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Best of New York: Daily News picks the best doorman in New York

Sam Palazzalo is 82 and has been working at his upper East Side building for 50 years
BY Jacob E. Osterhout & Amanda P. Sidman

The Caledonia, 450 W. 17th St., Manhattan

As if it wasn't enough of a perk living right on the High Line, the staff at The Caledonia in West Chelsea make it even more special. Resident favorites include Edwin Dominguez, Matt Croft, Nick Palomino, and Brenda Salazar, although it seems unanimous that tenants are more than pleased with the entirety of the friendly staff. The doormen and women, as well as the concierge staff, watch over the building 24/7 and know every resident (and dog!) who comes through the door. And it seems as if the employees like the building just as much as the tenants like them: Edwin, who has been with building's management company for 13 years and with The Caledonia since it opened in 2008, is one of many who has stayed within the company's family.



Amanda P. Sidman/
Edwin Dominguez, doorman at 450 W. 17th St.

Sam Palazzalo
245 E. 72nd St., upper East Side



Sam Palazzalo, doorman at 245 E. 72nd St.

If practice makes perfect then Sam Palazzalo is the epitome of perfection. At 82, he has been working nonstop at the same upper East Side building, which is a mere 25 blocks from where he was born, since 1961. The Korean War veteran used to run the elevators and connect visitors via a switchboard, but now he simply opens the doors, carries packages and greets children with Tootsie Pops. He has outlasted all but two residents at his building, and shows no signs of slowing down. As Palazzalo likes to point out, the last time he took a vacation was May of 1970, when he went and saw "King Kong vs. Godzilla." So what's Sam's secret to being the best doorman in New York? "When you wake up in the morning," he says, "think what you're gonna do for the people today, not how you're gonna screw them."

Onnie Rose
310 Greenwich St, Tribeca

To say that Onnie Rose keeps things strictly professional would be an understatement. The 46-year-old Parkchester resident takes a great amount of pride in his work as a doorman in Tribeca and it shows. He knows all the residents in the 390-unit building where he works and greets each by name. And he's modest. Rose, who has worked as a doorman for six years now, claims it takes him five days to remember a name, but it took him one introduction to remember this writer's name. According to Rose, the secret to being a good doorman is step out from behind the desk and interact with the residents. "Safety is the most important thing," he says. "When I'm working I know everyone who comes in and out of this building."



Jacob E. Osterhout/
Onnie Rose, doorman at 310 Greenwich St. in Tribeca