

# Welcome to the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual FDNY Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Run



## **ROUTE:**

Starts at the Gowanus approach to the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel, goes through the Tunnel, north onto West Street, left onto Liberty Street, to Battery Park Esplanade, right (east) on Warren Street, right (south) onto West Street and finishes at West & Vesey Streets, across from the World Trade Center.

## **REGULATIONS:**

New York City security regulations mandate that no photographs or broadcast footage be taken inside the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel. A flatbed truck will be available to transport reporters and cameras through Tunnel to Manhattan finish ahead of runners. Journalists **MUST** reserve a spot on the truck before the run, due to space limitations.

## **VANTAGE POINTS:**

**STARTING LINE** at Red Hook, Brooklyn at the mouth of the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel, on the Gowanus approach; **RACE STARTS AT 9:30 A.M. SHARP**  
Runners emerging from Brooklyn Battery Tunnel – **as early as 9:38 a.m.**

**FINISH LINE** on Vesey Street facing the former World Trade Center. Runners crossing the finish line– **as early as 9:48 a.m.** Once the 25,000 race participants have cleared the tunnel, the flag bearers will march in formation down Vesey Street, across from Ground Zero.

## **OTHER PHOTO OPPS:**

- Opening ceremony – at the Starting Line at 8:45 will begin with Frank Siller, one of Stephen's brothers, along with Mayor Rudy Giuliani and celebrity Dennis Miller will be presenting a hand-cranked racing bike to wounded soldier Jorge Olalde.
- At 9 a.m., as least 100 FDNY fire-riders and other motorcycle troops will be heading through the tunnel as a group.
- Sally Siller (Stephen's widow) along with quadruple amputee veteran Corp. Todd Nicely, Fire Commissioner Salvatore Cassano and a team of Wounded Warriors will get a head start **at 9:11 a.m. sharp** at Red Hook, Brooklyn at the mouth of the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel, on the Gowanus approach. They will be flanked by 1,600 West Point cadet who will escort them into the tunnel. **Prior to the run, the Wounded Warriors will be gathering in front of a fire station at 201 Van Brundt Street.**
- Firefighters and military in full gear will be up front leading the runners. 343 of New York's Bravest along with firefighters from across America and armed service members will be lined up and greet runners as they exit the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel, holding flags and banners honoring those who were lost. Holding American flags as honor guards for their lost brothers.
- Celebrities Dennis Miller, John Turturro, and former NYC Mayor, Rudy Giuliani and actor Gary Sinise will be sharing their thoughts on the 10-year anniversary of 9/11 at the finish line of the race.
- The event will culminate in a carnival-like celebration, including musical acts, free refreshments, performance artists, and activities for kids and more. There will also be a free concert by actor/musician Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band.

## **FACTS/TALKING POINTS/STORY ANGLES:**

On the morning of Sept.11, Stephen was off-duty, having just finished an overnight shift, and was headed back to Staten Island to go home to his wife and five children before meeting his older brothers for a round of golf. Instead, he picked up the news on his scanner about the attack on the World Trade Center. He immediately turned his vehicle around, and headed toward the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel. When he found that traffic was not being permitted to enter the tunnel, he strapped his 75-lb gear to his back, and sprinted along the catwalk towards Manhattan. At the end of the tunnel, Stephen was picked up by a fire crew, and transported to West Street and Liberty, near Ground Zero. His family believes that he attempted to meet up with Squad Co. 1 and raced into the Towers to do what he did best: save lives and comfort survivors. Neither Stephen nor any of his Squad Co.1 mates survived.

- New York City's most beloved 9/11 remembrance event gives participants the chance to physically retrace the footsteps of Stephen Siller, the late FDNY firefighter who made the ultimate sacrifice during his heroic efforts to rescue survivors of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack.
- **More than 25,000 participants** from all across the world, from as far away as England and Hawaii are expected to embark upon New York City to attend the Run/Walk.
- A contingent of **1,500 West Point cadets and 200 firefighters from London** are on hand to honor those who perished in the terrorist attack.
- **War veterans and the first quadruple amputees** to survive the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, **Todd Nicely and Brendan Marrocco**, are in attendance. Marrocco received a custom-built "smart" [home](#) courtesy of Building Homes for Heroes in conjunction with the Siller Foundation. Nicely, who is participating in the event, will also receive a "smart" home.
- A special "Brother for Brother" Firefighter Remembrance Program is undertaken each year by firehouses from all over the country. By competing in the 5K event, these firefighters raise money for the Foundation and for the burn center of their choice. Also, they will stand shoulder to shoulder inside the tunnel next to members of the FDNY holding American flags and banners depicting the portraits of the 343 fallen heroes.
- For the first time ever, **nearly [50 Tunnel to Towers Runs](#) took place throughout the country on 9/11**, providing communities with an opportunity to commemorate the day. Each host city that participated in the 50 Tunnel to Towers runs across the country have sent a firefighter and military person to participate in this NYC Run.
- Since the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation's inception in 2002, this annual event and other related fundraising activities **have raised more than \$10.1 million:**
  - **\$2.5 million** to military support – Hope for the Warriors, USA Cares, Blue Star "MOMS"
  - **\$2.1 million** for Annual Tunnel to Towers Memorial Tribute Run
  - **\$2.2 million** for Stephen's House, a home created by the New York Foundling
  - **\$2 million** for Katrina Children's Relief Fund
  - **\$700,000** NY Firefighter Burn Center and Burn Centers Across America
  - **\$475,000** for Legacy Award and Wings of a Hero Awards
  - **\$200,000** for children's charities: Kidsave, Seamans Society, and other local NYC charities
- Charitable Partners:
  - **ESS**, makers of ballistic eyewear for military, law enforcement have created "Remember 9.11," a limited edition sunglass collection available to the public through <http://www.esseyepro.com/remember--> 25% of the proceeds go to the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation.
  - The event's pacecar is a **NASCAR** driver David Gilliland's No. 34 "Honoring Our Heroes Ford Fusion, which he drove at Richmond on Sept. 10, 2011, just one day before the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11. The sides of Gilliland's car feature the number 34(3) – in tribute to the 343 firefighters who lost their lives on that tragic day. The Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation logo is featured on the hood. Lionel created a specially-designed "**2011 Honoring Our Heroes" Ford Fusion die-cast**. The once-in-a-lifetime collectible is available online for \$39.95 and a portion of the sales from each car will be donated to the Foundation.
  - **The New York Tenors** are donating 100% of the proceeds from the download of their song "I Won't Turn My Back On You" -- the Official Anthem of The Tunnel to Towers Foundation. The song is available for download at [www.tunneltotowersrun.org](http://www.tunneltotowersrun.org)

- Even if you're not at the T2T Run, you can still get involved. Text **"Remember"** to **80888** to give a \$10 donation to the Foundation.