairs, Captain Brosi pushed on until he arrived at the apartment. Although the door was closed, it was unlocked.

Without waiting for assistance and his hose team, Captain Brosi donned his facepiece and entered the apartment to

locate the fire and the second victim. He immediately encountered a high heat and heavy smoke condition, but was able to make a brief search of the immediate area, as well as locate the source of the fire, which was directly opposite the door.

Worsening conditions pushed Captain Brosi back toward

the entrance where he was met by Ladder 23's forcible entry team--Lieutenant Lester Lightbourne and two probationary Firefighters. Captain Brosi directed them to hold down the fire with the extinguisher and search left, while he crawled past the fire on the right, toward the rear of the apartment.

With zero visibility and without the benefit of a charged hose-line for protection, Captain Brosi moved past the fire. In the course of his search, he found the apartment's closed bedroom door. Captain Brosi entered the room to search and quickly found the second victim. After transmitting a second 10-45, he removed the victim from the apartment. Reaching the hallway, he turned the victim over to Engine 84 members for CFR-D. Engine 80 had completed stretching the hose-line and Captain Brosi supervised extinguishment of the fire.

In his incident report, Battalion Chief Francis X. Donnelly, Battalion 16, noted, "There is no doubt his bravery and steadfast action saved the victim's life." Division 6's Commander, Deputy Chief Kevin Butler, concurred, stating, "Captain Brosi performed in the highest traditions of this job." Unfortunately, the victim succumbed to her injuries weeks later. For his heroic and determined actions, the Fire Department of the City of New York is proud to honor Captain James Brosi today with the Chief John J. McElligott Medal/FFs Fitzpatrick and Frisby Award.--DJH



**Ladder Company 23 in action at the massive crane collapse in Manhattan on March 15, 2008.**