

New York Daily News - <http://www.nydailynews.com>**Finally some good news
for family of 9/11 hero**

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Through his tears, the father of NYPD Detective James Zadroga expressed his gratitude yesterday for a slew of new laws that finally address the health battles of Ground Zero rescuers.

"It's not going to help bring Jimmy back. If they would have worked with Jimmy to help him from the beginning, he'd be alive today," Joseph Zadroga told the Daily News.

Zadroga added that he was grateful the laws might help other rescuers and their families.

"We did it for you, Jim, we did it for you," Zadroga said.

James Zadroga, 34, died in January of brain and respiratory complications, leaving behind his 4-year-old daughter Tylerann.

Under the bills signed into law yesterday by Gov. Pataki, Tylerann will receive full line-of-duty death benefits, meaning she collects 100% of her dad's last salary until she is at least 19.

"We knew Jimmy wanted us to fight for this," said his father, a retired police chief of North Arlington, N.J.

"The Daily News editorials really helped," he added, referring to a series that focused attention on the plight of Ground Zero rescuers and their families.

But not all Ground Zero workers were celebrating Pataki's plans.

"I applaud him for finally, after five years, coming forward with this legislation, but there are a lot of things that still irritate me," said John Sferazo, 51, a former ironworker whose lungs are scarred from his time at Ground Zero.

"This isn't inclusive for everybody. I want it to be equal for everybody," said Sferazo, who lives in Huntington, L.I.

David Worby, a lawyer for 8,000 Ground Zero workers, agreed this will quicken workers' compensation claims for some, but the compensation isn't enough to live on, and there are loopholes for volunteers and others whose health is impaired.

"Compensation is nice for people I represent, but there is a huge population that is in jeopardy," Worby said.

John Feal, a foreman whose foot was crushed at the site and whose claim was denied by the Victim Compensation Fund, called the governor's announcement "political breadcrumbs, at most."

The \$50 million loan fund for insurers and patients Pataki plans to organize "would be gone in an hour" if all cases of 9/11-related health problems were approved, he said.

But for the Zadroga family, getting the line-of-duty law meant everything to them, more than money itself.

"The biggest thing to me was recognizing him as a hero," the elder Zadroga said.