



A Legacy of Service

Before Reading Poll

First responders dedicate their lives to helping people in need. What do you think?

The most important quality of a hero is their desire to help others.

Agree

Disagree

Explain why you voted the way you did.

Article

NEW YORK, New York (Achieve3000, September 7, 2020). Pete Carroll was looking through his third-grade yearbook. "Everyone put what they wanted to be when they grew up," he told the *NY Times*. "All the other kids put 'NFL player' and stuff like that. Mine was 'firefighter.'"

Carroll's known he wanted to be a firefighter since he was 7. That's how old he was on 9/11—the day his dad ran towards the Twin Towers. Carroll's father was one of hundreds of firefighters who died helping others that fateful morning.

It was September 11, 2001. Terrorists had crashed two hijacked airplanes into the towers. The buildings were part of New York City's World Trade Center, where thousands of people went to work each day. The heroic efforts of the city's fire and police departments and other emergency services helped 25,000 people escape before the buildings collapsed. But the horrific attack shook the nation, killing 2,753 people, including more than 400 first responders.

Memories of that day are indelibly imprinted in the minds of those who lived through it, none more so than the children whose parents were among the fallen heroes. For many, it has become part of their identity. It's an identity forged from both pride and grief. Like Carroll, some feel a strong connection to the careers their parents loved. Now that they're old enough, they're following in their parents' footsteps and becoming firefighters themselves.

Rebecca Asaro and her brother Marc both graduated from the FDNY Training Academy in 2019. Their class included the largest group to date—19—of next-generation firefighters. Each of these class members lost a parent either in the line of duty on 9/11 or from illnesses related to their rescue and recovery efforts at the site of the fallen towers, where a toxic cloud of cancer-causing debris lingered for months.

"Every day that I came to the academy, I was grateful to be there," Rebecca Asaro told CBS News. "I feel like my dad's with me every step of the way, and it brings me a little closer to him."

When Manny Mojica remembers his father, he pictures a big guy with tattoos riding a motorcycle, his massive English Mastiff dog never not by his side. But going through FDNY training has given Mojica new insight into what his father's life was like at the demanding job that he loved. The new firefighter says breaking down doors and lugging unwieldy hoses has "answered all the questions I had growing up, about the day-to-day atmosphere of what [my dad] was doing."

Becoming a firefighter has also given Greg Kumpel a chance to get to know his father. The dad he remembers was no-nonsense and all business. But when Kumpel met his father's former colleagues, they told him stories of a man who was known for pulling pranks and telling jokes. Their memories and the opportunity to walk in his dad's shoes have helped Kumpel form a bond with his father. It's something he's been longing for his entire life.

But joining the FDNY is more than a chance to get to know the parents they lost. Those who took the fire department oath were drawn to the job because they want to serve others. FDNY firefighter Scott Larsen was just 4 years old when his father made the ultimate sacrifice on 9/11. For as long as he can remember, he's wanted to help people too.

As firefighters, the sons and daughters of 9/11 rescuers are not just becoming heroes themselves. They're continuing a family legacy of service and bravery. They've chosen to run towards danger instead of away from it, just as their parents did before them. What better way to honor their parents' memories?



Photo credit: New York Fire Department

The 2019 class of the FDNY Training Academy included the largest group of graduates whose parents were 9/11 first responders. The 19 new firefighters, including Rebecca and Marc Asaro (front center), were recognized at the graduation ceremony for carrying on a legacy of service.

Video credit: Corey Parrish, Air Force Production, Defense Media Activity

Dictionary

colleague (*noun*) a person who works with you: a fellow worker

indelible (*adjective*) impossible to remove or forget

legacy (*noun*) something that happened in the past or that comes from someone in the past

unwieldy (*adjective*) difficult to handle, control, or deal with because of being large, heavy, or complex

Activity

PART 1

Question 1

What is this Article primarily about?

- Ⓐ The new insight Manny Mojica has into what his father's life was like away from his family at a demanding job
- Ⓑ The children of fallen 9/11 first responders who have grown up to become first responders themselves
- Ⓒ The strong connection Pete Carroll felt at a young age to the firefighting career that his father loved
- Ⓓ The 9/11 first responders who helped people escape New York City's World Trade Center before it collapsed

Question 2

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- Ⓐ Rebecca Asaro and her brother Marc both graduated from the FDNY Training Academy in 2019.
- Ⓑ First responders include workers from police and fire departments, as well as other emergency services.
- Ⓒ Rebecca Asaro and her brother Marc are next-generation firefighters who lost their father on 9/11.
- Ⓓ First responders have fulfilling and rewarding careers because they get to serve and care for others.

