



Name in English: David Waymond Lim

Name in Chinese: 林維敏 [林維敏]

Name in Pinyin: Lín Wéimǐn

Gender: Male

Birth Year: 1956

Birth Place: Chinatown, New York City

Current location: Lynbrook, New York

Profession: Police Lieutenant (retired), Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

Education: Queensborough Community College; Farmingdale University

Awards: 2002, Justice in Action Award, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF); 2002, Special Recognition Award, Committee of 100

David Lim is the son of immigrants from Toishan, China. He grew up in the New York City borough of Queens, where his parents owned a restaurant in the Far Rockaway neighborhood. David decided to pursue a law-enforcement career after meeting many of the restaurant's customers who were police officers. In February of 1980, David was hired as a police officer for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. He was only the second Asian-American to become a Port Authority police officer.

Officer Lim's first assignment was at the World Trade Center, which is owned by and under the jurisdiction of the Port Authority. On July 17, 1996, when all 230 passengers and crew of TWA flight 800 died in the crash that was initially suspected as a terrorist attack, Officer Lim decided to apply for the department's K-9 Unit and specialize in explosives detection. After being selected and trained, Officer Lim and his K-9 partner Lena, a yellow Labrador retriever, were assigned to New York City's three major airports.

In March of 2000, Officer Lim and Lena were transferred to the World Trade Center, where they were responsible for checking for improvised explosive devices in packages brought into the buildings or in vehicles entering the garages; and sweeping the buildings for IEDs prior to visits by dignitaries. Lena retired that year to enjoy the rest of her life as the Lim family pet. Officer Lim started with his new partner, Sirius, also a yellow Lab, on July 4, 2000.

On September 11, 2001, Officer Lim and Sirius had just completed their morning rounds and were in a police room in the World Trade Center garage when Officer Lim felt the building shake. His first thought was that a bomb had been detonated. Officer Lim immediately rushed to help evacuate the North Tower, leaving Sirius in his kennel with the promise: "I'll be back for you."

Officer Lim radioed that he saw a body land on the outdoor plaza when several more bodies fell from the burning building. He was advised that help was needed on the upper floors. Officer Lim had ascended the stairs to the 44th floor when he saw the second plane crash into the South Tower. The blast and debris from the explosion shattered the windows and walls and knocked him down, along with everyone else around him. Officer Lim got up and, from the 44th floor, worked his way down utilizing his training in structural firefighting and rescue to lead and assist hundreds to safety.

Officer Lim was in the stairwell of the 4th floor, where he and a firefighter were assisting a disabled woman, when the North Tower collapsed on top of them. Miraculously, five hours later, Officer Lim, 12 firefighters, and the woman he was rescuing were among the last survivors to find their way out from the ruins of the collapsed buildings. Officer Lim suffered only minor injuries.

Sadly, it was not until the winter of 2002 that Sirius, still in his kennel, was excavated from the ruins. Sirius was the only police dog killed in the 9/11 attacks. His remains were given salutes and full honors by the police, fire, and recovery personnel as his flag-draped body bag was removed from the site.

As a result of his heroism and valor on 9/11, Officer Lim was honored by Governor George Pataki when he joined other police and fire personnel to start the trading day when the New York Stock Exchange reopened the week after 9/11. When asked about his heroic actions, Officer Lim's response was: "I would have expected that, given the same circumstances, any cop would have done what I did."

On January 31, 2001, the Asian Jade Society of the Port Authority police filed a discrimination claim with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on behalf of 12 officers and detectives, including Lim. The claim included the fact that no Port Authority police officer of Asian descent had ever been promoted to sergeant. In 2003, the EEOC ruled that the plaintiffs had grounds for a discrimination lawsuit against the Port Authority.

Officer Lim was promoted to sergeant on May 6, 2005, less than a month after the Asian Jade Society filed a discrimination lawsuit against the Port Authority on behalf of Lim and the 11 other Asians who had sought and were denied promotion to sergeant. The jury found that the Port Authority discriminated against seven of the plaintiffs, including Officer Lim, and awarded \$1.6 million in damages.

On July 25, 2008, Sergeant Lim was promoted to lieutenant. As a lieutenant, he was assigned as an executive officer and watch commander at LaGuardia Airport. Nearly six years later, on July 17, 2014, Lieutenant Lim retired after more than 34 years of service as a police officer.

Reflecting on his career, Lieutenant Lim said, "I believe that I am living proof that becoming a police officer offers opportunities to truly make a difference. I have always been proud of my decision to become a member of the force, and my family, friends, and many members of the Asian community from all over the world have expressed pride in

my career choice."

Lieutenant Lim added that the best assignment he ever had was being a K-9 handler working alongside Lena, Sirius, and Sprig, who was Lim's last canine partner before his promotion to sergeant. The gun belt and boots that David Lim wore on 9/11, along with one of Sirius' leashes and police badge, number 17, are on display in the 9/11 Memorial Museum.

External Links:

http://www.9-11commission.gov/hearings/hearing1/witness_lim.htm

<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2002/america.remembers/stories/heroes/lim.html>

http://www.asianconnections.com/community/david_lim/

http://www.geocities.com/nine_eleven_ark/davidlim.htm

<http://www.allbusiness.com/legal/legal-services-law-practice-major-us-firms/12269837-1.html>