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I am Kaitlyn Hanson, the daughter of Michael T Hanson who was a member of the Emergency Service Unit (truck1) of the NYPD. My father passed away from ALS In 2018 as a result of the rescue and retrieval missions following the attacks on the World Trade Center. He deteriorated very quickly and passed just a few short months after receiving his ALS diagnosis. Within his family history there is no instance of neurological disease and doctors have said that the rapid progression of his illness can be attributed to his exposures down at Ground Zero. His autopsy has confirmed tissues containing antimony, a metal that is linked to neurological disease as well as a common finding in emergency sites.

Many of the brave men and women he worked with are also suffering from neurological disorders. Not just ALS but Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, and early onset Alzheimer's.

These heroes thought nothing of sacrificing their health and their lives at the expense of helping others. They deserve to be recognized for that heroism and to be taken care of as the effects wreak havoc on their bodies. They came in and face the worst the world had to offer with no hesitation. It is past the time that we do the same for them.

I respectfully ask that this committee recognizes neurological disorders as 9/11 related illnesses and gives these incredibly brave individuals to help they so badly need.

With gratitude,

Kaitlyn Hanson