

Brother

Fire Department. Michael was in his ninth week of a 14-week rotation en route to graduating from the Fire Academy when he responded to the World Trade Center with Manhattan's Ladder Co. 11.

His family accepted his diploma posthumously on Oct. 27, but new bunker gear with "Cammarata" emblazoned in fluorescent yellow on the back — a uniform Michael never got to break in — still hangs on a railing spindle in their house, as it has since Sept. 11.

Cammarata began his quest by petitioning every house along the eight-block Kingdom Avenue, missing only three homes. He took his case last month to Community Board 3, which unanimously passed a motion to approve his request to rename the street.

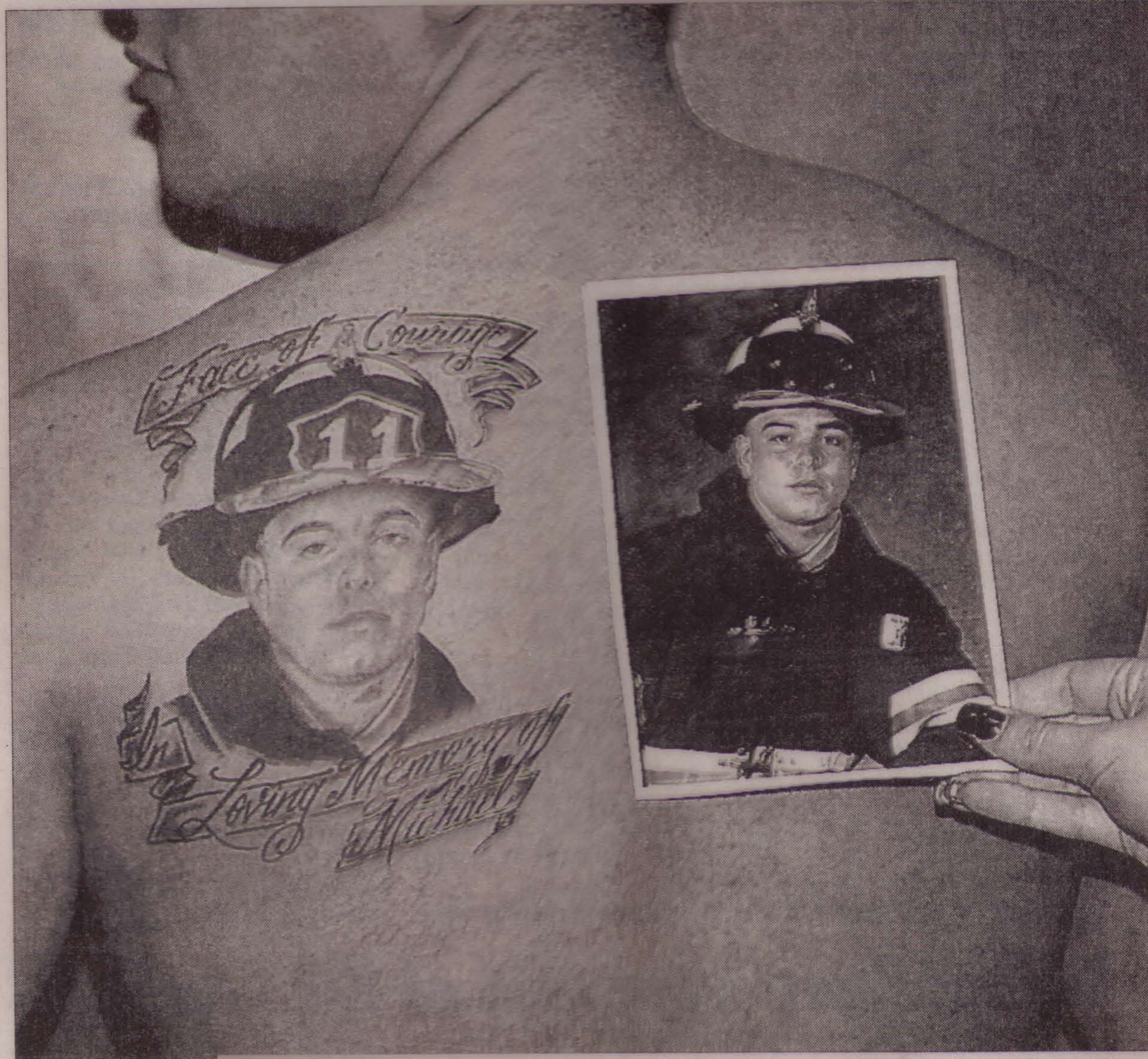
The office of South Shore City Councilman Andrew Lanza is currently drafting legislation for the request. It is expected to be submitted to the City Council Parks and Recreation Committee next week for consideration.

