

# Police heroes get red carpet treatment

By Linda Barr

One of the city's most successful restaurateurs rolled out the red carpet for his local heroes last week.

Danny Meyer — owner of Union Square Café, 11 Madison Park, Gramercy Tavern and Tabla — welcomed the crew of Emergency Service Unit Truck #1 to his newest establishment, Jazz Standard & Blue Smoke, at 116 East 27th Street.

"It was a huge honor for us to welcome members of the ESU to help us launch Jazz Standard," said Meyer.

"After what they have

one of only two ESU squads in Manhattan. The teams provide emergency police cover and rescue services for the area from 59th Street to Battery Park City and were on the front line in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Since then, the ESU teams have worked round the clock as part of the Ground Zero recovery operation. Along with dozens of others, they have helped recover the bodies of 13th Precinct cops, Moira Smith and Bobby Fazio.

They continue to pray that they will find their colleague, ESU Officer Brian

the Gramercy Park Block Association to provide hot meals and other supplies to the ESU crews returning from Ground Zero since September 11.

As he applauded the police heroes at his new club last week, Meyer also welcomed volunteers from the Block Association and paid tribute to their efforts in rallying the community to support the neighborhood's emergency services.

For many of the ESU workers, the night out at Meyer's newest venue was the first since the attacks.



ALL THAT JAZZ — Meyer and his wife Audrey (center) greet the ESU team



SMILES BETTER — Audrey Meyer (left) and Arlene Harrison with three of the crew members who enjoyed the night out.

given to our community, the least we could do was thank them with a night of rousing jazz and mouth-watering barbecue."

ESU#1 is based on East 21st Street, next door to the 13th Precinct, and is

McDonnell, a father-of-two who made the ultimate sacrifice on September 11.

Meyer has been among the many local restaurateurs and business people who have supported a relief effort co-ordinated by

"It has obviously been a very difficult time for the ESU crews," said Arlene Harrison, president of the GPBA. "They continue to search Ground Zero and pray for the recovery of more of the missing —

many even come in on their days off. To get the chance to kick back like this and relax is vital. It gives them a break from the heartache they are dealing with every day."

Indeed, the evening proved to be just the tonic for the crew, who ended up not wanting to leave the club.

Meyer has gone into business with his cousin, James Polsky, to reinvent the jazz experience offered in New York. While Polsky continues to look after the club, Jazz Standard, Meyer runs his Blue Smoke barbecue restaurant upstairs.

The combination is proving to be a huge hit and certainly got the thumbs up from the ESU #1 crew.

Sgt. John Lampkin said both the food and music

had lifted the spirits of his crew and thanked Meyer for his hospitality.

He then wished the restaurateur — who was celebrating with his family — a happy birthday and presented him with a sweatshirt with the names of the 14 ESU members lost in the trade center attacks.

As well as serving up a unique taste of barbecue and jazz, Meyer and Polsky introduce students to music through their Jazz Standard Discovery Program, which brings students from public schools to the club during the daytime to learn about jazz.



THREE CHEERS — Volunteers and crew members were reluctant to leave.