

Face of Courage: Rise from the Rubble

Joseph M. Cammarata

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The tragedy that occurred on September 11, 2001, happened nearly a decade ago, but the devastating impact remains fresh in the minds of those who lost friends and relatives. Among the outstanding heroes are police officers and firefighters who died attempting to save others.

Face of Courage is a sincere tribute to one of those public servants who perished in the World Trade Center collapse in New York. Fireman Michael Cammarata stood in the wrong place at the wrong time because he had no choice. He was young and ambitious and willing to surrender his life to rescue the lives trapped in this dangerous, high-rise inferno. His altruism is the ultimate sacrifice. In case he were to die in the line of duty, Michael had left behind a note reminding his family that this was the profession he chose.

Today Michael's brother is keeping his memory alive. Former NYPD officer Joseph M. Cammarata writes of the day that changed his life. In heartrending detail he describes the shock of the initial attack, followed by the collapse of both towers, and the prolonged search for survivors. Then the agony of waiting for news...the ultimate pain of not knowing for certain whether Michael had been killed made this horrendous ordeal even more difficult to accept, especially for their mother. His brother's remains were never recovered.

Joseph Cammarata was born in New York City in 1977. At the time of the 9/11 attack, he was a police officer. He went on to serve the New York Fire Department in his brother's footsteps and retired in 2006 to expand his family's real estate development firm. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from St. John's University and is presently working on a law degree.

This special book provides an illuminating look at the author; it is a memoir as much as an accolade to a sibling he loved. Within these emotion-filled pages are inspiring stories and uplifting memories. Cammarata reflects on the course of his career, his relationships, and his struggle to deal with Michael's death. Balancing the negative with the positive, he grieves, adjusts to his loss, and then carries on with his productive life. This inspirational story is a winner.

JULIA ANN CHARPENTIER (February 7, 2011)

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