

Islander finds ways to keep lost brother's memory alive

Tattoo artist recreates missing firefighter's image, and city may designate a Huguenot street in his honor

By **DAVID ANDREATTA**
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Two things help Joe Cammarata get through the day since his brother, Michael, went missing in the World Trade Center attack: The love of his fiancée and a burning passion to keep his brother's memory alive.

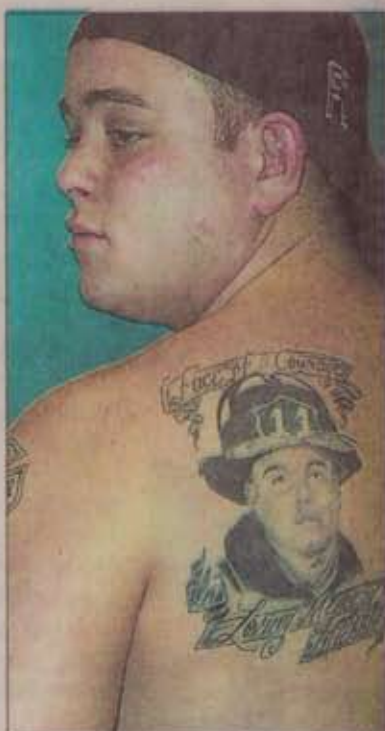
The Huguenot resident's plans to memorialize his brother, who at 22 years old was reportedly the youngest New York City firefighter ever killed in the line of duty, range from tree plantings to perpetual neighborhood shrines.

He recently went so far as to tattoo an image of Michael under the words, "Face of Courage," on his back. Cammarata is even leaving his job as a New York City police officer in January to join the Fire Academy — a longtime dream that has taken on a new immediacy in the wake of his brother's death.

But one plan in particular, a proposed street sign commemorating Michael's life, has gotten the attention of South Shore and City Council leaders. Cammarata, 24, has petitioned the city to place memorial signs under each Kingdom Avenue street sign, where the Cammaratas grew up together in Huguenot.

"The sign is the least we could do," said Cammarata, a cop with the Staten Island Task Force. "He lived here practically his whole life. To have a street named after him will give people an idea of who he was and what he stood for."

Ask neighbors what they remember best about Michael Cammarata and they most often say his athletic prowess and movie-star good looks. "Mike the Face," as he was known to friends, was a star hockey player at Tottenville High School and Wagner College. Both schools recently retired his number. He was also an optimist who loved his job with the



ADVANCE PHOTO ■ ANTHONY DePRIMO

Joe Cammarata displays his tattoo, the image of his brother, Firefighter Michael Cammarata, who was lost in the World Trade Center rescue effort.



ADVANCE PHOTO ■ MICHAEL McWEENEY

Joe Cammarata's fiancée, Maria DeCarlo, has helped him get through the loss of his brother.

PLEASE SEE **BROTHER**,
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