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Hilton Garden Inn Saves The Day.

[New York] – September 29, 2013 – On Friday, September 25, 2013, a truck carrying T-shirts for the Tunnel to Tower run, a 9/11 memorial race, went up in flames. Thankfully, staff members at the Staten Island Hilton Garden Inn were there to save the day. Lois and Richard Nicotra, owners of the Hilton Garden Inn, many firefighters and two very dedicated members of the Hilton's housekeeping staff, Blanca Cubides, who had just gotten home after her shift when the firefighters arrived to pick her up, and William Fonseca toiled away in the laundry room from 11p.m. to 8 a.m., to wash and dry the smoky shirts. At 3 a.m., when Lois and Richard Nicotra suggested that they all leave and finish the job in the morning, Blanca refused. She wanted to finish the shirts so she could still have time to wash the Hilton laundry in the morning. About 14,000 T-shirts were washed and dried throughout the night and were ready for the race on Sunday.

"We have these gigantic washing machines and gigantic dryers," Richard Nicotra said. "When the firefighters brought the T-Shirts to us, they smelled terribly of smoke. But when they were coming out of the laundry, they were like brand new." The incident occurred at about 8 p.m. on Friday, September 25, when a UPS truck carrying race day kits suddenly caught fire. The driver immediately stopped the truck and jumped out while an estimated 18,000 T-shirts were burned, soaked or partially damaged along with some other race day paraphernalia. That's when the chief of the Fire Department called Richard Nicotra with an interesting inquiry; "Do you do your own laundry or do you send it out?" Richard graciously volunteered himself, his staff and his equipment to try to salvage the day. This is just

another instance of the dedication that the exemplary Hilton employees consistently show by putting others before themselves and working together as a team to provide assistance regardless of the situation.

The Tunnel to Tower run is held every year to honor the late firefighter Stephen Siller. It follows the path Siller took on the day of the attacks on the World Trade Center. Though he was off-duty, he rushed into Manhattan when he heard what was happening. Unable to get into the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel, he got out of his car and ran to the Towers with his gear strapped to his back. Although named for one firefighter, the run is designed to honor the 343 firefighters who lost their lives that day, as well as pay special tribute to all the policemen, EMTs, construction workers and all the special people who perished in their quest to save others. “This event began as a way to honor Stephen and his firefighter brothers,” said Frank Siller, one of Stephen’s siblings and a coordinator for the run. Frank said this was just a small challenge to overcome and the race was run as usual. More than 20,000 participants from all parts of the metropolitan area, across the country and from as far away as England and Hawaii attend the Run. The event has raised more than \$5 million for burn victims, orphans, Katrina relief and other causes since its inception eight years ago.

Nestled in 415 acres of protected woodlands, The Hilton, once the hidden jewel of the Island, is now a destination not only for overnight guests, although with 150 rooms and suites, a full service Spa and an indoor pool and fitness center, it is the largest and most luxurious hotel in the environs, but rather the new gathering spot for area residents searching for a return to understated elegance with an upscale exciting twist.

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For more information on Hilton Garden Inn, Staten Island and Nicotra’s Ballroom:

www.HGI.com www.NicotrasBallroom.com www.LorenzosDining.com