



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Joseph P. Addabbo Jr.

Addabbo legislation to provide legacy credits for stepchildren & other non-biological children of deceased 9/11 first responders approved by New York State Senate

SENATOR JOSEPH P. ADDABBO, JR. May 16, 2018

| ISSUE: **9/11, LEGACY CREDITS, FIRST RESPONDERS, ADDABBO**

The Senate passed a NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. bill (S.3070) that would enable stepchildren and other non-biological children raised by deceased 9-11 first responders to become eligible for “legacy credits” on competitive civil service exams.

“New York State law already honors the memories of first responders who died as a result of the September 11th, 2001 terrorist attacks by providing their surviving children and siblings with an additional 10 points on competitive civil service exams,” said Addabbo. “Many of these children and other relatives of firefighters, police officers, EMTs, paramedics and others who perished as a direct result of the attacks – whether at the scene or from subsequent related health issues – often wish to follow in the footsteps of the people they lost and pursue a civil service career. But the initial legacy credit law inadvertently left out a number of other loved ones of first responders who died, and my legislation is an effort to address a specific deficiency.”

Under Addabbo’s bill, the stepchildren or children of surviving spouses of deceased first responders who were not legally adopted or their biological offspring would become eligible for the extra points on civil service exams.

“For many of these children, the moms or dads they tragically lost as a result of the 9-11 attacks and their aftermath were the only moms or dads they ever knew – regardless of whether they were related by blood,” said Addabbo. “These children were forced to say good-bye to parents who cared for them, raised them, supported them financially, and loved them. That these men and women were not the biological parents of these children did not prevent them from being loving families and feeling as much loss as any other sons and daughters of 9-11 heroes and heroines.”

In the Assembly, the legislation is under review by the Committee on Governmental Employees.

“Sometimes, the definition of family is much bigger and more complex than the law officially recognizes,” said Addabbo. “This legislation will help to ensure that additional children who suffered the loss of a parent as a result of the terrorist attacks 17 years ago will have a greater opportunity to enter public service – whether as first responders themselves, or in other civil service capacities.”

RELATED LEGISLATION

2017-S3070

- Introduced

- ◦ In Committee Assembly
- In Committee Senate

- ○ On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate

- ○ Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate

- Delivered to Governor

- Signed By Governor

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Includes step children within the meaning of the term "child" for purposes of additional credits for children of firefighters, police officers, EMTs and paramedics killed in the line of duty

January 19, 2017

In Assembly Committee

Sponsored by **Joseph P. Addabbo Jr.**

Do you support this bill?