



K-9 "SIRIUS"  
Badge # 17 WTC  
September 11, 2001

*Partner: Officer David Lim  
Port Authority Police Dept. - NJ & NY  
World Trade Center NYC*

"One Got By Us"

Officer Lim was in the K-9 office in the basement of the WTC and heard the explosion on an upper floor. Thinking it was a bomb that had exploded David put his K-9 Sirius in the dog crate and told him to stay, he was going to investigate.

David told K-9 Sirius, "one [bomb] must have gotten by us." Officer Lim had no idea of what had actually occurred or how the world was rapidly changing for all of us.

The officer started up the stair way directing people out and reached about the 44th. floor when he heard the second explosion. The officer still did not have any idea what was happening and felt that

missiles had hit the building. The building evacuation was under way and he was assisting several people down the staircase. Officer Lim stated they could now hear the building collapsing and he was helping a female down the staircase when the whole building came down around them. The officer and others believe they were at about the 5th level in the stairwell that was partly standing after the collapse.

The smell of jet fuel was heavy and they elected to go up to the now top of the World Trade Center, the sixth floor. They were eventually tossed ropes to get down and were making there way across the debris when small arms fire was heard. David stated he first thought that a battle was under way and thought to himself he was he going to get shot after living through the building collapse? It was later found the small arms fire was ammunition that was stored that was now being detonated by fire.

David made several attempts to find a way to get to the basement were K-9 Sirius was crated but was rebuffed by fireman and officers now trying to secure the scene and set up rescue operations. His Canine Sirius #17 is still listed as missing.

Officer Lim and Sirius were new members of the USPCA having joined in July of this year. They were members of Region 15 and had participated in certification trials. Officer Lim told me that his department has had several offers to replace his canine. He asked me to pass on to you all his sincerest appreciation for all of your thoughts and prayers. We still hold out hope and pray for those missing. Officer Lim told me that his Department, The New York Port Authority, are missing 37 officers and K-9 Sirius in this attack and he asked me to pass on the following information for anyone who wishes to make a contribution to his Department.

The Port Authority PBA is extremely grateful to all those who have offered assistance to our membership in this time of need. We have offers of financial help for the families of members of the Port Authority Police Department affected by the World Trade Center disaster.



October 30, 2001  
*Courageous Canines!*

When Port Authority K-9 police officer DAVID LIM responded to the World Trade Center disaster on September 11, he brought along his trusty bomb-sniffing Labrador retriever, SIRIUS. But when he realized he'd be more effective freehanded, Lim left his canine companion inside the building.

"Nobody thought these buildings would fall down," he told ET. "At that time, I couldn't think of a safer place for Sirius to be than in the basement while I was up doing the rescues. Of course, now, when I look back, he probably saved my life by just sitting there."



Sirius perished in the tragedy, leaving David alone without his co-worker. "He's very special," said David. "All dogs go home with us. So not only was he my partner, but he was also my pet and my friend."

The bond between canine and master is a special one. And while David realizes the human tragedy may overshadow the death of his dog, any pet owner can attest to the impact an animal makes on our daily lives.

"We were very close. No matter where I went, he went. Whatever I asked him to do, he did. He never complained. Sometimes we'd be working for long hours, searching hundreds of cars or trucks, and he'd just look at me like, 'What do you want me to do now?'"

When Seventeen magazine heard of David's situation, it decided to make a difference. Last Friday in New York City, in front of a roaring crowd, the K-9 police officer was presented with a new dog, BUSTER, at the 9th Annual Seventeen's Star Showcase, a charitable event for 3,000 teens now benefiting New York City Disaster Relief. During the uplifting event, featuring concert performances by EDEN'S CRUSH and 3LW, plus fall and holiday fashion shows by Seventeen's Style Squad, David took the stage with his family and was presented with his new pooch.

"This is a fine example of a new beginning," David said. "Everybody talks about September 11. Let's talk about the future. The future is a new dog that I'll be working with, that'll be just as good as my buddy Sirius."

