This month’s Curator’s Corner focuses on a new object on display in our 9/11 Memorial Room- a 7-foot-long by 1-foot-high photograph of the FDNY Memorial Wall located on the side of 10 House across from the World Trade Center.

The Memorial Wall is dedicated to the 343 members of the NYC Fire Department, as well as volunteer firefighter Glenn J. Winuk, a partner at Holland & Knight who died on that tragic day. The Memorial Wall was a gift from Holland and Knight.

A listing of active Fire Department members lost on 9-11 is displayed on the sculpture by rank (in alphabetical order) and includes each member’s company number. A timeline of major milestone events pertaining to attacks and the Department’s rescue and recovery effort is also incorporated into the base of the rendering.

The framed photograph was donated by the family of Assistant Chief Ron Spadafora (July 8, 1954 – June 23, 2018). Spadafora began his career at Engine 237 in Brooklyn in 1978, and he was promoted to Deputy Chief in 2000. Spadafora supervised safety efforts at ground zero for the entire rescue and recovery effort following the September 11 attacks. Later he worked on recovery efforts during the days following Hurricane Sandy. In 2002, he was promoted to Deputy Assistant Chief and was appointed to Assistant Chief for the Bureau of Fire Prevention in July 2010.

When Chief Spadafora died, he was the 178th member of the FDNY to have died of 9/11 related illnesses.