



# AFRICAN AMERICAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

## EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIVE

VOLUME I, ISSUE I

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### NEWSLETTER

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### GRAPHICS

**GERARD MORENCY**

## THE DEPARTMENT

### Martin Luther King Jr. Day

There are moments when time almost seems to stand still and you realize that you are witnessing history in the making, one such instance engulfing many who attended the Jan. 17 honoring of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Trinity Church. Sanitation men and women assembled at Local 831's union hall on Cliff ST. for a march to Trinity Church.



Mr. Jesse Epps a union organizer from Memphis, Tenn. recalled the thousands of death threats leveled against him and Mr. King whom he had marched with hours before Mr. King was assassinated on the balcony on the Lorraine Motel on the morning of April 4, 1968. Mr. Epps expressed that the success of the DSNY strike was the catalyst witnessed around the world inspiring the Memphis sanitation workers to immediately follow suit, the Memphis strike was initially met with horrific resistance, however, they stood firm in the belief of equality and in spite of near insurmountable resistance they prevailed.

Harry Nespoli conveyed to those in attendance the importance of acquiring the Martin Luther King holiday, pointing out the eternal link between Mr. King and sanitation workers everywhere, underscoring the difficult negotiating challenges faced in securing the day as a paid holiday adding that the Sanitationmens Association (Local 831) are the first uniformed service in the city to acquire the day as a paid holiday.



Mr. William C. Thompson Jr. NYC Comptroller noted that in Memphis back in 1968 there were vast differences between black and white sanitation workers, in addition to wage differences, black sanitation workers were not allowed to ride in the truck cab with their white coworkers inevitably setting a course for tragedy. In an effort to get out of the rain and unable to ride in the truck cab two black sanitation workers Echol Cole and Robert Walker took shelter in the truck hopper and were crushed to death in a truck malfunction.

Mayor Bloomberg pointing out just how dangerous a job sanitation work is conveyed that he is one of our biggest fans and had nothing but praise for the sanitation men and women.

### History Of The Department A Brief Look Back

Starting out with a handful of mostly volunteer street sweepers who could have dreamt that they would envelop into the New York City Department of Sanitation, employing nearly 10,000 workers. In 1929 the Department of Street Sweepers became the Department of Sanitation, times being what they were 80,000 people applied and a lucky 1,000 were hired. Today employment within the DSNY is much sought after.



Respected nationwide for dedication of service in difficult labor intense filed days and nights ranging from blazing summers to blizzard ridden winters the men and women of the DSNY will continue to rise and meet each new challenge.

### In Memory Of

**LYNDON (BOBBY) LEWIS October 9, 1970 – March 7, 2008.**

Bobby entered service in 1999, promoted to the rank of Supervisor and assigned to QW1 in July of 2004.

His personal time was split between his family life and his many home improvement projects; Bobby was also passionate in regard to his music and extensive collector-grade comic book collection. He was well liked, good spirited and quick to put a smile on someone else's face.

Bobby leaves behind a loving family, wife and two young school age children – he will be missed dearly.

Bobby's family wanted the department to know how deeply moved they were with the display of support shown by the Department and in the way the Department has reached out to them in their time of sorrow.

### Announcements

#### Community Mayors Inc.

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Ringling Brothers & Barnum Bailey Circus. If you want to volunteer meet at the corner of 33<sup>rd</sup> ST and 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. at 8:30 AM.

#### Bronx Dance

Saturday, July 19, 2008