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**TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO DELIVERS REMARKS AT THE 30TH ANNUAL
FLEET WEEK WELCOMING CEREMONY**

Mayor Bill de Blasio: What an honor to be here. Admiral, thank you. I am so appreciative of everyone. I am just going to do a height adjustment here, actually ill just do that – it works better.

[Laughter]

Everyone you have brought us like the most beautiful night of the year. I give all credit to the Admiral and the crew of Arlington for that. Thank you to all of you for that.

[Applause]

Admiral, you've served this nation for over 30 years, that's an extraordinary accomplishment. And what you're doing right now, helping to lead this Navy and protect us all. All New Yorkers salute that; let's thank the Admiral for all that he has done.

[Applause]

And Admiral gave some real credit where credit is due to Commissioner Loree Sutton. Now, don't hold it against her, she was in the Army. Nobody is perfect, right?

So, she was General Loree Sutton before we turned her into Commissioner Loree Sutton. And yes our Department of Veterans Services is the model for the nation because we've got almost 500,000 veterans and members of veteran families here in New York City, and we want to make sure we honor them by serving them. And thank you Commissioner Sutton and your whole team at Veteran Services.

[Applause]

Admiral, she has a very loud team. You noticed that?

Unknown: New Yorkers.

Mayor: Yes, they're New Yorkers. Captain Marzano, thank you for allowing us to be on Arlington and to share this time with you and your crew. It's just wonderful to have you here.

We – Fleet Week is such a big deal in New York City. And I loved hearing what it means to the men and women of our armed services to come here and be honored, and appreciated. But I want you to know what it means to us, it is literally – this is the busiest place in the world. This is I would argue the most exciting place in the world. But people get a little giddy when Fleet Week is coming, because we're so happy to see all of you.

[Applause]

And we look forward to it every year. Now, I want to state the obvious. Whatever hospitality we provide we can never fully thank you for all you do for this country. We can never fully thank you, but we're going to try, we're going to try and show you a fantastic week and a time of your lives, and I think it'll be memorable and something that will really speak to our love for the men and women who serve us. For me it's very personal to be a part of this. I come from an unusual family, because it's a World War II era family, and my mother and my father, and my wife's mother and father all served in the war effort in a different way. My wife's mom worked at the Springfield Armory in Massachusetts. Her dad served in the Army in Europe in World War II. My mom served in the Office of War Information right here in New York City. And my dad served, but I am going to let on a secret and Captain you'll appreciate this particularly. My dad after Pearl Harbor volunteered and he wanted to go into the Navy. He was about my height, and back then they would not allow people of that height to serve on ships. So I was this close to being a son of sailor. He went into the Army served in the Pacific. And I am so proud of all of the previous generations that did so much for us. But I can tell you they would be proud of all of you today carrying on this amazing tradition and protecting us and living up to all of our ideals. So, I want to tell you also, New York feels a special appreciation because – yes, what we went through on 9-11 is seared into our memories. But we know that the Navy and the Marines, and the Coast Guard were there for us that day helping in the rescue. That is a debt that we remember eternally. We knew in our toughest hour you were there for us. And I want you to know that people will express that gratitude wherever you go in these next days. So 2,400 – 2,500 sailors, marines, and coast guardsmen in town this is going to be an extraordinary week for New York City. Admiral, am I allowed to order them all to have a good time?

Admiral John Meier: Yes sir.

Mayor: Okay, I've gotten official authorization. If we catch anyone not having a good time, there will be disciplinary punishment. Okay, I'll be clear about that. But everyone, enjoy this week, we appreciate you, we love you, and God Bless you all.

[Applause]

Admiral Meier: Mr. Mayor, I did have one small presentation I wanted to make before I let you get out of here sir.

On behalf of the United States Navy, and Marine Corp team and Admiral Brady, I'd love to present you with this ceremonial porthole that is reflective of the deep appreciation that we have for the on-going relationship with New York and the fantastic hospitality, thank you sir.

Mayor: I love it, thank you. Admiral, I have never been given a porthole before.

[Laughter]

Now, Admiral stay where you are one second. I want to return the favor not quite as grand. Alright, maybe this is a little bit the New York style to do something with flare and flash to it. This is the official New York City Fleet Week snow globe.

[Laughter]

It's only available here, everyone.

Admiral Meier: Thank you, sir.

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