

*Consejo de Federaciones de Bomberos Voluntarios  
de la República Argentina*

Buenos Aires, September 23 of 2002

To the Executive Director of the  
Fire and Security Department of  
New York Firemen  
Mr. Stephan HITMANN.-

Carlos FERLISE and Domingo VAIRETTA, as President and General Secretary of the Federal Council of Voluntary Firemen of the Republic of Argentina, being the highest authority in the NATIONAL SYSTEM OF VOLUNTARY FIREMEN, are glad to contact you after your fructiferous visit to let you know:

That the NATIONAL SYSTEM OF VOLUNTARY FIREMEN OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA is composed by non- government organizations that survive in a 90% thanks to the contribution of the population, within a trinomial that has 625 operational bodies, 20 Provincial Federations and 1 Federal Council, with approximately 60.000 people that actively participate in this organization that has existed for 118 years and not receiving any remuneration in exchange.-

As we told you in person, and touched because of the loss of 343 comrades during the salvage operations in the terrorist attack of 9/11/01, we started an action before the Presidency of the Honorable Chamber of Deputies of the Nation to present through the State Department and before the U.N.O an initiative for the International Community to commemorate each September 11 the UNIVERSAL DAY OF THE FIREMEN, based on the following considerations:

*Going back in time, we find the origin of the firemen three centuries before Christ , with the spontaneous gathering of groups of people to fight against fires, possibly between the Greek, the Egyptians or the Palestinians.-*

*That this particular way of doing commonweal either voluntary or paid as time went by penetrated in every nation, being today a way of life for millions of inhabitants of reputation in all the world.-*

*Under our law, Law 25.425, June 2 is considered the DAY OF THE VOLUNTARY FIREMEN OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA, so that on this date our martyrs are honored because on June 2 of 1884 the first body of firemen was created.-*

*The terrorist attacks that occurred in the " World Trade Center" of New York on September 11 2001, will become a milestone in the political history of the world, and it will be no different for the International Community of Firemen, because 343 comrades – one of them Argentine - died there while they were saving thousands of victims of such hatred.-*

*The Department of New York Firemen are known as "the brave", the ones that have courage without limit, the ones that run towards the horror while others escape terrified. This was proved in the practice with the sacrifice of those martyrs buried under the tones of rubble from the towers.-*

*We are convinced that in their honor, the International Community cannot deny such a massacre, and we think that this is a good reason to declare each September 11 the UNIVERSAL DAY OF THE FIREMEN.*

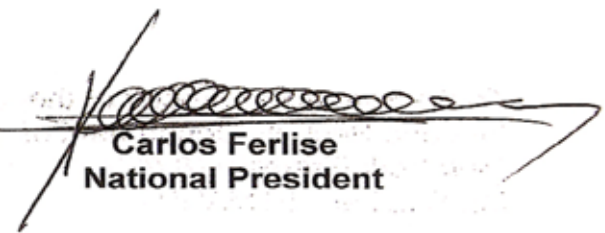
Due to all the bureaucratic obstacles that these matters have internally, plus all the logical complications in the diplomatic practice, we ask you to make this initiative also yours, so it can make its way through the Government of the United States of America. This is to make sure that in a short time , those 343 heroes may receive the deserved honor from the U.N.O, assigning each September 11 as the UNIVERSAL DAY OF THE FIREMEN.-

We would like you to know that it would be an honor for us to accompany you in the acts that the city of New York has planned for the second week of October, to honor the 343 comrades fallen in service and also the hundreds of injured and mutilated, so we hope to receive more information about it.

With nothing else to say, we make use of this letter to send a strong embrace on behalf of your brother firemen of Argentina.

  
**Domingo Vairretta**  
General Secretary



  
**Carlos Ferlise**  
National President