

## Darren Rispoli Bio

With more than 27 years of dedicated support to the Newark Fire Department, Darren Rispoli remains a prominent leader in the philanthropic & corporate sector. His strong commitment to integrity and volunteerism is demonstrated in his many affiliations and contributions throughout his life. Born and raised in Newark, New Jersey, Darren joined the Newark Fire Department in 1989. Darren has served with several ladder/truck companies, engine companies, as well as Rescue 1. He is a certified member of many specialized units; Hazmat Unit, Decontamination Unit, USAR (Urban Search and Rescue) and Metro Strike Team.

Darren has served as vice president of the Newark Historical Association & Newark Museum for the past 25 years. During this time, he has coordinated and participated in the annual Antique Fire Apparatus Parade and Muster. In 2001, he became a member of the committee to commission the State of New Jersey Caisson Unit. He organized meetings with Newark Fire Department members, neighboring fire departments, as well as state fire service representatives and acting Governor Richard Codey. He participated in 65 funerals for New York City after 9-11 in support of the many fallen members of the FDNY.

Darren was a founding member of the Newark Streets of Fire Motorcycle Club, an organization in memory of Firefighter Michael DeLane, who heroically lost his life in the line of duty. This organization holds the annual "Elvis Run", a memorial motorcycle run benefitting charities for fallen firefighters and their families. He held the office of secretary from 1995 - 2000.

In 2005, Darren became the coordinator for Ceremonial & Program Development. He handled program development in its entirety for a wide range of fire service and public safety ceremonies. He was responsible for the event planning for funerals, promotions, memorial services, political inaugurations and dignitary services and ceremonies. Additionally, Darren was a founding member of The Lawrence Webb Memorial Education Fund. This fund was started in 2008 after Firefighter Lawrence Webb passed in the line of duty.

In 2013, Darren initiated and developed the annual Novena Mass at St. Lucy's Church. This mass is dedicated to all firefighters, police, EMS, correctional officers, first responders, as well as all governmental and emergency services. As a member of the parish of St. Lucy's Roman Catholic Church in Newark, Darren continues to worship and volunteer his time doing repairs and assisting in organizing events and social activities at the iconic neighborhood church.

Over the course of his decorated career, he received numerous awards and accolades for his firefighting service and commitment to the City of Newark. He was honored and humbled to receive the following awards: Newark Fire Department Special Recognition Award for service beyond the call of duty - January 2007; Firefighter Michael J. Delane Memorial Fund Recognition Award - August 2007; Newark Fire

Department Historical Association Award in recognition of support and service - September 2008; Lawrence Web Team Award - 2009; Special Recognition Award - City of Newark- The Newark Municipal Council - January 2013; State of New Jersey - The Senate - Special Recognition Award - Newark Fire Department Color/Honor Guard - January 2013; Community Service Award from Christian Love Baptist Church - September 2013; Special Recognition Award from Newark Fire Chief John Centanni/ Director James Stewart - Newark Fire Department Service Award & Special Commitment to the Development of the Honor Guard - December 2015; Humanitarian Award - Newark Fire Officers' Union - December 2015; St. Lucy's Church Recognition for Years of Service - January 2016; Newark Police Department of Public Safety Recognition Award for Continuous Commitment to Excellence and Service to the City of Newark and the Department of Public Safety - May 2017; Historical Association Recognition Award - June 2017 for 25 years of service; and the Newark Firefighters' Pipe Band Recognition Award 2018.

Remaining passionate about his continued involvement in the community after his retirement, Darren has continued to volunteer with the City of Newark Department of Public Safety as the Coordinator for funerals, promotions, memorial services and ceremonies for the City of Newark. Darren is a master mason with Nutley Lodge No. 25 and a member of the Knights of Columbus in Morristown, NJ where he resides.

For the past 36 years, Darren has been the owner of an aircraft cleaning company based at Morristown Airport. Over the years, he has expanded his business and now has operations at 14 locations along the East Coast. Darren is the proud father of two sons, ages 26 and 28. His sons are his pride and joy, and he has supported them throughout the years as they have graduated college, entered the workforce and purchased homes. He enjoys motorcycles, boating and spending time with his family and friends. Darren feels extremely blessed for all the love and support he has received throughout his life and is humbled to receive the President's Award for the Columbian Foundation.