



Lieutenant Kirby McElhearn Medal

PARAMEDIC CRAIG C. ROEDER

Station 54

December 5, 2007, 0052 hours, Van Wyck Expressway/South Conduit, Queens

Appointed to the FDNY on May 2, 2005, as an Emergency Medical Technician. Completed Paramedic Basic in November 2007. Assigned to Station 54 as a Haz-Tac Paramedic. Previous assignments include Division 4 and Station 50. Resides in Middle Village, Queens, with his wife, Maureen.

Paramedics Craig Roeder (54Z2) and Kenneth Silas (54Z3) were heading back to the station at the end of their tour on December 5, 2007, a cold and chilly night. Suddenly, they were flagged down on the Van Wyck Expressway, near the entrance to JFK Airport, for an overturned vehicle. They noticed numerous cars had pulled over to the side of the road and people were outside their vehicles. The rescuers immediately informed the dispatcher that they were on the scene of an accident and needed additional units to respond.

Paramedics Roeder and Silas began to assess the accident scene. They

observed a horrific situation. Besides the overturned vehicle, they noticed a victim lying on the ground in a large area of brush. Paramedic Silas immediately made his way through the brush and began to evaluate the victim, who had been thrown from the vehicle. Paramedic Silas knew his patient was critically injured with multiple trauma and had to be transported quickly.

While

Paramedic Silas was treating his patient, Paramedic Roeder approached the overturned vehicle. He could see a victim still inside, but realized that the only thing holding the vehicle up

was the guardrail. He knew he would have to crawl underneath the vehicle in order to gain access to the patient.

Ignoring his own safety, Paramedic Roeder crawled underneath the overturned vehicle. He comprehended that if the vehicle moved, he, too, just as easily could become a victim. The rescuer quickly evaluated the patient, who had multiple trauma and lacerations to the face and head. He immediately began to administer oxygen and guarded the patient's airway as Firefighters worked to extricate the victim from the vehicle.

Once the victim was extricated, Paramedic Roeder quickly

immobilized the patient's spine on a long board and prepared for transport to the hospital. That's when Paramedic Roeder discovered another victim in the vehicle. Again, the Paramedic put himself in danger to gain access to the patient. Paramedic Roeder would not leave his patient and was underneath the vehicle for 20 minutes.

For disregarding his own safety and methodically applying his newly acquired Paramedic skills while working in an unstable envi-

ronment, Paramedic Craig C. Roeder is presented with the Lieutenant Kirby McElhearn Medal.--ML



The incident for which Paramedic Craig C. Roeder received the Lieutenant Kirby McElhearn Medal. He ably demonstrated his Paramedic skills, which were instrumental in the rescue of two victims from this automobile accident.

photo courtesy of ABC 7 News