

**New York Daily News - <http://www.nydailynews.com>****Pals call for 9/11 benefits**

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New York elected leaders called yesterday for full pensions for the families of 9/11 responders whose deaths are linked to their service at Ground Zero.

The call came after an autopsy confirmed that retired NYPD Detective James Zadroga's death was "directly related" to his toiling at the disaster site - marking the first time a cleanup worker's demise has been officially tied to the terror attacks' aftermath.

But Zadroga's orphaned 4-year-old daughter, Tylerann, is only entitled to a partial pension because her daddy's death is not considered "in the line of duty."

"There is no question that Detective Zadroga died a hero in the line of duty," Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) said. "There are others like him who have also been harmed in their heroic effort to save lives after 9/11, and we have to change the pension rules to reflect this sad reality."

Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) said Zadroga's death is a reminder of "our continuing obligation to do whatever is necessary to help those who sacrificed their lives and health on Sept. 11, 2001, and in the days and weeks afterward."

In Albany, Assembly GOP leader Jim Tedisco (R-Schenectady) proposed a Ground Zero Heroes Law that would revamp the pension rules. And Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-Manhattan) said she was looking into securing federal aid for first responders ailing from their work at Ground Zero.

"It doesn't matter if they died on 9/11 or yesterday," she said. "If they died because of 9/11, their families deserve to be fully compensated."

Kenneth Becker, chief of the World Trade Center unit at the city Law Department, insisted the city did everything it could to protect first responders in the aftermath of 9/11 - and was looking out for them now.

"It should be noted that there is no scientific evidence showing an increase in cancer rates among uniformed services personnel or other persons who worked at the World Trade Center," Becker added.

But David Worby, a lawyer who represents more than 7,300 Ground Zero workers, scoffed at Becker's assertion. He said 42 people, including day laborers, contractors, cops, firefighters and paramedics, have died from diseases contracted at the site.

"The toxins don't discriminate," said Worby, who filed a federal lawsuit last year accusing the city of failing to protect workers.

Zadroga, 34, died Jan. 5 of pulmonary disease and respiratory failure that a New Jersey coroner linked "to the 9/11 incident."

Had Zadroga died on 9/11, his daughter would have received a full pension for up to 19 years. Instead, his daughter is entitled to threequarters of her dad's disability pension - and the money runs out when she's 12.

Under Tedisco's proposal, little Tylerann would be entitled to a 100% tax-free pension until she was 19 - or 23 if she was in college. Last night, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver (D-Manhattan) voiced support for such a measure.

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