



FIFTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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## MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

November 16, 2012

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## COUNTY ROAD 97 TO BE REDEDICATED TO HONOR FALLEN FIREFIGHTER JOSEPH DIBERNARDO, JR.

PORT JEFFERSON, NY – A portion of Nicolls Road stretching from Route 347 to Fox Hunt Lane in Setauket will officially be dedicated in memory of fallen New York City and Setauket firefighter Joseph DiBernardo Jr. during a Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup> roadside ceremony. Following the dedication attendees will be invited back to the Setauket Fire House's Station #3 on Nicolls Road for a remembrance ceremony. The move comes one year to the week of DiBernardo's passing that has been associated with critical injuries he sustained while fighting a blaze in the Bronx.

In 2005, DiBernardo was one of six FDNY rescuers who were searching for people they thought might be trapped in an illegally subdivided building when they themselves suddenly became trapped. The firefighters desperately jumped or fell trying to escape the flames that surrounded them. DiBernardo reportedly helped another firefighter safely escape the fire before the rope that he was climbing down gave out. He landed on his feet, but shattered every bone below his waist, spending 18 days in a coma and requiring 20 hours of surgery on his legs. Two of the six firefighters did not survive the fall on what would come to be known as "Black Sunday."

In September, Legislator Kara Hahn won approval for a resolution to honor DiBernardo by renaming the road that passes the development where he lived as a child, and the Setauket Fire House where he served in his honor.

[MORE]

**LT. JOSEPH DiBERNARDO MEMORIAL ROAD DEDICATION CEREMONY:**

**DATE:** Monday, November 19, 2012

**TIME:** 3:30 PM

**DEDICATION EVENT:** Southbound side of Nicolls Road/County Road 97  
Approximately 150 feet south of Hastings Drive  
Stony Brook, New York

**REMEMBRANCE EVENT:** Setauket Fire Department  
Station #3  
394 Nicolls Road  
East Setauket, New York

**DIRECTIONS:** Long Island Expressway to Exit 62/County Road 97/ Nicolls Road north. Follow Nicolls Road north approximately 7.7 miles to Hasting Drive. Make a left onto Hastings Drive for parking. The sign dedication ceremony will be held along the southbound shoulder of Nicolls Road approximately 150 feet south of Hastings Drive. A remembrance ceremony will begin immediately after the sign is dedicated at the Setauket Fire House, Station #3.

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