Question 3

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *colleague*?

- Ⓐ guardian
- Ⓑ physician
- Ⓒ employer
- Ⓓ associate

Question 4

According to the Article, how are the experiences of Manny Mojica and Greg Kumpel similar?

- Ⓐ Both Mojica and Kumpel lost their fathers on 9/11, and both have learned more about their fathers through joining the fire department.
- Ⓑ Both Mojica and Kumpel wrote that they wanted to be firefighters one day in their third-grade yearbooks.
- Ⓒ Both Mojica and Kumpel had siblings who graduated from the FDNY training academy with them.
- Ⓓ Both Mojica and Kumpel graduated from the FDNY training academy in 2019, and both had fathers who liked to ride motorcycles.

Question 5

Which question is **not** answered by the Article?

- Ⓐ How many children who lost a parent on 9/11 later joined the NY police department?
- Ⓑ How did Rebecca Asaro feel about her time spent at the FDNY Training Academy?
- Ⓒ What helped Manny Mojica gain new insight into his father's life?
- Ⓓ Why did some 9/11 first responders suffer from illnesses after 9/11?

Question 6

Suppose Daniel wants to find out about applying for a job as a first responder. He would find **most** of his information _____.

- Ⓐ on a New York City Fire Department website
- Ⓑ in an article about next-generation firefighters
- Ⓒ on a database of fallen 9/11 first responders
- Ⓓ in an article about the equipment first responders use

Question 7

Read this sentence from the Article:

But going through FDNY training has given Mojica new *insight* into what his father's life was like at the demanding job that he loved.

In this sentence, the word *insight* means _____.

- Ⓐ understanding of a situation
- Ⓑ frustration or despair
- Ⓒ melancholy or apathy
- Ⓓ acceptance of a situation

Question 8

The author probably wrote this Article in order to _____.

- Ⓐ share stories about some children of fallen 9/11 firefighters who have chosen to become firefighters as well
- Ⓑ describe the terrorist attacks that took place at the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001
- Ⓒ explain the tasks that would-be firefighters must complete in order to graduate from the FDNY Training Academy
- Ⓓ convince readers that firefighting is a physically demanding job that includes tasks like lugging unwieldy hoses

After Reading Poll

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

The most important quality of a hero is their desire to help others.

Agree

Disagree

Explain why you voted the way you did. Then read and respond to what others have to say.

Sorry, comments are not available at this time. Please try again later.

Thought Question

Write a summary of today's Article. As you write your summary, complete the following steps:

STEP 1: Read the Article in order to understand the text.

STEP 2a: Identify the topic sentence for each paragraph.

STEP 2b: Take out any details that are not needed.

STEP 2c: Combine the information—in your own words—into a single paragraph.

STEP 3: Rethink your summary and the Article.

STEP 4: Check your summary. Then double-check it.

Poll Results

OPINION STATEMENT: **The most important quality of a hero is their desire to help others.**

BEFORE READING	AFTER READING
HOW YOU VOTED	
Agree	Agree
Disagree	Disagree

WORLDWIDE RESULTS					
Agree		94%	Agree		95%
Disagree		6%	Disagree		5%

4% changed their opinion after reading the article.

Stretch Article

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Carroll's known he wanted to be a firefighter since he was 7. That's how old he was on 9/11—the day his dad ran towards the Twin Towers. Carroll's father was one of hundreds of firefighters who died helping others that fateful morning.

It was September 11, 2001. Terrorists had crashed two hijacked airplanes into the towers. The buildings were part of New York City's World Trade Center and the hub of the bustling Financial District where thousands of people went to work each day. The heroic efforts of the city's fire and police departments and other emergency services helped 25,000 people escape before the buildings collapsed, but the heinous attack shook the nation, killing 2,753 people, including more than 400 first responders.

Memories of that day are indelibly imprinted in the minds of those who lived through it, none more so than the children whose parents were among the fallen heroes. For many, it has become part of their identity, an identity forged from both pride and grief. Like Carroll, some feel a strong connection to the careers their parents loved. Now that they're old enough, they're following in their parents' footsteps and becoming firefighters themselves.

Rebecca Asaro and her brother Marc both graduated from the FDNY Training Academy in 2019. Their class included the largest group to date—19—of next-generation firefighters who lost a parent either in the line of duty on 9/11 or from illnesses related to their rescue and recovery efforts at the site of the fallen towers, where a toxic cloud of cancer-causing debris lingered for months.

