

# Uniformed Sanitationmen's Association

LOCAL 831  
affiliated with  
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS



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## NEWS RELEASE

### Governor Hochul Signs 9/11 Legislation Strengthening Pathway to Public Service for Children and Siblings of Deceased NYC Sanitation Workers

*Governor Enacts the "Ignazio Giacalone Act" to Provide Additional Credits to Children and  
Siblings of Deceased New York City Sanitation Members*

**Legislation A.2123-A (Assemblyman Berger) / S.1165-A Senator Jackson)**

(New York, NY: September 11, 2025) **Governor Kathy Hochul** announced today that she signed legislation to provide more opportunities and access for the families and loved ones of those who have been impacted by the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The package of bills will strengthen the September 11th Worker Protection Task Force and ease the pathway to public service for children and siblings of New York City sanitation workers that lost their lives due to exposure and cleanup after September 11<sup>th</sup>. The legislation will also speed up the World Trade Center disability and death benefit application process, so survivors are eligible to obtain vital benefits.

"The 9/11 terrorist attacks are events that we will never forget. We must continue to honor the fallen heroes who put their lives on the line to protect New Yorkers, as well as their families who have been impacted by these horrific events," Governor Hochul said. "This legislation will give back to the families of 9/11 victims, ensuring they are supported by the state and their loved ones are forever remembered."

**Dennis Schock, President of the Uniformed Sanitationmen's Association, Local 831, IBT, which represents almost 7,000 uniformed sanitation workers said:** "Our members responded to the 9/11 terror attacks within hours. Through their efforts, the streets of lower Manhattan were cleared of toxic dust and debris in short order. Their work enabled businesses, including the NY Stock Exchange, to open for business by Monday, September 17. We thank Assemblymember Berger and Senator Jackson for sponsoring this legislation. Thank you, Governor Hochul for signing this bill into law and recognizing the contributions of New York's Strongest on and after 9/11,"

The NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) was crucial in reopening the stock market after 9/11 by leading the debris removal and cleanup efforts in Lower Manhattan, clearing the area around the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and enabling the markets to reopen on the following Monday, September 17, 2001. DSNY workers, along with other city departments, deployed thousands of staff and heavy machinery to remove tons of rubble and waste, which also facilitated the forensic processing of the site and the search for victims' remains at the Fresh Kills Landfill.

**Assemblymember Sam Berger said,** "As the youngest member of the Assembly, I believe it is my generation's duty to ensure the sacrifices of the past are never forgotten. This bill honors the legacy of sanitation workers like Ignazio who put their lives on the line for New York. But more, signing this bill into law is a statement from New York State that we see you, we thank you, and we will never forget your heroism and your sacrifice. Thank you, Governor Hochul, for recognizing those brave New York sanitation workers and paving the path for those children who choose to follow in their footsteps."

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**State Senator Robert Jackson** said, "September 11th forever reshaped our city — but it also revealed the courage and sacrifice of those who stood up when it mattered most. Among this legislative package are two bills I am proud to sponsor: the Ignazio Giacalone Act, which ensures that the legacy of sanitation workers who gave their lives lives on through the children and siblings who follow in their path of public service; and the revitalization of the 9/11 Workers Protection Task Force, which guarantees that the health, benefits, and dignity of those who answered the call will never be overlooked or forgotten. Alongside the other measures in this package, these bills turn remembrance into responsibility, and grief into justice. I thank Governor Hochul for signing them into law and standing with us to uplift the memory and the rights of 9/11 victims and their families."

**Michael Giacalone, a sanitation worker and the son of Ignazio Giacalone for whom the bill is named after,** said, "I'm beyond grateful for the signing of the 'Ignazio Giacalone Act.' I want to thank the Governor, the NYS Assembly and Senate, Local 831 and 444, and NYS Assemblyman Berger. A very big thank you to Retired DSNY Supervisor Edward Panzarella. This bill would not be where it is today without his efforts. It is truly an honor to have this bill carry the name of my father."  
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