TRAININGROOM



COP CORNER

with Jeff Blair

NYPD Blues 9-11 Memorial Tournament

Photos by Brian Caron; Article Contributions from Del Pickney and Rick Tirelli

here is a long history of tradition in police work and many of our traditions date back hundreds of years. One rather new and sad tradition is honoring our dead from the terrorist attacks which occurred on September 11, 2001. On average, the police profession will usually incur 150 to 200 line of duty deaths each year. On September 11, 2001, the United States lost 72 police officers to a terrorist attack which is the greatest single day loss of police officers in our country's history. Needless to say this is a day for remembrance for the police profession and our country as a whole.

Detective Rick Tirelli and his team the NYPD Blues, was dedicated to remembering the officers lost on that day. Rick Tirelli, who will be inducted into the Police Softball Hall of Fame later this year, has always been a great host and this year he pulled out all the stops. He and his reigning World Series Champions NYPD Blues team, made sure this tournament was extra special.

The tournament was held at two locations; Saturday the games were held at Moriches Complex and the second day was held at the Medford Complex. The tournament was not huge in the number of total teams, but it was talent laden and featured many of the BEASTS from the EAST in the police softball circuit. Included in this tournament were the reigning World Series Champion NYPD Blues, the #1



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New York City Fire Fighter, was also killed in the attack on our country.

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In the loser's bracket, Sunday had Minnesota beating JAX in a last inning win. The Great Lakes Lawmen beat N.Y. Metro. Minnesota then beat Suffolk and Great Lakes beat South Florida.

The Great Lakes then beat and sent home the Minnesota Lawmen to set up a game against the Shamrocks with the winner having to double dip the NYPD Blues.

The Shamrocks and the Great Lakes Lawmen both played well but it was the Shamrocks who got hot and sent Great Lakes home.

The Shamrocks were now rolling as they faced a cooled down NYPD Blues team. In game one, the Shamrocks easily beat the Blues and looked to be a team on a mission. In the "it" game, the NYPD Blues played inspired ball and plated 10 runs in the first inning. The Blues never looked back and rolled to victory.

It was extremely fitting that two teams from New York and New Jersey played in the finals of this tournament. If this were a movie, it would have been scripted that way due to the great number of losses these two states incurred on that fateful day.

The MVP of the tournament was NYPD Blues shortstop Kevin Wahlig who hit .700 and did not make a single error the entire weekend.

NYPD Blues all tournament selections were Casey Crandall, Brad Beamer and Butch Crozier who was also the 2010 PoliceSoftball.com Player of the Year.

All Tournament selections for the New Jersey Shamrocks were Greg Donophan, Tom D'Inito, Keith Ager and Pete Remaly.

All Tournament selections for the Great Lakes Lawmen were Mitch Hunter, Scott Waxweiler and Mike Panackia.

The NYPD Blues greatly appreciated all the support from the teams that traveled to be a part of this event honoring the heroes of 9-11. These brave men and women are gone but will never be forgotten

Top 7 Results - 9-11 10th Anniversary Commemorative Tournament: 1. NYPD Blues; 2. New Jersey Shamrocks; 3. Great Lakes Lawmen; T4. South Florida Lawmen; T4. Minnesota Lawmen; T6. Suffolk County Lawmen; T6. Jacksonville PSC; T7. N.Y. Metro; T7. DBQ.

The National Anthem was sung by Michael Tirelli who left players and all in attendance with chills throughout their bodies. The roll call honoring the NYPD officers was read by PBA Trustee Daniel Tirelli and SBA Vice President Robert Ganley. The 37 Port Authority names were read by Detective Shawn Fitzpatrick from Port Authority P.D.

After the solemn opening ceremony, PLAY BALL was yelled and the teams began battling to see who would claim the crown.

In the double elimination round JAX beat DBQ. The South Florida Lawmen beat the Minnesota Lawmen. The NYPD Blues beat the Jacksonville Police Softball Club. Suffolk County Lawmen beat The Great Lakes Lawmen.