"Every day that I came to the academy, I was grateful to be there," Rebecca Asaro told CBS News. "I feel like my dad's with me every step of the way, and it brings me a little closer to him."

When Manny Mojica remembers his father, he pictures a big guy with tattoos riding a motorcycle, his massive English Mastiff dog never not by his side. But going through FDNY training has given Mojica new insight into what his father's life was like away from his family at the demanding job that he loved. The new firefighter says breaking down doors and lugging unwieldy hoses has "answered all the questions I had growing up, about the day-to-day atmosphere of what [my dad] was doing."

Becoming a firefighter has also given Greg Kumpel a chance to get to know his father. The dad he remembers was no-nonsense and all business, but when Kumpel met his father's former colleagues, they told him stories of a man who was known for pulling pranks and telling jokes. Their memories and the opportunity to walk in his dad's shoes have helped Kumpel form a bond with his father, something he's been longing for his entire life.

But joining the FDNY is more than a chance to get to know the parents they lost. Those who took the fire department oath were drawn to the job because they want to serve others. FDNY firefighter Scott Larsen was just 4 years old when his father made the ultimate sacrifice on 9/11. For as long as he can remember, he's wanted to help people too.

As firefighters, the sons and daughters of 9/11 rescuers are not just becoming heroes themselves. They're continuing a family legacy of service and bravery. They've chosen to run towards danger instead of away from it, just as their parents did before them. What better way to honor their parents' memories?



Photo credit: New York Fire Department

The 2019 class of the FDNY Training Academy included the largest group of graduates whose parents were 9/11 first responders. The 19 new firefighters, including Rebecca and Marc Asaro (front center), were recognized at the graduation ceremony for carrying on a legacy of service.

Video credit: Corey Parrish, Air Force Production, Defense Media Activity

Dictionary

heinous (*adjective*) very bad or evil: deserving of hate or contempt

legacy (*noun*) something that happened in the past or that comes from someone in the past

unwieldy (*adjective*) difficult to handle, control, or deal with because of being large, heavy, or complex

Stretch Activity

PART 1

Question 1

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- (A) The children of fallen 9/11 first responders who have grown up to become first responders themselves
- (B) The new insight Manny Mojica has into what his father's life was like away from his family at a demanding job
- (C) The 9/11 first responders who helped people escape New York City's World Trade Center before it collapsed
- (D) The strong connection Pete Carroll felt at a young age to the firefighting career that his father loved

Question 2

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- (A) First responders have incredibly fulfilling and rewarding careers because they get to serve and care for others.
- (B) First responders include workers from police and fire departments, as well as other emergency services.
- (C) Rebecca Asaro and her brother Marc both graduated from the FDNY Training Academy in 2019.
- (D) Rebecca Asaro and her brother Marc are next-generation firefighters who lost their father on 9/11.

Question 3

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *unwieldy*?

- (A) porous
- (B) cumbersome
- (C) beige
- (D) defective

Question 4

According to the Article, how are the experiences of Manny Mojica and Greg Kumpel similar?

- (A) Both Mojica and Kumpel graduated from the FDNY training academy in 2019, and both had fathers who liked to ride motorcycles.
- (B) Both Mojica and Kumpel lost their fathers on 9/11, and both have learned more about their fathers through joining the fire department.
- (C) Both Mojica and Kumpel had siblings who graduated from the FDNY training academy with them.
- (D) Both Mojica and Kumpel wrote that they wanted to be firefighters one day in their third-grade yearbooks.

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Which question is **not** answered by the Article?

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Question 6

Suppose Daniel wants to find out about applying for a job as a first responder. He would find **most** of his information _____.

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- Ⓑ on a database of fallen 9/11 first responders
- Ⓒ in an article about the equipment first responders use
- Ⓓ on a New York City Fire Department website

Question 7

Which two words are the closest **antonyms**?

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- Ⓐ debris and rubbish
- Ⓑ colleagues and adversaries
- Ⓒ indelibly and perpetually
- Ⓓ ultimate and paramount

Question 8

The author probably wrote this Article in order to _____.

- Ⓐ share stories about some children of fallen 9/11 firefighters who have chosen to become firefighters as well
- Ⓑ convince readers that firefighting is a physically demanding job that includes tasks like lugging unwieldy hoses
- Ⓒ describe the terrorist attacks that took place at the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001
- Ⓓ explain the tasks that would-be firefighters must complete in order to graduate from the FDNY Training Academy