ANSWER THE CALL
N.Y. POLICE AND FIRE
WIDOWS' & CHILDREN'S BENEFIT FUND

41ST ANNUAL GALA RECAP

Thursday, October 22, 2026
Cipriani Wall Street



On October 22nd, Answer the Call proudly hosted its 41st Annual Gala at Cipriani Wall Street, welcoming more than 1,300 guests for an unforgettable evening honoring the families of our fallen heroes.

Thanks to the incredible leadership of our board of directors, the tireless efforts of our honoree, Martin J. Geller, and a strong community of supporters, this year's gala raised more than $6.4 million, a new record for this event! This extraordinary milestone is especially meaningful as we marked the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001.

Joined by dedicated supporters, department leadership, and the families we serve, our speakers shared heartfelt tributes and inspiring speeches celebrating the lives and legacies of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The evening began with a presentation of the colors by the FDNY, NYPD, and PAPD Color Guards, followed by opening remarks by Answer the Call Chairman Stephen Dannhauser, and a special performance of the National Anthem by Julian Davis, son of PAPD Police Officer Clinton Davis, Sr. (Ultimate Sacrifice: 9/11/2001).



Our 2026 Gala Honoree, Martin J. Geller, was presented with the Daniel J. “Rusty” Staub Award in recognition of his long-standing support of our mission by his son, Logan Geller, and former Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Geller has been a member of our Board of Directors for over 20 years.

Our beneficiary speaker, Patricia Smith, daughter of NYPD Police Officer Moira Smith (Ultimate Sacrifice: 9/11/2001), delivered a powerful tribute to her mother. In a special surprise following her heartfelt speech, Patricia was announced as the first recipient of the *Answer the Call Scholarship: Presented by Allied World*.









Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and the success of this year's gala, Answer the Call is proud to provide each family we serve with a one-time donation of $15,000, in addition to their $15,000 stipend, for a total of $30,000 per family in 2026.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who made this evening possible and continues to stand alongside the families of our fallen FDNY,

NYPD, and PAPD heroes.

A special thank you to the following individuals who served as Gala Chairs:

Bill Ackman & Neri Oxman
Candace Beinecke, Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP
Beth & Steve Dannhauser
Wesley Dupont, Allied World Assurance Company
Rob Goldstein, BlackRock
Marjorie & Josh Harris
Stephen A. Kepniss, LMC
Peter J. Klein, Friedlander Fd & ALINE Wealth
Keith Lukasavich, Citi
Kurt MacAlpine, Corient
Sandra & Michael McCabe
Philip V. Moyles, Jr., EPIC Insurance Brokers & Consultants
Edward Skyler, Citi
Michael Traube, Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP
Keith Walsh, AIG

Click below to watch our 41st Annual Gala Recap Video



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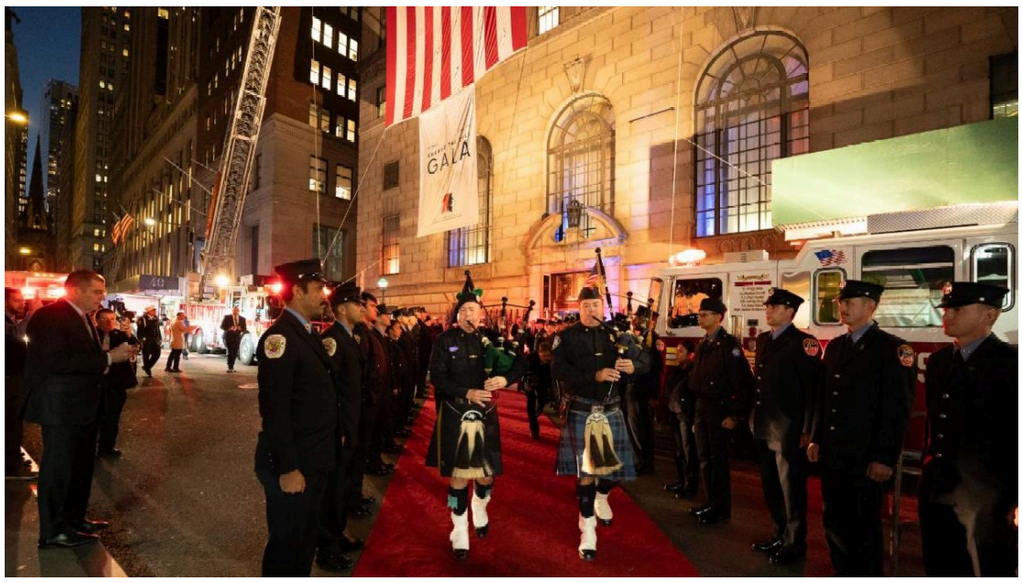










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SAVE THE DATE

42nd Annual Gala: October 28, 2027

We are delighted to announce that **Louis P. Iglesias, President and Chief Executive Officer** of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd, will be the honoree at Answer the Call's 42nd Annual Gala on Thursday, October 28, 2027, at Cipriani Wall Street. We look forward to celebrating Lou and his generous support of the families of our fallen first responders.

Anyone interested in making an early pledge of support may contact staff@answerthecall.org.

NY Police & Fire Widows' & Children's Benefit Fund | 156 W. 56th Street, 901 | New York, NY 10019 US

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