*\*Please NOTE: Buster is NOT Dave's new dog! He belongs to Kevin Cottrell! No dog could ever take the place of Sirius in Dave's heart.*



To read more about David, go to:

<http://www.aif.org/notable/iaa/ny2001/dlim.htm>

&

[http://www.asianconnections.com/community/david\\_lim/](http://www.asianconnections.com/community/david_lim/)



“I stayed as you asked. I did not bark or act wild. I listened, as I should, then I helped – as was my job. The day in question, we all met our (savior) while doing what we did best. I helped many from our building after it fell and had sent me through the light.

“Did you know that angels are more than just for people?

“Did you know our work still carries on?

“Although you were there in your world, I worked hard mine, shouting ‘Get out! Get out! Come this way!!!!’ I took many away.

“On my fourth trip out I was given a plan, one more then my job would be done. Past the priest on the walkway, I too was carried beyond, after my work was done there. I did not have to stay and help anymore, the angels told me my work was done, for now, and that you would be alright.

“I saw you in the stairwell. I heard you cry with joy at the breaking light as you left. You were my last trip out but I know you did not see me. We walked with angels who carried us both.

“The sadness I first felt as you were carried away (ambulance/vehicle of some kind) was confusing to me. In a world of enlightenment and joy, I did not want to bear seeing you go, but like the others with me that day, the angels told us it was time for us to leave -- to go that way (to follow them) – that all would be well in time – like after any unforeseen event that first leaves you frightened or confused but then leads way to understanding.

“They let me leave past the horses (these seem to be uptown a bit) leading crowds in the right direction – away from the buildings of despair. The horses, although working, cried a horrible sound. I tried to tell them not to be afraid, that we were not frightened, just doing our jobs and now leaving with our guides, but they did not hear me. They heard their partners, their friends, the ones who they trusted beyond fear – you know, that which makes them stronger – their belief in what they do and who they do it with.

“I passed the dogs who were on their way to the scene. They came in many cars and were assembled in cities far away. My angels took me past 5 or 6 of them before heralding me home to where I am now. Those dogs came in hope of doing good work. I told each one as I passed them by not to be afraid and not to be dismayed. To help their people (partners) the most because they would need their help more than the ‘pile.’ (He knew there were no survivors.)

“I met dad (your dad) and grandpa (dad’s father) on my way back home. One whisked in (dad) to be by your side, the other (granddad) waited in case you were to follow me. I told him no, you were not coming. I came in your place.

“I do not want you to fear my few moments spent without you that day. I stayed in my place,

I patiently awaited your return. But the angels came for me first and I am glad.

“I will wait for you by the river of your dreams. The next time you see me it will not be to work, but to rest and relax and reflect on all we once did. We worked well. We did a good job. We helped many.

“Do not cry for me in your sleep. Do not cry for those who did not make it home that fateful day. They are here with me now, in my new world – our true home – and each one of us will greet you when you are meant to come. I hope you will always know that I will be first in line to kiss your hands.

“Do not be dismayed at our departure or sad at what the arrival of a new partner may mean to you. Our time there is always a finite expression of who we truly are and that we only get to stay there for a while. Be joyous that we were brought together, had time to work and to play, and helped so many on our journey. Our life and job together is not over, just this moment is on our long journey through life.

“Angels wait for you too. Please know that I am one of them now.

“You will never be alone.

“I am still by your side”

Sirius - 1/26/02 3:40AM Saturday

**Author's Note:** The Syracuse Post Standard newspaper, dated 1/27/02, in an Associated Press article on page A14 reported that on January 22<sup>nd</sup> Officer David Lim was summoned to Ground Zero because recovery crews had found the body of his partner, Sirius.

For nearly a month I had been unable to make a link with Sirius, at the request of Popcorn Park Zoo, getting nothing other than darkness and respiratory trouble (I couldn't breathe well). But on this day I awoke in the middle of the night with Sirius speaking directly to me for his partner and friend. Perhaps it was because his physical remains had finally been released from the graveyard of the WTC? I don't know, but I do know that another dog I spoke with, after his own crossing, did not utter a word for three weeks – until the morning of the day that his human mom was to go pick up his cremated ashes at the local pet cemetery later that afternoon. His name is Freeway and his story is found in my book, “Crossing the Rainbow Bridge: Animal Journeys to Heaven.”

