

Fallen FDNY firefighter Steven Pollard remembered as a hero

The promising new firefighter who fell to his death while helping crash victims on the Belt Parkway was remembered at his funeral Friday as a quiet hero.

Modal TriggerSteven Pollard

“At a time when people are tempted to get cynical and wonder where our heroes are, where sacrifice and selflessness is, all you’ve got to do is think about Steven Pollard,” said Cardinal Timothy Dolan.

Thousands of fellow firefighters from across the city and country stood at attention in dress blue uniforms or rumpled bunker jackets along the streets outside the Good Shepherd Roman Catholic Church.

Pollard was just 30 years old and had less than two years on the job when he fell 52 feet from the roadbed near Mill Basin Bridge in Brooklyn.

Pollard’s closest colleagues — his fellow Bravest from Ladder Company 170 in Canarsie — transported his coffin in a bunting-draped firetruck to Green-Wood Cemetery for burial.

Bagpipes played “America the Beautiful” as the truck departed.

The company had responded Sunday night to the crumpled remains of a crashed SUV.

As he tried to reach the wreck, Pollard leaped over the barrier dividing the eastbound and westbound lanes of the parkway — only to plunge through a 3-foot gap between the lanes.

“A mother, father, brother losing a young man like this can’t really be comforted,” FDNY Commissioner Daniel Nigro told the young hero’s family.

“We will always be with them,” he said. “We say we’ll never forget. We really mean it. This family will always be a part of our family and I hope that knowledge comforts them.”

Pollard was the son of retired firefighter Raymond G. Pollard and the brother of current firefighter Raymond G. Pollard Jr.

He also left behind his girlfriend, Brianna Torkel, who called him "My sweet angel" in a heartbreaking Facebook post on Tuesday.

"You were my safe place, my protector, my ball buster, my big idiot and my absolute best friend," she wrote. "You were my home."