

## 9/11 DISABILITY BILL SIGNED INTO LAW !

The **9/11 Presumption Bill** was signed into law by Governor George Pataki on June 15, 2005. The bill, **S. 5657/A. 8790** ensures that public employees are eligible for accidental disability if they incur or contract injuries, illnesses or diseases which can be traced to the work performed in connection with the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

Pursuit of this legislation was necessary because, unfortunately, the City was not living up to its obligation at the medical and pension boards, and, in some cases, was even denying our members their line of duty designations for their illnesses.

Passage of this bill is a major victory for the uniformed services unions. Lou Matarazzo, our DEA Legislative Consultant, has been working on this bill for several years, along with the New York State Association of PBAs and the Public Employee Conference. Thanks are extended to Lou and to everyone who championed the health and welfare of New York City's first responders, especially State Senator Martin Golden, Assemblyman Peter Abbate, and, of course, Governor George Pataki.

This important piece of legislation recognizes the effort, sacrifice, and risks our detectives encountered while helping New York City rise up from the rubble and come back to life during and after the 9/11 attacks. The passage of this bill sends a clear message to municipal workers (and their supportive families) that if City workers are disabled as a result of their assignments they will receive what they are entitled to -- a disability pension