I would like to thank Roseann Trezza from the Associated Humane Societies (Popcorn Park Zoo) for asking me to speak with Sirius on behalf of Officer Lim. I am honoured to have been asked to communicate with this very special dog, and that Sirius entrusted this message for his partner with me. As the sister of a police officer, the first female officer on the Syracuse Mounted Patrol, I understand the relationship between these special partners. Their dedication to their jobs and each other is often overlooked, the loss of one or the other is devastating. I hope Officer Lim finds many truths within Sirius' message, and with the recovery of Sirius' body, I hope now he can begin to move on.

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Email from Dave:

### **Sirius was found.**

January 22, 2002

I recovered him yesterday, January 21st. He was in his kennel and from all accounts, was killed instantly. He received full Police Honors when his body was recovered. Everyone lined up and saluted Sirius as we left. All the great machines were silent as we led the procession to the Police Truck. I was given the American Flag that draped his body. I will cherish it always. I will probably get one of those triangle boxes to put it in.

The Hartsdale Pet Cemetery has offered to do the cremation and burial of Sirius. Tough day, but at least I fulfilled the promise I made to him on September 11th, 2001.

"He waited and I came back. "

David (out on a Lim)

### **Cop fulfills vow to dog killed in WTC**

Friday, January 25, 2002

By NICOLE GAUDIANO

Staff Writer - THE RECORD



Port Authority Police Officer David Lim's last words to his partner on Sept. 11 were:  
"You stay there. I'll be back for you."

After four months, Lim can finally say he fulfilled his vow. Workers at Ground Zero on Tuesday recovered the remains of Sirius, a yellow Labrador retriever believed to be the only canine to die in the attack on the World Trade Center.

"I've been waiting to find him," Lim said Thursday. " I fulfilled my promise to him because I came back and I took him home."

The remains of the bomb detection dog were found beneath the debris of Tower Two, in the Port Authority's basement kennel. Lim left Sirius there and went to help with the rescue effort, but didn't make it back – he became trapped himself, in Tower One, and wasn't pulled out until more than five hours later. Workers immediately called Lim to the scene Tuesday when they found Sirius. They carried out the remains with full honors, complete with a prayer and a salute.

"There was a flag over his bag and I carried him out with another officer, John Martin," Lim said. "Everyone saluted. All the machinery was stopped -- the same thing that is done for human police officers and firefighters. I thought it was very nice."

Lim, who was heralded for his rescue efforts that day, had placed Sirius in the kennel moments after the first plane hit Tower One. Then he rushed to help people down the staircase, shouting, "Down is good." A 20 year veteran of the towers, Lim had climbed to the 44th floor of Tower One when Tower Two was hit. When he heard the call to evacuate, he made his way to the fifth floor, where he stopped to help carry a woman.

"We got as far as the fourth floor and the building collapses on us," he said. "It was like an avalanche. We were just waiting there to die." Lim escaped to the sixth floor – which eventually became the top of the rubble. He was finally rescued after 3 p.m. He had suffered a mild concussion, but no serious injuries. The Port Authority has listed 37 of its police officers as missing or dead as a result of the attack. Lim believes that number should be 38.



Sirius, who was 4 years old, searched commercial vehicles coming into the trade center. He had worked with Lim since March 2000 and helped clear the way for visits by such VIPs as President Bill Clinton, Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura, and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

"He was my partner," Lim said. "We got really attached to him. "I still step over the spot where he used to sleep in my room because I forget he's not there." Doctors would not allow Lim to search at Ground Zero because of the emotional toll it could have taken on him. But he has kept tabs on the rescue effort, checking in periodically to ask whether they had made it to the kennel area.

In the first few months, rescuers had to build a road over it to get to another area. When they found his jacket recently, Lim knew they were getting close. Lim was training his new dog, a black Lab named Sprig, when he got the call from Ground Zero on Tuesday. He found consolation in the fact that his partner died instantly. It appeared that the kennel collapsed.

Sirius' remains were cremated at the Hartsdale Pet Cemetery in Westchester County, N.Y. Lim collected the ashes Thursday and will keep them in an urn at home until April, when he plans to hold a memorial service. He hasn't yet determined where.

"We expect hundreds of [police] dogs to come," he said. "It's going to be very big."



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