



MAYOR CHRIS BOLLWAGE

# CITY OF ELIZABETH PRESS RELEASE



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## **ELIZABETH FIREFIGHTERS RECEIVE MEDAL OF VALOR FOR BRAVERY**

**ELIZABETH, NJ August 4, 2008**— Four firefighters from Ladder Company 1 received The American Legion Medal of Valor for their acts of heroism and dedication to the City of Elizabeth. Firefighters Louis Vollero, Claude Davis, Billy Ramos, and acting Captain Perry Carreras were honored for saving the lives of 30 residents from a burning residential building in 2007.

“These firefighters exemplify courage and commitment in the face of danger,” said Mayor Chris Bollwage. “They represent a long line of great Elizabeth Firefighters.”

While returning from a routine residential lockout, Ladder Company 1 came upon a working structure fire at 474 Spring Street, where fire and smoke were being expelled through windows on two sides of the residential building. Without hesitation or protection, the crew split up and entered the building, unprepared for the heavy smoke obstructing their paths. The crew forced their way into locked apartments, looking for occupants, and saving the 30 residents trapped inside.

Ladder 1 then proceeding to focus on the nearby occupied buildings until additional fire units arrived and a defensive fire attack was launched.

The actions of Ladder Company 1 reflected their professionalism, courage, dedication and commitment to saving lives and property without uncertainty.

“These men are true heroes and represent the best of our department,” said Fire Director Onofrio Vitullo. “Firefighters risk their lives everyday, but the quick actions of these individuals went beyond training and regard for their own personal safety.”