

Peter J. Ganci Jr.



Born: October 27, 1946

Died: September 11, 2001

Peter J. Ganci, Jr. was appointed to the New York City Fire Department on September 14, 1968 after serving with the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division during the Vietnam War. He was initially assigned to Engine Company 92 in the Bronx during one of the busiest periods in the Department's history. Over the course of thirty-three years, Chief Ganci served in some of the most active units in New York City as he ascended through the ranks of Lieutenant, Captain, Battalion Chief and Deputy Chief. In 1994, he accepted a promotion to Deputy Assistant Chief, a Staff Chief position which required him to leave the field and work at Fire Department Headquarters recognizing that, "Staff Chiefs have the opportunity to make things better for the firefighters coming after us." He further viewed his subsequent appointment to Chief of Operations in 1997 as his way of "giving back to the FDNY", the job he loved.

Chief Ganci was promoted to Chief of Department on October 1, 1999. Through a keen understanding of the future challenges facing the fire service on both a local and national level, Chief Ganci developed a set of goals and initiatives that still apply today. In acknowledging the increasingly important role of fire prevention, Chief Ganci stated, "The time has come for us to become more proactive than reactive. We must generate the same enthusiasm for fire prevention that we do for suppression." When asked to predict the FDNY's future, Chief Ganci went on to say, "We always will have brave firefighters and skilled medical professionals to answer the call. Gear, training and technology will continue to improve and firefighters will begin to understand that they must commit to the prevention of fires."

Above all, Chief Ganci is remembered for his great character and integrity. When asked to reflect upon the sometimes difficult decisions he faced every day, Chief Ganci said, "One of the most difficult aspects of my job is striking a balance between an obligation to the public and our members. I continually strive to do the right thing by both."

Chief of Department Peter J. Ganci Jr. responded from Fire Department Headquarters to the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11, 2001. He was one of the 343 members of the New York City Fire Department killed in the terrorist attacks of that day. His pride in the Department, leadership and ability to communicate his vision continues to move the FDNY forward.