



U.S. ENVOY IN GAZA

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S SPECIAL ENVOY STEVE WITKOFF ARRIVED IN ISRAEL ON THURSDAY TO DISCUSS THE WORSENING HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN GAZA. **A5**

THE BRONX

Throngs of police pay tribute to officer killed in office shooting



NYPD officers arrive to the Bronx on Thursday to attend the funeral of Didarul Islam, the officer who was killed in a shooting in midtown Manhattan on Monday. *Photos by Angelina Katsanis, Associated Press*

Officer Didarul Islam was among the four people killed in Monday's attack

Deepti Hajela Associated Press

Police lined up four rows deep in front of a mosque on Thursday to pay respects to a fellow officer who was among the victims of a gunman's rampage at a New York City office tower.

With officers stationed for security on rooftops around the Bronx mosque, fire trucks used their ladders to hold a huge American flag over a nearby street ahead of services for Officer Didarul Islam, 36. A flatbed truck carried a digital billboard with photos of him and a commemorative message from his union.

Officers filed in for a viewing, to be followed by family, friends and dignitaries.

Islam was working a department-approved private security detail, in uniform, when he was fatally shot Monday in a midtown Manhattan building that houses the National Football League's headquarters. A security guard, real estate company employee and investment firm executive were also killed. The gunman also wounded a fifth victim, an NFL employee, before killing himself.

An immigrant from Bangladesh, Islam was building a career in the nation's largest police force. He served as a school safety agent before becoming a patrol officer less than four years ago.

"He was doing the job that we asked him to do. He put himself in harm's way. He made the ultimate sacrifice," Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch said in the immediate aftermath of the attack. "He died as he lived. A hero."

Islam was assigned to a precinct in the Bronx, the borough where he lived with his wife and two young sons. His wife is expecting the birth of their third child soon.

After Thursday's viewings and a prayer service at the Parkchester Jame Masjid, Islam will be buried at a cemetery in Totowa, New Jersey.

Another victim, Julia Hyman, was buried **SEE FUNERAL, A2**



Officer Gregory Matos adjusts a pin on his uniform before attending the funeral.

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Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch

Tunnel to Towers pledges to assist family of fallen NYPD officer

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The Tunnel to Towers Foundation is pledging financial assistance to the family of New York City Police Officer Didarul Islam, who was shot and killed in at a Manhattan office building on Monday.

Islam and three others died when a gunman entered the skyscraper, firing a rifle, before taking his own life.

The officer leaves behind a pregnant wife and two young children. Tunnel to Towers Chairman and CEO Frank Siller personally spoke with Islam's widow to offer his condolences and pledge the foundation's unwavering support for her and the children, the foundation shared on Wednesday.

"The Tunnel to Towers Foundation stands in solidarity with Officer Islam's family, the NYPD, and all New Yorkers as we grieve the loss of a true hero," said Siller. "I assured Officer Islam's wife, that Tunnel to Towers will be by her side, not just today, but in the days and years ahead."

Islam's family will receive assistance through the Tunnel to Towers Foundation's Fallen First Responder Home Program, which provides support to the families of law enforcement officers and firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty or to 9/11-related illnesses, and leave behind young children.

Born from the tragedy of 9/11 and the loss of Siller's brother, Stephen, as he ran through the then-Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel en route to assist after the terror attack at the World Trade Center, the Staten Island-based Tunnel to Towers Foundation carries out its mission to "do good," by providing mortgage-free homes to Gold Star and fallen first responder families with young children and by building specially adapted smart homes for catastrophically injured veterans and first responders. Tunnel to Towers has also worked toward eradicating veteran homelessness.

IT'S GOOD NEWS

Islander helps abandoned pups find their forever home

One went to New Jersey, one to the Upper West Side and two stayed here in the borough.

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While walking his dogs last week, Anthony Esemplare heard from his neighbor that puppies had been abandoned in her front yard.

"She was outside panicking because she woke up to somebody who had dumped four puppies in her front yard and drove off," said Esemplare.

Esemplare took quick action, feeding and bathing the abandoned pups while trying to find them permanent owners.

By Friday, all the dogs had been matched with new owners. One went to New Jersey, one to the Upper West Side, and two stayed on Staten Island.

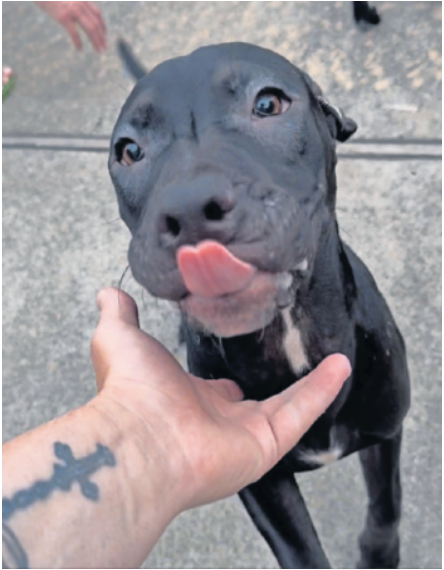
The puppies are all black Labrador mixes. Esemplare described them as gentle and loving.

"These particular dogs, they look like they came from an abusive home," said Esemplare. "They had a lot of bite marks on their heads and scratches."

For Esemplare, the trick to finding new homes for the puppies was using social media.

"We recorded every aspect of this from them getting rescued to them going to their new forever homes," said Esemplare. "People don't realize if they just reach out on social media, whether it be making a Facebook post or an Instagram or TikTok post, people will come far and wide to get a puppy."

One of the new dog owners is Upper **SEE DOGS, A2**



One of the four abandoned puppies Anthony Esemplare rescued and found homes for with the help of social media. *Courtesy Anthony Esemplare*

NATION & WORLD

Why no big tsunami?

Millions feared a massive tidal wave, but the resulting water surge following an 8.8 magnitude earthquake could have been much more destructive. **A6**

SPORTS

New kickoff rule

After successful experiment, the NFL makes dynamic kickoff permanent while moving touchback spot to encourage more returns. **B4**

