

Paul Rogers

IAABO members show courage every night when they enter the arena of high school basketball. We are all aware of this, but what we may not be aware of are other areas where our members enter that exhibit strength, courage, and caring about their fellow human beings. Such is the case of Paul Rogers - a member of IAABO Board # 119.

Paul has been an IAABO member since 1991 and is still very active. Currently working in NYC CHSAA (boys and girls), he is a college official for over five years with several different D1, D2, D3 and Junior College leagues/associations.

- Paul's other arena of courage is his day job with the NYPD. Paul joined the NYPD in 1985 and was stationed in Manhattan. After about ten years, he left the police department for FDNY. After a few years working in Queens in the fire department, he joined the Hazardous Materials Elite Team. Tragically, most of his brother fire fighters he was stationed with perished in the 9/11/01 tragedy. After spending over two weeks on "The Pile" at the former World Center site rescuing survivors, he knew he had to return to this elite team that showed such courage.
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- Upon rejoining this elite team, he eventually became the primary FDNY instructor for NYC with Hazardous Materials being his focus. In 2004 he became a Lt. in the FDNY which brought him back to the regular firehouse duty. His heart was still with the elite team and about a year ago, he re-entered the Hazardous Material Unit as an officer.
- With all of the training from this elite team, he has become involved with NYC Joint Fire and Police Department Urban Search and Rescue Team which fully blossomed from the 9/11 tragedy. His elite team of over 100 members works on a national and international scale spreading out over the world aiding the people of New Orleans and the earthquake ravaged Haiti.
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- In response to the tragedy in Haiti, Paul has given up his basketball schedule to travel with his team to Haiti. Since their arrival last week, the team has pulled out five people alive from collapsed buildings in Port-au-Prince. One of those was an American and another was a 7 year old girl pinned for five days with her deceased mother by her side. The media is only showing a limited insight to the utter chaos within the city of three million residents. The elite team does not assist anyone without a deployment of US Marines with them.
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- While the world is watching from afar, Paul Rogers and the NYC Urban Search and Rescue Team are on the ground trying to make a difference! Paul's valiant courage reflects well upon him and the IAABO creed. IAABO wishes him well and congratulates him and his team for their efforts in Haiti.