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Local Three heroes of 9/11 die of cancer in five days

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Three heroes of 9/11 die of cancer in five days

BY [STEPHANIE GASKELL](#)
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Monday, October 12th 2009, 4:44 AM



Robert Grossman, a police officer who worked at Ground Zero following 9/11, died of cancer on Friday.

A firefighter and two cops who worked at Ground Zero in the days and weeks after Sept. 11 have died of cancer in the past five days, the Daily News has learned.

Family members and advocates are blaming their deaths on toxins released into the air after the twin towers collapsed - and they're urging Congress to act on a bill that would help pay for their medical care.

"Everybody is denying that this stuff is connected to 9/11, but it is," said [Stephen Grossman](#), whose son Robert died of cancer on Friday at the age of 44.

[Robert Grossman](#) was a police officer in [Harlem](#) who worked at Ground Zero for several weeks after Sept. 11.

"He never once said he was sorry he went down there," Grossman said. "None of them walked away even though they all knew it was really dangerous."

The day after Grossman passed away, Firefighter Richard Mannetta, 44, died of cancer. And last Wednesday, 37-year-old [Police Officer Cory Diaz](#) died of cancer.

Firefighter [John McNamara](#), 44, died of cancer last month.

"Unfortunately, it's just going to happen more and more," Stephen Grossman said. "I hope next week there isn't four."

Grossman said even though his son lost his battle, there are still many more first responders who are sick.

"This country just says, 'That's fine. We'll just wait another 15 to 20 years and you'll all be dead and we'll all be sorry,'" he said. "This country is better than that."

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The [James Zadroga](#) 9/11 Health and Compensation Act - named after an [NYPD](#) detective who died from his post-9/11 ailments - is still sitting in Congress, and Grossman and others are urging lawmakers to act now.

"These three deaths are proof that we need this bill passed today - not a year from now," said [John Feal](#), founder of the [FealGood Foundation](#).

The bill would provide \$10 billion for medical care for hundreds of first responders who have since become ill. But doctors haven't directly linked these illnesses to the [World Trade Center](#).

"The facts are indisputable," said [Kenny Specht](#), 40, a firefighter who worked for the NYPD on Sept. 11 and was diagnosed with thyroid cancer three years ago. "This week alone proves what we've been saying is absolutely occurring."

Feal said the deaths of Grossman, Diaz and Mannetta in a span of five days is hard to ignore.

"How do you get this high cluster of serious cancer in just people that worked the pile?" he said. "That isn't a coincidence."

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Arnie

6:34:27 AM
Oct 12, 2009

Thought this would be of interest to readers. Since September 2001 I have maintained a free and confidential "9/11 list-serv". The "9/11 list-serv" distributes daily e-mails containing newspaper articles and other relevant information re: 9/11 issues of interest to 9/11 families, 9/11 organizations and interested individuals. The 9/11 List-serv archives can be accessed at <http://groups.google.com/group/911-list-serv> If you would like to 'subscribe' to this free news service - send an e-mail to amkorotkin at aol dot com with the word "subscribe" in the subject box. Arnie

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tonyfire

8:44:11 AM
Oct 12, 2009

congress can pass cash for clunkers in days...but when it comes to helping real Americans who rush to help...they are turn their backs on them.. Gov Whitman lied and said the air was in acceptable limits.....call your congressman help them , they really need our help. tell them to pass 9-11 health bill before it is too late

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FitDiva

3:30:24 PM
Oct 12, 2009

Absolutely tragic. The bums in Congress are despicable. I will be calling on speed dial every hour I will be calling to remind them of t his travesty. Rest assured there will be more deaths. I work in Lower Manhattan and the air quality has never been the same since that awful day. God bless the responders and volunteers. We must take care of them like they took care of us during that horrific time.

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jpyanks

9:29:29 PM
Oct 12, 2009

Not only has the Fed not done the right thing here, our state and city "leaders" have not either. Bloomberg said Officer Zadroga was "not a

6.

[Phillips mistress filed restraining order against ex-Met GM](#)
7.

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Steve Phillips' allegedly troubled paramour says she filed a restraining order.



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Are these celebs relaxing or working it for the camera?

hero". Google it! The city's Chief Med. Examiner said the officer died from self-injection of ground drugs, not illness as related to 9/11 as determined by Ocean Cty, NJ. The CME serves at the pleasure of the mayor and isn't completely independent. Keep this mind as Election Day approaches. Bloomberg may have apologized, but his intent is to deny benefits to these officers and their families b/c it would cost too much. This coming from a billionaire.

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phyzotek

12:42:22 AM Radiation poisoning, from breathing in radioactive dust.
Oct 13, 2009

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tishy

3:18:56 AM So sad so many of these people went in day after day trying to help,
Oct 13, 2009 only to suffer & die from illnesses related to their heroism. Then in death made to feel as if their efforts were for nothing.

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escapefromobamastan

11:10:24 AM For all these victims to receive justice, we have to know who the
Oct 13, 2009 perpetrators are. <http://dprogram.net/2009/04/13/danish-scientist-on-tv-nano-thermite-behind-collapse-of-wtc-buildings-on-911-not-planes/> Who was responsible for security at the WTC before 9/11? The company's contract expired 9/10/2001. <http://whatreallyhappened.com/WRHARTICLES/911security.html> The company went public on 9/11. Side effects of exposure to nanothermite???

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