

## ***Grand Marshal***

### ***Stephen J. Cassidy***

Steve Cassidy has served as the President of the Uniformed Firefighters' Association (UFA), the nation's largest local firefighters' union representing 8,200 active and 13,800 retired New York City Firefighters, since first being elected in August 2002. The UFA is tasked with ensuring the health and safety of Firefighters as well as the 8.4 million New Yorkers they protect. He has the unique distinction of being the only UFA president in the Union's nearly 100-year existence to ever be elected directly out of the field and the first president to be elected to five terms of office.

Steve spent the first 15 years of his FDNY career at Engine 236 in East NY, Brooklyn, one of the busiest fire companies in the city. Since assuming leadership of the UFA, Steve has come to be known as a vocal defender and staunch advocate for firefighters and the communities they protect. He is a regular commentator on labor and public safety in some of New York's leading editorial pages and broadcast news programs. His leadership of the award winning 2005-06 "Truth About the World Trade Center Memorial" campaign led to an accurate monument that reflects the memory and sacrifice of the victim's, rescuers, their families and all affected. His campaign to educate New Yorkers and their elected leaders on first responder issues have preserved community firehouses originally slated for closure.

As UFA President, Steve chairs the UFA Widows' and Children's Fund which benefits the widows and children of New York City Firefighters who die in the line-of-duty. He is also the Co-Chairman of the Thomas

R. Elsasser Fund, which supports the families of active NYC Firefighters who died in the line-of-duty incidents and the UFA Scholarship Fund which aids the children of Firefighters who go on to pursue a college education. Steve also serves as trustee on the FDNY Pension Fund (10 Billion Dollars) and Investment Board and is Treasurer of the Municipal Labor Committee (MLC), an umbrella organization of all NYC municipal unions negotiating health care benefits for 300,000 members. In addition, he holds the position of the Vice President and executive Board member of the New York City Central Labor Council, a coalition of over 400 unions representing 1.3 million workers.

Steve also served on The National Advisory Council (NAC) of the U.S Department of Homeland Security (FEMA), an organization established in 2006 following Hurricane Katrina, to ensure Federal Preparedness and consistent coordination following natural disasters or acts of terrorism. Steve was appointed an advocate from 2006 until 2011 for the viewpoint of Emergency Responders. He was also appointed by President George W. Bush to the Medal of Valor (the highest national award for valor by a public safety officer) Review Board and has also served as a member of the September 11<sup>th</sup> Worker Protection Task Force. In September 2008, Steve was appointed to the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Hazardous Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction (Hazmat/WMD) Advisory Board.

Prior to becoming a New York City Firefighter, Steve worked as a management supervisor in the Bank of New York's Mutual fund division.