

## Joseph Bridgers Muhammad

Joseph Bridgers Muhammad is the President of the International Association of Black Professional Firefighters (IABPFF). Joseph was born on November 18, 1957, in Richmond, Virginia. He received his primary education in the public school system of Atlantic City, N.J., yet he attributes his yearning for learning to his parents and extended family (many of whom were professional educators). He majored in Health and minored in Music at Norfolk State University from 1976-80. While at NSU, he was also blessed to study under renowned psychologist, Dr. Naim Akbar. In 1981, he moved to White Plains, N.Y. to raise his family and became intrigued with the human service profession, employed as a Psychiatric Technician, a Senior Child Care Worker and a Youth Coordinator for various community centers in the area.

On September 22, 1986, Mr. Muhammad became employed as a Firefighter for the City of White Plains. Three years later he became a member of the Vulcan Society of Westchester (N.Y.), Inc. In July 1991, he became the President of his local chapter for the next four years as a result of the passing of Lt. Ronald Sanders. He then became Assistant Director of the Northeast Region for two years under the guidance of then Director Lloyd Ayers; Northeast Region Director for four years, and Executive Vice-president for the past six years. He was groomed by our illustrious first President, David J. Floyd, and has served under former IABPFF Presidents' Romeo Spaulding, Oshiyemi Adelabu, Theodore Holmes and Johnny J. Brewington. As a student of history, he has watched the ebb and flow of our national office, the Black Chief Officers Committee, the Black Women in the Fire Service, the Information Technology Committee, the Dr. Carl Holmes Executive Development Institute, the Legal Defense Fund and other pertinent action items. This experience has helped him to guide our prestigious organization into the future.

His journey has also prepared him for other community service. In 1995, he was instrumental along with others in organizing and mobilizing over 250,000 men from the New York metropolitan area to attend the Million Man March. Since then he has represented the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters (IABPFF) at meeting forums, and conferences nationwide. He has been instrumental in recruitment and diversity programs, and has conducted fire safety, disaster preparedness, and educational workshops throughout the country. He has been a presenter at the Dr. Carl Holmes Executive Development Institute at Clark-Atlanta University, offering subjects "Time Management for Executives" and "The History of the Black Firefighter in America and the significance of the IABPFF". He is also a 2007 graduate. His articles have been published in periodicals in Westchester and Rockland County (N.Y.), Baltimore, South Carolina, and by the Amsterdam News and the Final Call. Shortly after September 11, 2001, he was interviewed by Black Enterprise Magazine, about the condition of our Brothers who responded to the World Trade Center. As a result of this tragedy, and because of his unique position as a firefighter and a Muslim, he became a member of the White Plains Religious Leaders Task Force (An ecumenical group of Pastors, Imams, Rabbis, and others). In 2006, he was featured on WCBS-FM 101.1 in New York City regarding the "Reduction of fire deaths for infants and toddlers", and in 2007, was televised on the "Montel Williams Show" highlighting "Racism in America." As a result of his speaking engagements and public appearances, he is acknowledged for his oratory skills by religious, civic, education and business leaders alike.

Brother Joseph is the Brother-in-Law of Fire Inspector Jerry Epps (SER) and the late Warren Ogburn (LODD: 1993). He has been married for 29 years and has been blessed to raise 3 sons and 4 nephews.

Joseph Muhammad recently was promoted to Lt., and is currently enrolled in the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) First Line Supervisors Training Program. (Graduating in February, Lord willing)

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