

PAPBA GETS ITS IRISH UP, HELPS OUT A BROTHER COP



"Port Authority Police welcome mother and wife of wounded Irish Police Officer Brian Hanrahan to Newark Airport. Together with Hanrahan's mother, Rosemary (L), and wife, Emma, are (L-R) Police Officers Slavek Wdoviak, Greg Ross, Mike Becker and Bob Wallace."

Irish Police Officer Brian Hanrahan was enjoying a vacation in New Orleans with his father when he was robbed, shot and wounded on Tuesday, January 27, 2015. As he was being treated in a New Orleans hospital his wife, Emma, received the terrible news back in Ireland. Emma and Brian's mother, Rosemary, immediately made plans to fly to New Orleans. Their travels brought them to Newark Airport.

Upon hearing of Brian's tragedy, and Emma and Rosemary's stop in Newark, Paul Nunziato, president of the Port Authority Police Benevolent Association (PAPBA) and New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association (NJSPBA) president Patrick Colligan put a plan into action to assist Emma and Rosemary with their trip. This assistance included \$2,000.00 in debit cards to help with their expenses in New Orleans while Brian remains hospitalized. The debit cards were a result of four \$500.00 donations from the PAPBA, NJSPBA, Police Unity Tour Chapter 1 and Police Unity Tour Chapter 37.

Emma and Rosemary arrived at Newark Airport on Thursday, January 29th, and, to their surprise, were met by Frank Conti, PAPBA financial recording secretary, and Police Officers Slavek Wdoviak, Greg Ross, Mike Becker and Bob Wallace of the Newark Airport Police Command. The five officers escorted Emma and Rosemary off the plane and, with the help of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, expedited them through Customs. They were then brought to the United Airlines First Class Lounge to await their flight to New Orleans. In the midst of this well-deserved VIP treatment Frank Conti presented them with the debit cards. Conti said they became quite emotional with appreciation.

In an article published in the Star Ledger Conti said, "It's just a showing of good will for police worldwide," explaining the call to action. Conti continued, "We're just trying to show the family of this guy who ended up getting robbed and shot that we will do our best to stick together and help each other as best we can."

In a statement released by the PAPBA, President Nunziato said, "The Port Authority Police Benevolent Association is proud to support the family of Police Officer Brian Hanrahan in their time of need. We wish Brian a speedy recovery and return to his native land." In explaining the importance of the brotherhood of police, Nunziato related to the current climate police everywhere face. "In this time when law enforcement officers are targets for murderers and terrorists, the law enforcement family will stand together for one of its own. The unprecedented international turn out of law enforcement officers for the recent funerals of two New York City police officers, who were assassinated in the line of duty, demonstrates that this is a family that sticks together as one. We are proud to be a part of that family." Nunziato added, "Our donation is a small statement of support of law enforcement officers throughout the world, and their families, who face a unique burden thrust upon them each and every day."