

Front Page

Home



[About Us](#) [Community](#) [Contact](#)
[Editorial](#) [EMS/MVA](#) [Features](#) [Frc](#)
[Headlines](#) [Honors](#) [In Memory](#) [L](#)
[Motley Crew](#) [Parades](#) [Subscrip](#)
[Up Close & Personal](#) ******New Delive**

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Federal Credit Union



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LINE OF DUTY DEATH IN MIDDLE ISLAND



Fire Commissioner and Department Safety Officer Anthony T. Catania, 76, of Middle Island had just returned home from responding to an alarm on Sunday, January 28, 2007, and was headed out the door for an EMS run when he became ill. He called the ambulance on his radio and advised them that he needed assistance. Another ambulance and ALS arrived, and he was transported to University Hospital at Stony Brook for further care. On February 2, 2007, Firefighter Catania suffered a fatal cerebral vascular incident and passed away at 0617 hours.



Commissioner Catania was also an Ex-Chief of the North Massapequa Fire Department before moving to Middle Island. He was a member of the Middle Island Fire Department for ten years, and a Middle Island Fire District Commissioner for six years. During his time with the Massapequa department, he was instrumental in starting the department's emergency medical service and promoting junior programs for such youngsters as his son Luke. He also served with the American Red Cross Meals on Wheels program. After serving in the Marines, Anthony Catania worked as vice president of the State Bank of Long Island.



Craig Tunjian, Chief of the Middle Island Fire Department, said, "Anthony was a firefighter we all aspire to model. He was one of the most active firefighters I had in the department, responding to over 226 calls during the 2006 calendar year. Tony didn't know the meaning of the word 'no' and always was there to lend a helping hand with anything and everything. I wish I had twenty more firefighters like him. He has touched all who have come in contact with him. I will miss him terribly, as I am sure many others will."



He is survived by his wife Dorothy and three children: Luke, Donna Devine of Miller Place, and Lisa Flood of Huntington, as well as four grandchildren.

Firematic services were held on Wednesday evening, February 7, 2007, at 8:00 p.m. A funeral mass was held on Thursday,

February 8, 2007, at St. Francis Cabrini Church in Coram,
followed by interment at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

-Fire News photos by Terry McCarrick

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