Kingdom Avenue would retain its official name, but would alternately be known as Michael Cammarata Drive, for instance.

"I don't see an impediment to this happening," Lanza said in a telephone interview. "I think it's something that would be a nice tribute to the family. Michael Cammarata did a lot for his community."

If the Parks and Recreation Committee approves the request, the City Council would vote on it, probably in late January, Lanza said.

Normally, renaming a city street is an arduous process fraught with red tape. Candidates must have made considerable contributions to their community or the city as a whole. Civil rights activists, celebrities and sports superstars are among the more common candidates. Staten Island examples include New Dorp Plaza, also named Anthony J. Crecca Plaza after the former Civil Court judge and defense at-



ADVANCE PHOTO ■ ANTHONY DIPRIMO

A photo held next to the tattoo Joe Cammarata had designed in the likeness of his late brother, Michael, shows just how accurate the skin art is.

torney; and Bennett Street in Port Richmond, which is dedicated to the Rev. Dr. William A. Epps, who served St. Philip's Baptist Church for 42 years.

But there is little question in Cammarata's mind that his brother, or anyone who died in the attack on the World Trade Center for that matter, deserves a memorial sign.

"He was a kid, really, who laid his life down to save others," Cammarata said. "If everyone wants a

street sign they should get a street sign. These people were going to certain death when others were fleeing certain death."

Maria DeCarlo is Cammarata's fiancée and has helped him cope with the loss of his brother. When asked how such a sign would comfort the Cammaratas, she answered simply, "Mike will be remembered after we're all gone."

The notion that Cammarata's request, if granted and publicized, could spark a slew of similar re-

quests to the City Council from the more than 3,000 families of Sept. 11 victims does not faze Lanza.

In fact, he said his staff is in the process of designing a memorial sign he hopes will be adopted by the city for all New York City victims of Sept. 11. Preliminary sketches have the sign in red, white and blue, and containing the name of the victim and possibly "9-11-01."

Lanza said a standard sign would need approval from the

mayor's office and the city Department of Transportation, not the City Council.

"I don't see any downside to doing this. If it's 3,000 signs we need, then it's 3,000 signs," Lanza said. "We need to constantly have this as a reminder. We need to set these people apart, put them on a pedestal as heroes, so that children and future generations will not forget them."

The latest figures show there were 3,045 casualties in the World Trade Center attack, 287 of whom were Staten Islanders and former Islanders, according to Advance files.

Cammarata said the street sign is "just the start" of a series of tributes he has planned, most of which he would not divulge for fear that others will "steal his ideas."

Two he agreed to share are his plans to plant a tree in Clove Lakes Park, accompanied by a memorial plaque, and to build a shrine to his brother on the corner of Huguenot Avenue and Jansen Street. It costs about \$500 to plant a memorial tree in Clove Lakes Park, and Cammarata said he will maintain the neighborhood shrine himself.

Indeed, Cammarata is a man of ideas, but coming up with them and paying for them are two different things. That's why the Cammaratas have opened a bank account to fund their projects. The family recently held a benefit at a nearby restaurant to raise money for the fund. Charging \$20 at the door and raffling off T-shirts, hats and 50/50 draw tickets, almost \$4,000 was raised, Cammarata said.

As for heeding his call to the Fire Department next month, Cammarata said he is welcoming the career change. He looks at it not only as a job, but as his duty now that his brother is gone.

"It's more significant now because I feel he'll be watching over me," Cammarata said. "It's a way for me to carry on his legacy."