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Meet Dan Carione: "Hearing hero" cop loses job due to hearing aid, fights, wins it back – and becomes a passionate advocate for hearing health along the way



WHO: New York City police officer Dan Carione, 50, Beltone's first Safe & Sound Award winner. Carione has worked as an NYPD police officer in his native Brooklyn for most of his adult life. But his demonstrations of valor as an officer were not the bravest thing he's ever done.

WHAT: On July 4, 1996 while on duty, Carione and his partner stopped two active suspects who were indiscriminately stabbing civilians and uniformed police officers. His partner discharged her weapon close to Carione's right ear, causing permanent partial hearing loss in that ear.

Carione waited 12 years to get a hearing aid (the average is seven to 10 years.) When he did, he was told he would have to take early retirement. He fought to keep the job he loved, and won in a landmark Americans with Disabilities Act legal case that paved the way for other first responders who need hearing aids to do their jobs. Carione continues working as a Deputy Inspector in a Brooklyn North precinct, wearing the hearing aid that he says makes him a better officer, father, husband, and friend. The experience of having his hearing restored has made him a passionate advocate for hearing health; he routinely urges those he meets to have their hearing screened.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Sept. 11, 2001
Among the first to respond to events at Ground Zero; conducted search & rescue operations
- 2006 NYPD Medal for Valor
In Sept. 2005 while off-duty, Carione leaped into Jamaica Bay to rescue an autistic teenager who had been thrown in, unprovoked, by an emotionally disturbed person. He spent 30 minutes treading water with the victim until they were pulled out of the bay.
- September 2005, New Orleans, Hurricane Katrina
Set up rescue and patrol operations in the French Quarter with 250 NYPD officers

- 2011 - Instituted federal lawsuit regarding employment discrimination against NYPD after being forced off the job due to his use of a hearing aid
- 2015 - Reinstated after NYPD settles case agreeing to allow hearing aids by police officers

QUOTE “Coming forward and saying ‘I can’t hear’ was very scary. But if you’re a firefighter or police officer, you’re naturally often in an extremely noisy environment. Hearing is a jewel – and if it’s lost, there’s no way to regain it. Only one in four of the 48 million Americans with hearing loss do anything about it....But this is not your grandfather’s hearing aid. These devices are powerful, they’re dependable, they’re user-friendly, and they restore functional hearing.”

AWARDS **Beltone Safe and Sound Award**

May 2017 – Beltone

Awarded for advocacy work done ensuring the rights of the hearing disabled in the work place

Marcia Dugan Advocacy Award

June 2016 – Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)

For efforts furthering the employment rights of the hearing disabled

Eagle Advocacy Award

Nov. 2015 – Disabilities Rights Advocates (DRA)

For furthering the employment rights of the hearing disabled

Irving Berelson Advocacy Award

Sept. 2015 – The Center For Hearing and Communication

For work done in furthering the employment rights of the hearing disabled

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Beltone commercial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8g8Qj45DRAo>

New York City – PIX11 – reporter Joe Mauceri , May 19, 2017: <https://vimeo.com/223196489/c867cde9f1>

New York City – News 12 Brooklyn June 22, 2017 <https://vimeo.com/223203249/7da5cbff7>

The Brooklyn Reporter newspaper: <http://brooklynreporter.com/story/longtime-brooklyn-cop-stands-hearing-impaired/>

THE SAFE & SOUND INITIATIVE

“Those we Trust, Trust Beltone”

In conjunction with the launch of its newest hearing aid, Beltone Trust™, Beltone introduced *Safe & Sound*, a unique campaign focused on educating consumers about the dangers of hearing loss (which include isolation, lower brain function and dementia) and the benefits of early treatment and prevention. The *Safe & Sound* initiative features everyday community heroes who struggled with their own hearing loss—hearing loss that threatened to irreparably interrupt every facet of their professional and personal lives. By devoting time and energy to their hearing health, they were able to again live life to the fullest. The campaign features individuals who are advocates for hearing loss education and eliminating the stigma of hearing loss.

About Beltone

Founded in 1940, Chicago-based Beltone is part of the GN Hearing Care Group, a global leader in intelligent audio solutions with a unique portfolio of medical, professional and consumer audio solutions. Using advanced technology to produce hearing aid instruments sold in the United States, Canada and over 50 countries worldwide, Beltone provides industry-leading products, services and support for its U.S. hearing care network operating in over 1,500 offices in North America. Beltone remains the most trusted brand for quality products and care among its patients and adults aged 50 and older. Visit Beltone at www.beltone.com.