

# ten cop goes home

## A painful 'thanks' 2 wks. after attack

By VIRGINIA BREEN and CORKY SIEMASZKO

Daily News Staff Writer

His face looked battered. His words were hard to decipher. And he was in a wheelchair yesterday.

But Transit Detective Sgt. Louis Cosentino — savagely beaten in Brooklyn by a pack of Bay Ridge punks two weeks earlier — was leaving Bellevue Hospital after making a miraculous two-week recovery.

With a face still held together by plates and screws and the latest in medical engineering, Cosentino mustered up a crooked smile and vowed to return to work.

"I hope so," Cosentino told reporters at the hospital. "I have no idea when. Whatever the doctors say."

Dr. Geoff Fenner, Bellevue's chief resident of plastic surgery, said Cosentino's extraordinary will could enable him to return to active duty within a month.

"We do expect a full neurological and physiological recovery," Fenner said.

But as the doctor spoke, Cosentino showed how far he still had to go.

He struggled but could not rise from his wheelchair to say goodbye. He needed his transit cop buddies to steady him.

And then he spoke.

"I'm thankful that I'm going home. I'm thankful to Mayor Giuliani, Commissioner [William] Bratton, my chief and the members of my..."

He couldn't finish. His eyes welled up with tears and he was whisked into a waiting police car to return to his Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, home.

Eight of nine teens who attacked him are in custody, and now Cosentino faces a long journey back to a life without pain.

Seven metal plates and 30

micro-screws hold his battered face together.

He already has undergone six hours of plastic surgery and needs more.

Once home, he faces dental surgery to rebuild his shattered jaw and broken teeth.

He'll be getting lots of help from the Transit Police Benevolent Association.

"We're taking it one day at a time," said transit police spokesman Lt. Robert Valentino. "We'll take it from there."

Cosentino was overpowered and beaten by nine rowdy youths around 5:30 a.m. Oct. 2 after setting to disperse them.

Eight of them are in jail and the ninth is free on bail. A grand jury is expected to hand up a decision "any day now," said Valentino.

In Cosentino's neighborhood last night, residents applauded their heroic neighbor and lashed out at his attackers.

"What happened to that man was pathetic," said one. "Those kids should be locked up for good."

A banner draped across Fort Hamilton Parkway captured the hope of a community.

"Get Well Soon," it read.

### WWII remembered

DINAGAT ISLAND, Philippines (AP)— U.S. Marines arrived on this southern island yesterday to commemorate the 1944 landing of American units that helped liberate the Philippines during World War II.



PHOTO ALBANO

Cosentino at press conference at hospital before going home yesterday.

THE NATION'S NEWSPAPER

50 CENTS

# USA TODAY

NO. 1 IN THE USA . . . FIRST IN DAILY READERS

**INTERACTIVE TV TRIALS SHOW LONG ROAD AHEAD**

VIDEO-ON-DEMAND TEST RESULTS MAY MEASURE FUTURE VIABILITY, 1B

**ROSEANNE AND 'LARRY' SHARE ★★★ 1/2 MOMENT ON HBO FINALE**



**CAN YOU SAY TOM?** Shandling, Roseanne on 'Larry Sanders' tonight, 3D

**WEDNESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1994**

## NEWSLINE

A QUICK READ ON THE NEWS

**WALL STREET:** Dow Jones industrial average 55.51 points to 3876.83; Nasdaq index rises to 765.57; treasury bond yield falls to 7.86%, 1,3B.

**PS:** Hollywood powerbrokers Steven and David Geffen are form-

# Money for 2,700 new cops awarded today

By Sam Vincent Meddis  
USA TODAY

Nearly 400 communities today will be awarded \$200 million in grants — the first installment on President Clinton's promise to put 100,000 police officers on the streets.

The money, authorized under the new crime bill, will put more than 2,700 additional officers in uniform in those com-

munities, officials say.

The grants — part of \$8.8 billion over the next six years — will be used in community policing programs that put more local police on neighborhood foot patrols.

"Fantastic" — we're hurting for manpower at this point," says Waukegan, Ill., Deputy Chief of Police Scott Burleson, whose 133 officer department is set to receive 10 more.

### WHERE 392 GRANTS WILL GO, 4A

Some other grants

- ▶ Little Rock, Ark., gets 40 officers
- ▶ Polk County, Fla., gets 28 officers
- ▶ Boise, Idaho, 5 officers
- ▶ Lewiston, Maine, gets 3 officers
- ▶ Long Beach, Calif., gets 20 officers

Clinton will make the announcement on the South Lawn of the White House, surrounded by more than 300 police chiefs and mayors.

Critics call the announcement raw politics. "It's smoke and mirrors by the administration," says Jim Fotis of the Law Enforcement Alliance of

America, a police/victims group that opposed including the plan in the crime bill.

With crime leading the list of public concerns, the grants will likely reap political rewards.

"Every member of Congress right now would love to hold a press conference with a big check in hand, those blown up kind," says Paul McNulty, a Justice Department official in the Bush administration.