

Life Matters Founder Dr. Michael Lonski Recognized at Tribute Dinner

January 23, 2006 – Life Matters Founder Dr. Michael Lonski was among those recognized for service to the emergency first responder community in the aftermath of September 11 at the Inaugural Dinner of the Gear-Up Foundation.

Dr. Lonski was being recognized for his efforts to provide healing, hope and resiliency to firefighters, first responders, Emergency Medical Services technicians, Medical Examiners, Department of Transportation personnel (SI ferry), Metropolitan Transportation Authority workers, military and Homeland Security personnel and their families who have been impacted by critical incidents including 9/11.

Also honored at Gear-Up's dinner at Tavern on the Green were:

- Dr. Steven Levin, Head of Mount Sinai-I.J. Selikoff Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine and an advocate for the long-term health needs of victims of September 11th;
- The Honorable Thomas Von Essen, the Fire Commissioner of the City of New York at the time of the September 11th attacks, now a Senior Vice President at Giuliani Partners and Chief Executive Officer of Giuliani-Von Essen LLC, which is an affiliate of Giuliani Partners.;
- US Congressman Steve Israel, the Assistant Democratic Whip he chairs the Democratic Caucus' Task Force on Defense and Military Issues and serves on the House Armed Services Committee.
- US Congressman Curt Weldon; he is a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee, and a former volunteer firefighter;
- Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney who has been a strong advocate for New Yorkers post-9/11 and who co-created the 9/11 Commission Caucus upon the release of the commission's final report to ensure that each of the Commission's 41 recommendations would be made into law.
- The Rev. William J. Weber of St. George Episcopal Church and the Founder of the New York Fellowship;
- Patrick Gambaro, Executive Vice President of Information Technology for the New York Board of Trade;
- Vicente Wong, CEO of the Favorita Group; and
- Joaquin Zevallos, the former President of the Chamber of Commerce of Guayaquil, Ecuador.

The Gear-Up Foundation is a non-profit whose mission is to bring hope and support to first responders in need around the globe.