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## NYPD Honors 70 Members of the Department at Annual Medal Day

June 6, 2018

***Detective Familia Posthumously Awarded Medal of Honor; Sergeant Conniff Awarded Purple Shield; Special Shield Presentation for Detective McDonald***

Seventy members of the New York City Police Department were honored at the 2018 Medal Day ceremony. The annual Medal Day ceremony honors both uniformed and civilian members of the NYPD of all ranks who have performed significant acts of heroism, some of whom have made the ultimate sacrifice by laying down their lives to uphold their sworn oath as law enforcement officers. Mayor Bill de Blasio and Police Commissioner James P. O'Neill were joined by family members of the honorees at the ceremony at One Police Plaza. "Today we honor those who gave their lives for the people of this city, and we also recognize those whose remarkable courage, instinct, and skill carried them through situations that would have panicked most other people. But they're not most other people – they are among the finest law enforcement officers in the world," said Police Commissioner James P. O'Neill. "But we can't forget that cops are regular people, too – people with families and hopes and fears, just like everyone else. The difference is: Cops are ordinary people who, when faced with challenges, do extraordinary things."

"Today is a recognition of the brave, by the brave, and an opportunity to honor the proud history of those who wear the uniform in service to our city," said Mayor de Blasio. "I urge all New Yorkers to join me in recognizing every member of the world's finest police department—past and present—for their sacrifices and steady excellence in protecting our home."

Detective First Grade Miosotis P. Familia was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. The Medal of Honor is the Department's highest award, bestowed since 1871 for acts of gallantry and valor performed above and beyond the call of duty, with full knowledge of the risk involved. On July 5, 2017, Detective Familia was shot and critically wounded in the line of duty in an unprovoked, premeditated attack by a recidivist criminal out on parole. She died a short time later at Saint Barnabas Hospital. Detective Familia and her partner were working a midnight tour and in a Department mobile command vehicle, stationed at the corner of East 183rd Street and Creston Avenue in the Bronx, when an armed man walked up to the vehicle and shot her through the front passenger's side window. The gunman was shot and killed by responding officers one block from the scene of the shooting. At her funeral on July 11, 2017, Police Commissioner O'Neill posthumously promoted Officer Familia to Detective First Grade.

Sergeant Donald S. Conniff was posthumously awarded the Purple Shield. The Purple Shield is awarded to members of the service who have suffered extreme serious physical injury, permanent disfigurement, or protracted or permanent impairment of health or any bodily function while performing an official act either on or off duty. On the morning of January 1, 1998, just hours after Sergeant Conniff had worked New Year's Eve in Times Square, and was then on his way to work another detail at City Hall, a drunk driver went through a red light and struck his car just blocks from his 9th Precinct station house. For the next 17 years, Sergeant Conniff fought a valiant battle. He died on December 12, 2015.

Detective First Grade Steven McDonald was posthumously honored in a Special Shield Presentation in which his shield was permanently retired from service. On July 12, 1986, Detective McDonald was on foot patrol in Central Park, near Fifth Avenue and 107th Street, when he encountered a group of teenagers believed to be involved in a robbery. Detective McDonald stopped them near the boathouse on Harlem Meer. As he was questioning the teens one of them drew a concealed .22 caliber revolver and fired, striking Detective McDonald three times. He was transported to a local hospital where it was determined that his near fatal injuries had caused paralysis. As a result, he used a wheelchair and breathed with the assistance of a ventilator. On January 10, 2017, Detective McDonald died as a direct result of complications from the gunshot wounds. He was 59-years-old.

In addition, 67 other members of the service were presented Wednesday with Departmental honors, as follows.

**Distinguished Service Medal** – *conferred upon the family of a member of the service who succumbed to illness associated with exceptional duty, performed with great responsibility, under unusual hazard or demand. Twenty-four members of the service who succumbed to illnesses contracted during the rescue and recovery effort in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks have received the Distinguished Service Medal:*

Deputy Chief James G. Molloy  
Lieutenant John C. Rowland  
Sergeant Patrick J. Boyle  
Sergeant Patrick T. Coyne  
Sergeant Terrence S. O'Hara  
Sergeant Michael B. Wagner  
Detective First Grade Gerard A. Ahearn  
Detective Second Grade Thomas P. Ward  
Detective James T. Giery  
Detective William D. Kinane  
Detective Stephen T. Kubinski  
Detective Christian R. Lindsay  
Detective George C. Remouns, Jr.  
Police Officer Judy A. Ghany-Barounis  
Police Officer William J. King  
Police Officer Christine A. Reilly  
Police Officer Wayne J. Sblano  
Police Officer Peter M. Sheridan  
Police Officer Richard E. Taylor  
Police Officer Reginald Umphery  
Police Officer John F. Vierling, Jr.  
Police Surgeon Murtain Haskin

Maintenance Supervisor Umberto Corso  
Administrative Traffic Enforcement Agent Eugene P. Hourican

**Police Combat Cross** – *The Department's second highest award, bestowed for extraordinary acts of heroism while engaged in personal struggle with an armed adversary under circumstances of imminent personal hazard. Sixteen members of the service received the Police Combat Cross:*

*Lieutenant Marek Nowak*  
Sergeant Cesar Gomez  
Sergeant Patrick McGrath  
Sergeant Michael Pomerantz  
Detective Diara Cruz  
Detective Nicholas DeRobertis  
Detective Andrew Dossi  
Detective Patrick Espeut  
Detective Daniel Gasperetti  
Detective Richard Hoda  
Detective Aliro Pellerano  
Detective Edelman Santos  
Detective Matthew Vorraro  
Police Officer Phillip Pena  
Police Officer John Quinn  
Police Officer Jaime Santiago

**Medal for Valor** – *The Department's third highest award, granted for acts of outstanding personal bravery performed in the line of duty and at imminent personal hazard to life, under circumstances evincing disregard for personal consequence. Twenty-four members of the service, one retired member of the service, and two former members of the service received the Medal for Valor:*

Lieutenant Patrick Ryan  
Lieutenant Christopher Ward  
Sergeant Alberto Puente  
Sergeant Richard Santiago  
Sergeant Thomas Sorrentino  
Detective John Fahim  
Detective Willie Johnson  
Detective Gregory Kennedy  
Detective Shante Terrell  
Police Officer Jacob Aaronson  
Police Officer John Arnold  
Police Officer Anthony Baresi  
Police Officer Brian Boyle  
Police Officer Tony Cuoco  
Police Officer John Flanagan  
Police Officer Marc Fontana  
Police Officer Craig Lalla  
Police Officer Mateusz Krzeminski  
Police Officer William Neville  
Police Officer Juan Peralta

Police Officer Gobin Ragunath  
Police Officer Michael Renna  
Police Officer Kenneth Stallone  
Police Officer Kiel Sui  
Police Officer Diana Torres  
Police Officer Michael Vuoso  
Police Officer Frederick Winter

**Unit Citations** – *Personnel assigned to the following commands were recognized for outstanding performance in sustaining a high level of service to the City of New York in 2017:*

9 Precinct  
32 Precinct  
41 Precinct  
101 Precinct  
Police Service Area 2  
Transit District 3  
Patrol Borough Brooklyn North Anti-Crime  
40 Precinct Detective Squad  
Central Robbery Division  
The Office of Crime Control Strategies  
Employee Assistance Unit  
Force Investigation Division  
Traffic Enforcement Division

Read the Police Commissioner's remarks from the ceremony.