

Probies

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of Tottenville both left the Police Department to pursue their long-time dreams of becoming firefighters and to honor their brothers' memories.

Michael Cammarata, 22, went through the same swearing-in ceremony last May and was in his ninth week of the 14-week rotation when he was killed.

The baby-faced athlete was assigned to Ladder Co. 11 in Lower Manhattan, and was reportedly the youngest member of the department killed in the line of duty. Tottenville High School and Wagner College both retired his hockey jersey number after his death and the Fire Department graduated him posthumously at the end of October.

"My brother has always been an inspiration to me, even though he was younger," said Joseph, a former officer with the Staten Island Task Force, who has a picture of Michael tattooed on his back. "He excelled at sports and he excelled in life."

When asked what will help him get through training he said, "The thought that my brother walked these halls, ran on these fields and studied these notes."

Joseph Pansini, an officer in the North Shore's 120th Precinct until resigning last week, had the same kind of close relationship with his brother.

Paul Pansini, also a former police officer, was married to his high school sweetheart and had three children. A black belt in judo, he was the union delegate for his firehouse, Engine Co. 10 on Liberty Street in Manhattan. The brothers were looking forward to serving together in the department.

"This has been a dream of mine for a long time," Joseph Pansini said. "If anything, this just gives me more motivation to go through with it."

Training for the department involves intense physical activity, where probies are exposed to smoke, fires and intense levels of heat. Construction on a new \$50 million addition to the training facility is under way on Randall's Island and expected to be finished within two years.



From top, Joe Cammarata of Huguenot and Joseph Pansini of Tottenville answer questions from the media after being sworn in as Fire Department probies during a ceremony at Randall's Island, while, at right, Edward McCann of Prince's Bay listens during the ceremony.



According to Bloomberg, the city is also considering sites for a new Office of Emergency Management bunker. The agency's high-tech headquarters was destroyed on Sept. 11. The new location, Bloomberg said, will not be in a skyscraper.