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# FIREFIGHTER®

THE VOLUNTEER

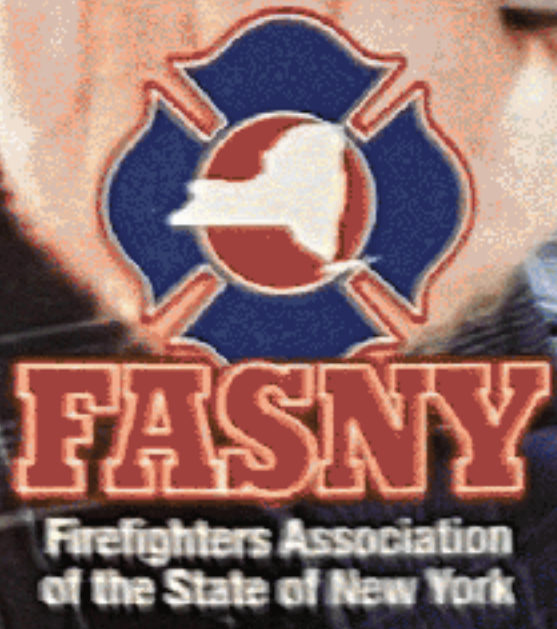


**FASNY**  
HOSTS 151ST  
CONVENTION IN  
NIAGARA FALLS

BLOCK PARTY FEATURING NERDS GONE WILD

**RIVERHEAD FIRE  
DEPARTMENT VETERAN  
NAMED FIREFIGHTER  
OF THE YEAR**

**FORMER U.S. ARMY  
COMMANDER JOINS OUR  
BAND OF BROTHERS**





# Former U.S. Army Commander Joins Our Band of Brothers

BY STEVE GROGAN, LYNBROOK FIRE DEPARTMENT



Lt. Col. Dan Keener and wife, Alisa



Lt. Col. Dan Keener in Afghanistan

**L**t. Col. Dan Keener, US Army, who recently retired after 21 years of service, is now an honorary member of the Lynbrook Fire Department on Long Island.

Keener, a 2001 West Point graduate, and until recently the commander of the Soldier Recovery Unit (formerly known as the Wounded Warrior

Battalion) at Fort Belvoir, Va., met Lynbrook and other Nassau County firefighters – all part of Nassau County Firefighters Operation Wounded Warrior (NCFF-OWW) – during their annual trips to Fort Belvoir to bring Christmas to wounded warriors and their families.

Fort Belvoir is just one of four bases that NCFF-OWW firefighters have visited

annually at Christmas since 2004. NCFF-OWW is a 501(c)(3) charity not associated with the Wounded Warrior Project.

As a youngster growing up in Virginia in the shadow of the Bull Run Battlefield, Keener wanted to be a firefighter. However, as he got older and won appointment to the US Military Academy, life's direction changed.

Before his last assignment as the battalion commander at Fort Belvoir, he saw service throughout the world, including Iraq and Afghanistan. He was commander of an underwater combat diving detachment in the Third Special Forces Group, and operations officer in the 5th Special Forces Group. He also served with the Joint Special Operations Command as liaison to the U.S. Department of State for two years.

Keener successfully changed the U.S. security classification policy of



evidence from the battlefield. The change allowed the introduction of battlefield evidence for admission into prosecutorial cases against ISIS members around the world.



but also each and every person who walks into his life," said Ex-Chief Kelly. "He is a role model and a terrific leader. I am proud to call him a friend and now a fellow member."

When Keener took command of the Soldier Recovery Unit, he had to reconstruct and reorganize the unit following a 50% cut in funding and personnel reductions. However, Keener and his team were able to maintain the same high level of support and care for the wounded receiving treatment and rehabilitation.

He is a truly caring man. It was always evident when he met with the firefighters. This past September Keener brought seven wounded warriors up to Lynbrook to attend the fire department's annual NCFE-OWW fundraiser. This was the second year he came to Lynbrook with wounded soldiers.

At the Annual Installation and Testimonial Dinner of the Lynbrook Fire Department held in May, the lieutenant colonel was unanimously made an honorary firefighter. He was presented his badge by Outgoing Chief Chris Kelly.

"He is a true American hero who cares about not only the men under his command,

"I have a lot of people say, 'Thank you for your service,' but you guys are all serving. You are serving your community each and every day," said Keener.

"America needs more communities like Lynbrook to step up and take care of its neighbors, brothers and sisters, and even strangers. You are saving lives every day. The fact that you honor and include me in your numbers, that band of brothers, I appreciate more than you know. That band of brothers, 'he who sheds his blood with me today will be my band of brothers, be he ne'er so vile.' I truly appreciate that you have included me in your band of brothers."

Keener is married to his wife, Alisha, and they have five daughters: Kayla, Kinsley, Briella, Emmalyn, and Madelyn. They now reside in Florida.

Seven years ago Lynbrook firefighters met a double amputee Marine, Marcus D'Andrea, at Bethesda and made him an honorary member after he had told firefighters that when he



Lt. Col. Dan Keener presented with honorary badge by outgoing Chief Chris Kelly



Lt. Col. Dan Keener meets with wounded former marine Marcus D'Andrea, also an honorary member at LFD's Wounded Warrior fundraisers, two years ago.

got out of the Marines, he was due to take a firefighter's exam. But before his enlistment was up and still in country, he stepped on an IED and lost both legs. He also came to Lynbrook to attend the department dinner, where he got his badge. He has also attended LFD's annual NCFE-OWW fundraiser.

"Thank you, Dan Keener, for your service, and welcome to our band of brothers," said Chief of Department Danny Ambrosio.

Steve Grogan is a 55-year member of Tally-Ho Engine 3 of the Lynbrook Fire Department. An ex-captain and honorary chief, he serves as the writer and PIO for the department, as well as the Fourth Battalion Fire District. Grogan, who co-founded the Lynbrook Junior Fire Department and the Nassau County Firefighters Emerald Society, is a vice-chairman of Nassau County Firefighters Operation Wounded Warrior. The retired federal agent and former elected Lynbrook village trustee holds a master's degree and is a Vietnam-era veteran who served with US Army Intelligence.