

**June 11, 2019 House Judiciary Committee Hearing Regarding
The Reauthorization of September 11th Victim Compensation Fund**

**TESTIMONY OF
RETIRED NYPD DETECTIVE LUIS ALVAREZ**

Good Morning Ladies and Gentleman -

My name is Luis Alvarez and I am a retired NYPD Detective from the Bomb Squad and proud military veteran. Less than 24 hours from now I will start my 69th Round of Chemotherapy. Yes that's correct 69th Round.

I should not be here today but YOU made me come. YOU made me come because I will not stand by and watch as my friends with cancer from 9/11 like me are valued less than anyone else is because of when they get sick or die.

I have been lucky enough to have 69 rounds of chemo. Yes i said lucky. Many others only had 5 and some had none. Their families would love to have had the time with them that mine has had with me. So because I have been lucky enough to have the pain and suffering of 69 rounds of chemo and countless other treatments, it is my goal and will be my legacy to see that YOU do the right thing for all 9/11 responders.

Please understand that we do not want ANYTHING for ourselves. We became police officers, fire fighters, paramedics to help others. We went to Ground Zero, the Pentagon and Shanksville to help people first and then to help their families bury something. We were there together with one mission and we left after completing the mission.

I have been to many places in this world and done many things but I can tell you that I did not want to be anywhere else but Ground Zero when I was there. We were part of showing the world we would never back down from terrorism and that we could all work together. No races, no colors and no politics.

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Now the 9/11 illnesses have taken many of us and we are all worried about our children, our spouses and our families and what happens if we are not here. The VCF has done a wonderful job and treated my family with great respect. But my life isn't worth more than the next responder to get cancer. My family's needs are not worth less than others that have already died.

This fund is not a lottery ticket to paradise. It is there to provide for our families when we can't. Nothing more.

Those of us that were at Ground Zero, the Morgue, Fresh Kills Landfill, the Pentagon and Shanksville WILL NEVER FORGET. Every single member of Congress has said they will NEVER FORGET and they say NEVER FORGET every September 11th. Its NOT one day per year for many of us, it's ever day.

You all said you would "Never Forget". Well I am here to make sure that you don't. I am here because others cannot get here. I would rather be back at Ground Zero again than be here, working together.

YOU MADE ME COME HERE THE DAY BEFORE MY 69th ROUND OF CHEMO and I am going to make sure you NEVER FORGET to take care of the 9/11 Responders.

I am going to leave you with this ... I will complete my 69th round of chemo tomorrow ... for a moment I want you to think about how many tens of thousands of rounds of chemo the 9/11 first responders have completed so far and how many tens of thousands are still come ...

WE DID THAT FOR YOU & WE WILL KEEP DOING IT ... PLEASE DO NOT DISRESPECT US & MAKE US BEG FOR OUR FAMILIES