

REPORT OF MERITORIOUS ACT

FF Augie Tufano

Name of Member

12/04/06

Date of Act

8. NAME(S) OF TWO MEMBERS WHO ACUALLY WITNESSED ACT(IF AVAILABLE)

RANK	NAME	UNIT
LT.	Thomas Piambino	Marine Co. 1
FF	Michael Lambert	Marine Co.1

9. NAME(S) OF TWO CIVILIANS WHO ACUALLY WITNESSED ACT(IF AVAILABLE)

NAME	ADDRESS

10. WAS VICTIM REMOVED FROM: Immediate fire area Directly above fire

Other area (specify in detail):

Victim was removed from the Hudson River at approximately 34th Street on Mannhattans West side and transported to pier 53 at 12th street (quarters of Marine Co.1) to awaiting EMS

11. DESCRIPTION OF ACT:

On the afternoon of December 04,2006 at 12:19 pm Marine Co. 1 received a teleprinter alarm for a person in the water,Hudson River off of 34th street borough of Manhattan. LT. Piambino ordered members to respond in Marine 1's Auxllary Rescue Craft. FF Augie Tufano immediately started donning the Mustang cold water rescue suit as is called for by winter water rescue protocal. After leaving the dock and about half way to 34th Street Marine 1's Officer was contacted by Rescue Co. 1 who reported that a person was struggling in the water off of 34th street about 75 yards out from the sea wall being swept away by the current. This was too far and the current was moving to fast for a rescue attempt from the shore line. As Marine 1's rescue craft neared the scene a female was spotted floundering in the water caught in the current being battered by submerged pileings. FF Lambert who was piloting the boat manuevered around and through the pilleings but could not get any closer to the victim than about 20 feet due to the underwater obstructions and the danger of the running boat propellers hitting the victim. Once this position was reached LT. Piambino ordered FF. Tufano into the water. FF. Tufano attached to a tether line and seeing the female submerging and resurfacing struggleing to stay afloat, immediately, and without hesitation, entered the water. FF. Tufano swam around the pileings in the swift moving water toward the female, hitting the submerged pileings several times himself. Once FF. Tufano reached the female she attempted to climb up on him due to her severe state of panic pushing him under the water makeing it difficult and dangerous for him to gain control of her. After several attempts FF. Tufano was able to place a rescue hold on her and the members of Marine 1 maintained a steady pull on the tether line trying to help both rescuer and victim back to the boat as he swam agalnst the current and back through the submerged pileings. Near exhaustion FF. Tufano was able to get the victim and himself back to the stern of the rescue boat where they both were lifted aboard to safety. The current speed was about 1 1/2 to 2 knots and the water temperature was about 43 degrees. The victim was suffering from extreme exhaustion and severe hypothermia. Once aboard the vessel, the exhausted FF.Tufano who is CFRD trained immediately started patient care administering first aid and wrapping her in blankets to preserve her body heat and continued this until she was turned over to EMS. During an incident that presented extremely dangerous circumstances, in the face of great personal danger, in the finest tradition of the FDNY, FF. Tufano acted with deliborate and well planned dedication and bravery. In this situation, being pressed into action without hesitation, FF. Tufano performed above and beyond the call of duty. He rescued a victim that would have surely drowned that afternoon. It is these circumstances that I respectfully request the board of merit consider FF. Tufano's meritorious actions.