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Chief Al Pizzano Honored During Annual NYPD Medal Day Ceremony

PLEASANT HILL, Iowa – New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and Police Commissioner Bill Bratton honored 53 members of the New York City Police Department; including Pleasant Hill Police Chief Al Pizzano, retired NYPD Captain of the Emergency Service Unit at the annual NYPD Medal Day ceremony.

The annual New York Police Department (NYPD) Medal Day ceremony pays tribute to the exemplary public servants who continue to strengthen the New York City communities across the five boroughs, as well as remember all of the selfless individuals who have made the ultimate sacrifice, while protecting the lives and safety of us all.

“Being one of the 53 members honored during this ceremony was humbling. During my time as Captain, I was focused on protecting the lives of those coming into the City each and every day. Each of the members honored last week, have gone above and beyond the call of duty, while demonstrating professionalism. I am grateful to be one of the 53 honorees this year and I stand proud knowing that as members of law enforcement, we deliver services with integrity while serving the citizens within our community,” said Pleasant Hill Police Chief Al Pizzano.

Chief Al Pizzano received the Police Combat Cross, NYPD’s second highest award. This medal is granted to members who have successfully and intelligently performed an act of extraordinary heroism while being engaged in combat with an armed adversary under circumstances of imminent personal hazard to life.

On April 8, 2012, Chief Pizzano and five other members of the NYPD’s elite Emergency Service Unit responded to a radio call of a man with a firearm inside an apartment building. During the negotiation with the perpetrator, the perpetrator fired at police, injuring a number of Emergency Service Unit Officers. After being injured by gunfire, Pizzano and the other Officers under his leadership were able to apprehend the perpetrator without any civilian casualties inside the incident scene.

“It’s truly humbling to know the Chief of our City received this medal for his bravery during his time of service in New York City. We are certainly proud of his heroism and we are all grateful he is here to protect the citizens of Pleasant Hill. Chief Pizzano is a professional and his actions exemplify true leadership. His dedication to those within our community and the members of the Pleasant Hill Police Department makes me proud knowing he is a member of the Pleasant Hill family,” said Mayor Sara Kurovski.

Pizzano began his law enforcement career with the NYPD in January 1987. He quickly moved up the ranks and became Special Operations Lieutenant in Brooklyn, New York; Commanding Officer Detective at Zone 18 in Queens; and ended his career with NYPD as Commander of the Emergency Service Unit. During his time as Commander of the Emergency Service Unit, Pizzano trained and supervised 200 officers and 30 civilian employees in the boroughs of Brooklyn and Staten Island and was responsible for all K-9 resources citywide. Pizzano left the NYPD to join Homefront Protective Group as Executive Vice President, where he analyzed police agencies and administered police training courses.

Pizzano became Chief for the City of Pleasant Hill on September 14, 2015. Chief Pizzano has enjoyed working with staff to advance their leadership skills and create opportunities to continue moving this community forward.

To view all recipients of the NYPD Medal Day Ceremony, [click here](#).