

Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps. Mourns The Loss Of Fellow Lifeguard



May 9, 2009 **“BVP”** **“The Baron”**

Ben von Pentz was always willing and able to help those in need – so much so that he made a career of it. As a Jones Beach lifeguard since 1974 and employed full time as an emergency service professional, Ben embodied the compassion, composure, and sense of duty that characterize these fields. Whether leading a rescue at Field Two or responding to an emergency call, Ben was the epitome of a ‘lifesaver.’

Ben was the kind of lifeguard that every rookie would want to learn from. As Boatswain, Ben found the balance between being a leader and a friend. He shared his own experience and expertise and fostered an environment where new guards, though still neophytes, were still made to feel like a part of the team. A knowledgeable yet humble mentor, Ben made new lifeguards feel like they had been working with him since his own rookie days. Always ready to respond, he went above and beyond what most people would expect of a good officer and lifeguard. From guidance on rescues, to launching the boat, to making sure the fridge was

Ben von Pentz

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stocked for “Salsa Sundays,” Ben did it all.

Ben’s deliberate and sincere manner influenced all of his lifeguard colleagues, and those that have risen through the lifeguard ranks have modeled their own conduct after Ben’s. BVP will be missed by the many Jones Beach lifeguards who worked with and for him over the years. Though he will no longer be a physical presence on the mainstand, his soul will continue to watch over beachgoers and fellow lifeguards. Ben will be remembered as a kind, sincere person who embodied the spirit of ‘the beach’. May he rest there forever.

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