

## 9/11 FIRST RESPONDER TURNED PUBLIC ADVOCATE FOR CANCER PREVENTION AND SURVIVORSHIP

Jan, 2017- The New York Cancer Resource Alliance and a group of 9/11 survivors and caregivers united to form a public outreach organization to support first responders and victims of 9/11 through awareness efforts. This comprises of sharing vital information on all available resources (clinical services, news, grants, connections with non-profit foundations, etc) with the core mission to support PREVENTION and EARLY DETECTION for all survivors.



**SAL BANCHITTA**  
retired firefighter and  
9/11 first responder-  
memorialized in published  
"Above Hallowed Ground"



The model of the **FIRST RESPONDERS CANCER RESOURCE** (formerly 9/11CANCERSCAN) awareness program was formed with great thanks to the insight of (Ret) Firefighter SALVATORE (SAL) BANCHITTA from Engine 316 of the 49 Battalion. As one of the many first responders in 9/11, Sal's unwavering commitment to the FDNY and to the City of New York placed his life at an extremely elevated risk each day that he was exposed to the deadly fumes of Ground Zero. His experiences as a rescue personnel reflect those of the many other responders – many of whom are now suffering from serious illnesses that continue to plague everyone who worked at the disaster area.

Mr. Banchitta, now retired from "the job"- continues to support the entire community of first responders as an awareness advocate and a public speaker about maintaining continued health checkups and a proactive approach to health, safety and wellness. He is a staunch

supporter of the "GET CHECKED NOW" program designed by the clinical leaders of AwarenessforaCure.org and is also one of the co-editors of the 9/11 Survivor Stories Newsletter.

As an avid researcher about cancers, treatment modalities and the many health effects of "the most dangerous job in the world", Sal tracks the many 'new' cancer cases that continue to rise from 9/11 responders. It is this level of awakening that drew him to commit to sharing this vital information with his fellow survivors and everyone in active duty. His passion to learn about job-related cancers also covered learning about ALL the innovations, technologies and facilities available to track, monitor, treat and prevent cancers. "In the fight against cancer, education is job #1... we need to be smart about this disease and to make better decisions about all the options available.

### An excerpt from Sal Banchitta's interview from "The Fire Still Burns: Survivor Stories of 9/11 First Responders"

"45 minutes after the towers came down, there was a city recall meaning all firefighters had to come in. Many of us met at Shea Stadium and raced to West End Avenue in buses. After Tower 7 came down, we operated all night long inside "the pile" and we were looking to see what we were able to do. We helped create a human chain that pulled out the trapped Port Authority police officer. Having spent the entire day and night manning the zone, it was the most exhausting shift that felt like forever! The next day, went back to the firehouse, showered, changed from the (bunker gear) contaminated clothes at the firehouse. And then the next night tour, we ended up being back at the pile all night long again. This went on for an entire month for me going down there in and out at completely different times- inside the thick of those fumes and billowing smoke on that pile with no masks or anything on."

