

Police personnel receive church honors

By Chris Sykes
Staff Writer

Four uniformed and one civilian member of the Orange Police Department were honored for their work during a local church's 9/11 service.

Acting Police Director Kevin Soohy and the Rev. Reginald Jackson, one of the department's chaplains, attended last week's 9/11 Remembrance Service and Salute to Public Servants in Christian Love Baptist Church, Irvington.

Jackson delivered a "Prayer for

Public Servants," then watched as Sgt. Wilbur Baptist and Officers Robert Cherry, Jean Barbosa and Pablo Cajiga, as well as civilian staff member Jacqueline Harkeem, were honored.

"How well do we remember the pain, hurt and loss of 9/11," Jackson said. "As we remember those things, we also remember the men and women who ran toward the danger, not away from it.

"Public servants serve a public that is not always respectful and grateful and is not always support-

ive," Jackson continued in his prayer. "Bless the public servants and the public that they serve."

The church building was filled as its pastor, Rev. Ron Christian, and his parishioners celebrated the dedication of the police, fire and emergency personnel who responded to the Twin Towers after they had been struck by two airplanes hijacked by terrorists.

While many of the first responders made the "ultimate sacrifice" on that warm September day in 2001, Christian said their deaths

were not in vain. He added it was up to those who lived to honor their individual and collective sacrifices.

As for today's personnel, Christian said they also deserve recognition from their communities. He said it was important to value the men and women who risk their lives to prevent another attack.

Christian also received an honor, a ceremonial key to the county, from Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo Jr. for his work as a chaplain for the Sheriff's Department.