



DILLON J. RINALDO

"The hero is the man who lets no obstacle prevent him from pursuing the values he has chosen."

MARCH 14, 1997 - OCTOBER 24, 2023

Dillon Joseph Rinaldo, born on March 14, 1997, in Ridgewood, NJ, was called home on October 24, 2023. Captain Rinaldo, a six-year veteran of the Baltimore City Fire Department, was battling a fire when he was severely burned and then fought his bravest fight for six days.

Born to Ralph and Geraldine Rinaldo, Dillon was known in his hometown of Fair Lawn, NJ, as the “firehouse kid.” As a toddler, he had turnout gear at the base of his bed and would listen to his father’s fire radio so he could try to respond to calls with his father. He and his best friends took turns pulling their red wagon, their “fire truck,” and saving the very lucky citizens of their imaginary world. He joined his father for many years as a volunteer at Fair Lawn’s Company Four Engine. Dillon’s dream of being a full-time firefighter was realized in 2017 when he was hired by the Baltimore City Fire Department.

He quickly accomplished training and skills to be the best firefighter he could be for his brothers, sisters, and Baltimore. We are all deeply proud of Dillon.

Dillon was a fair, steady, and honorable leader. As his BCFD family said, he could hold a room in his hand without saying a word. Dillon listened first and was always pragmatic. He led by example and empowered those around him. He was a natural but worked hard every single day to improve.

Dillon was charismatic and always smiling. He was the first to crack a joke or play a prank... just ask his firehouse or his little sister, Danielle. It brought him great joy to make those he loved purely happy. He could make friends with complete strangers and always had a story to tell. Somehow, he seemed to know everyone. Everyone is better for knowing Dillon.

Dillon was brilliant. He proudly completed his Bachelor of Fire Science with a 4.0 GPA. He was the valedictorian of his BCFD Academy class. He loved history documentaries and learning how something was made. He could fix just about anything. He loved to read and be inspired. He was inspiring. An avid sports fan himself, he was well-accomplished as the Fair Lawn High School quarterback and lacrosse captain and went on to play lacrosse in college.

Dillon was dependable, protective, safe, solid, and ever-present. Dillon felt like home. Dillon built a beautiful life. When he asked his fiancée, Lauren, to be his wife, he truly promised to embody what a best friend, teammate, and husband means. He lived each day pouring love into his relationship; there was not a day that went by that he did not say, “I love you.” His love made him magnetic, and the pair were inseparable for the five years they were together. He made time stand still. His love made everything better. He told her parents that he loved her endlessly, a statement that remains true. Dillon’s love is endless, and we are forever changed for experiencing such love. We love Dillon endlessly.

Dillon is a beloved son, brother, fiancé, soon-to-be son-in-law, grandson, nephew, cousin, friend, and neighbor.

To be loved by Dillon was to know true unconditional love. He had the heart of a lion, his strength deeply ingrained into every fiber of his being. He had the fighting spirit of an Irishman and the serenity of the cool, rainy fall days he loved.

He appreciated the simplest things, which he always recognized were most important.

Dillon changed lives. Dillon saved lives. Dillon loved to live life. We should all live like Dillon.

The name Dillon Rinaldo lives eternally as a hero of Baltimore City and a hero to each one of us.



ORDER OF SERVICE

CELEBRANTS

FATHER LOUIS A. BIANCO & CHAPLAIN FR. TERRENCE MURPHY

PROCESSIONAL

OPENING HYMN

“BE NOT AFRAID”

BLESSING OF THE CASKET

PLACING OF THE PALL

OPENING PRAYER

CIVIC SPEAKERS

GOVERNOR WES MOORE

MAYOR BRANDON SCOTT

CHIEF JAMES WALLACE

PRESIDENT LOCAL 964 JOSHUA FANNON

OLD TESTAMENT READING

WISDOM 3: 1-9 READ BY FRANK CONNORS

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

NEW TESTAMENT READING

REVELATION 7: 9-17 READ BY ANNE MARKS

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 26: 36-42 READ BY CHAPLAIN FR. TERRENCE MURPHY

FAMILY SPEAKERS:

LAUREN RIDLON

DANIELLE RINALDO

CAPTAIN DAVID GUERCIO

HOMILY

CHAPLAIN FR. TERRENCE MURPHY

GENERAL INTERCESSION PRAYERS

THE FAMILY

THE LORD’S PRAYER

RITE OF COMMENDATION

SONG OF FAREWELL

FINAL BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“TAKE ME HOME”