



Memorandum

To: Mayor Michael Ryan, Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Guzman, Assistant Deputy Mayor Latoya Clark, Commissioner Neil Kerch, Commissioner Joseph Scuotto

From: John K. McNamara, Fire Chief

Date: August 31, 2026

Re: Recognition of Retired Sunrise Fire Rescue Personnel – USAR Florida Task Force II
The 25th Anniversary of the September 11th, 2001, Terrorist Attacks

CC: Retired Sunrise Fire Rescue Members Battalion Chief Christopher Sorrentino, Captain Joseph Sorrentino, Captain Christopher Benemio

On September 11, 2001, our nation experienced an unprecedented act of terrorism that forever changed the United States and the lives of millions of Americans. In the immediate aftermath of the attacks, firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical personnel, Urban Search and Rescue teams, and countless others answered the call to assist with rescue and recovery efforts.

Among those who responded were three members of the Sunrise Fire-Rescue Department serving on Urban Search and Rescue – Florida Task Force II (FL-TF2).

Retired members – Battalion Chief Christopher Sorrentino, Captain Joseph Sorrentino, Jr., and Captain Christopher Benemio – deployed with Florida Task Force II in response to the September 11 terrorist attacks, joining search-and-rescue personnel from throughout the country during one of the most consequential emergency responses in our nation's history.

Their deployment placed them among the thousands of first responders who left their homes, families, and communities to help a nation confront an unimaginable tragedy. They brought the specialized training, experience, and commitment required of members of an Urban Search and Rescue Task Force, while also carrying the name of the Sunrise Fire-Rescue Department and the City of Sunrise.

Twenty-five years later, their service remains worthy of our remembrance and gratitude.

Although each has since retired from the Sunrise Fire-Rescue Department, with one, Captain Benemio, recently passing away from brain cancer, remarkably, both Battalion Chief Chris Sorrentino and Captain Joseph Sorrentino, Jr. have continued their commitment to Urban Search and Rescue and remain affiliated with Florida Task Force II. Their continued service represents a career-long dedication to helping others during some of the most difficult and challenging circumstances imaginable.

As our nation observes the 25th Anniversary of September 11, 2001, the City of Sunrise has a special opportunity to recognize three of its own who answered the call during that historic moment.

Their actions remind us that the history of September 11 is not only a national story. It is also a local story—one that includes members of our own Fire-Rescue family who stepped forward when our country needed them.

The City of Sunrise expresses its profound appreciation for their service during one of the darkest moments in our nation's history and recognizes their continued dedication to the Urban Search and Rescue mission over the past twenty-five years.

Their courage, professionalism, and commitment to service brought distinction to themselves, the Sunrise Fire-Rescue Department, and the City of Sunrise.

Twenty-five years later, we remember their service, we honor their commitment, and we thank them for answering the call.