

## **Assemblyman Harvey Weisenberg Honored with 2009 FASNY Golden Trumpet**



At a recent board meeting of the Firemen’s Association of the State of New York (FASNY), members voted to award the Golden Trumpet to Assemblyman Harvey Weisenberg, in recognition of his contributions to the betterment of the volunteer fire response community.

In considering candidates for this longstanding and time-honored award, FASNY’s Board and Legislative Committee look for individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to supporting the volunteer fire service and addressing issues important to New York’s more than 130,000 volunteer fire and EMS personnel.

Assemblyman Weisenberg’s selection as Golden Trumpet recipient places him in the company of Assembly Member RoAnn Destito, Senator Dale Volker, Senator John Bonacic, Assembly Member Dick Smith, Assembly Member Bill Magee and Senator James Seward, all of whom received the award over the past decade.

Tom Cuff, FASNY President, in recognizing Assemblyman Weisenberg as Golden Trumpet recipient, noted that, “The award is given strictly to public figures who have contributed great time and dedication to matters of legislation and public perception.” He added that, “Harvey Weisenberg, in standing up for FASNY and the 130,000 volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel it represents on key issues and concerns, richly deserves this award.”

Weisenberg is best known to FASNY’s rank-and-file as the legislator who introduced A9490A, which would have ensured Paul Brady and Wilbur Ritter, deceased volunteer firefighters from Long Island, a place on the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Wall. Although the legislation did not matriculate, Weisenberg hosted an event dedicated to honor volunteer fire and EMS responders, and has passed resolutions commemorating the week of June 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> as Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Week in NYS and was instrumental in working with then Governor George Pataki in establishing the Fallen Firefighter Memorial wall in Albany.

The Assemblyman is an honorary Captain in the Oceanside Fire Department, Inwood Fire Department, Atlantic Beach Fire Department and an honorary member at the Meadowmere Park Fire Department. Since elected, the Assemblyman has secured in excess of one million dollars in grant money earmarked for his local fire departments as well as towards the building of the Firefighter Memorial at the Nassau County Fire Museum.

Working through the volunteer fire companies in his district and with FASNY, Weisenberg has continued to be an outspoken advocate for the volunteer responder. He voted against the recently enacted Consolidation legislation, and worked in support of the corrective legislation re-establishing the volunteer fire exemption from the Commercial Drivers License.

Assemblyman Weisenberg is frequently seen attending FASNY regional legislative outreach meetings with his wife, Ellen. They reside in Long Beach and have five children and six grandchildren.