

# Honor A Hero: Ride Like Vinny

The weekend before September 11, 2001, FDNY Captain Vincent Giammona and his wife took their daughters to Coney Island for the day. As they were driving home, Vinny turned back and saw the Cyclone Roller Coaster. He told his family he needed to go back to ride it even though the ride was closed. Vinny spotted a worker and explained his 40th birthday was coming up on Tuesday and that he was a NYC Firefighter. His wish was granted. Vinny was the only one on the roller coaster. He sat in the front car, with one hand up, and a huge smile on his face, while his wife and daughters cheered from behind the fence. Tragically, it was his final birthday wish.

A few days later, on Tuesday, September 11, 2001, Vinny turned 40 years old. Vinny was among the 403 FDNY, NYPD, and PAPD heroes that sacrificed their lives in the line of duty while protecting our city that day.

**“Ride Like Vinny” seeks to honor the selfless and heroic spirit with which Vinny and our heroes died, while also remembering and celebrating the incredible spirit with which they lived.**

The N.Y. Police and Fire Widows’ & Children’s Benefit Fund, known as Answer the Call for short, is selling special “Ride Like Vinny” tickets that entitle the holder to one ride on the Coney Island Cyclone. The money raised from these special “Ride Like Vinny” tickets will enable Answer the Call to continue to help the families of our fallen heroes.

Since Answer the Call was founded in 1985 by Former NY Met Daniel “Rusty” Staub, the organization has distributed over \$135 million directly to the families of those who lost a loved one in the line of duty. It is the only nonprofit organization that provides immediate and ongoing financial assistance to the families of NYPD, FDNY, and PAPD heroes killed in the line of duty. Answer the Call's goal is to provide meaningful support for the rest of a widow or widower's life. In 2017 alone, they will help nearly 600 families and distribute over \$4 million. To learn more, visit [www.answerthecall.org](http://www.answerthecall.org).

## To Purchase Tickets:

# [ridelikevinny.eventbrite.com](http://ridelikevinny.eventbrite.com)

