

SHIPPENSBURG, PA | April 21, 2016

## **Carlisle man climbs 72 flights of stairs to raise money for 9/11 survivors**

When faced with the prospect of climbing 72 flights of stairs, most people would turn away. But for one Carlisle man, the climb was a way to honor and raise money for survivors of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Andrew Dormida has first-hand knowledge of the dangers faced by first responders. He's an Army Reservist and a firefighter for Carlisle Fire and Rescue Services - Company 45.

"To go into a building that could collapse at any second – to put yourself in that much danger – because you know you might be able to save one more person shows how committed they were to their duty as first responders," said Dormida.

Dormida is also a veteran who spent seven years on active duty in the U.S. Army including deployments to Egypt, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

So, when he learned about Team Red, White, and Blue, an organization that supports the survivors of 9/11 including first responders as well as veterans who were brought in to support the rescue efforts, he felt a strong sense of duty to help.

"You feel compelled to give back, to show your appreciation and your commitment to continuing their legacy of helping people who need it," Dormida explained. "That's how we honor their memory."

He asked three of his fellow firefighters at the Carlisle station if they would help. It didn't take much convincing. They're also military veterans, and all three men had agreed before Dormida even finished asking.

Dormida asked them to join him for the 2nd annual New York City Firefighter Stair Climb event to raise money for the Team Red, White and Blue organization.

During the stair climb, firemen from all over the country dress in full fire-fighting gear and climb 72 flights of stairs inside the 4 World Trade Center building. The skyscraper is part of the World Trade Center complex in Lower Manhattan and officially opened in Nov. 2013.

Each person who does the climb is assigned the name of someone who died during the attacks. The climb symbolizes the last journey of the emergency personnel who responded to the scene on 9/11.

As Dormida and his three colleagues were preparing to leave the firehouse in Carlisle for the stair climb in New York, their friends gathered in the truck bay and gave the group a standing ovation.

"They told us they were honored to have us represent fellow firefighters and other first responders. It was a big moment for us," Dormida said.

Dormida also works as a teller for Orrstown Bank, so he asked the bank if they would help him raise money as well. Orrstown's Chief Human Resources Officer Barb Brobst was excited to help.

"We use dress-down Fridays to give our employees an opportunity to donate to charities. Everyone who gives at least five dollars gets to wear jeans on Friday. It's been a huge success and our employees have been very generous," explained Brobst.

In total, Dormida his fellow firefighters raised \$1,800 for Team Red, White, and Blue. Most of the money is used for social activities to help those affected by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder to slowly make the adjustment back into their communities. Other portions of the funding help to pay for medical treatment and medications for those who were injured in the attacks.

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## PHOTO CAPTIONS

### Orrstown - Carlisle man helps 9-11– Stair Climb



Left to right: U.S. Army veterans Josh Kirby and Adam Roth, U.S. Air Force veteran James McGarry, and U.S. Army veteran Andrew Dormida. Firefighters from Carlisle Fire and Rescue Services - Company 45 joined 339 other firefighters to climb 72 flights of stairs at 4 World Trade Center during the New York City Firefighter Stair Climb event to raise money for Team Red, White and Blue, an organization that supports veterans.

Orrstown - Carlisle man helps 9-11– 4 World Trade Center



During the New York City Firefighter Stair Climb event, firefighters from Carlisle Fire and Rescue Services - Company 45 joined 339 other firefighters to climb 72 flights of stairs at 4 World Trade Center.



Orrstown - Carlisle man helps 9-11– Dormida in uniform



Andrew Dormida, of Carlisle, inspired fellow firefighters, veterans, and bank co-workers to raise money for Team Red, White, and Blue, an organization that helps veterans including first responders who survived the attacks of 9/11.

Orrstown - Carlisle man helps 9-11- Flor



Orrstown Branch Executive Officer Dale Flor (left) receives the Patriot Award from Jim Astor, Retired Air Force Colonel and chairman of the South Central Area of the Employer Support of the Guard Reserve's Pennsylvania Committee. Flor received the award in appreciation for his support of bank teller Andrew Dormida to serve as an Army Reservist.



Bill Coy (left), Orrstown Bank’s vice president of retail of banking, receives the Patriot Award from Jim Astor, Retired Air Force Colonel and chairman of the South Central Area of the Employer Support of the Guard Reserve’s Pennsylvania Committee. Coy earned the award for his support of bank teller Andrew Dormida who is also an Army Reservist.