

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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**TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO DELIVERS REMARKS AT STREET CO-
NAMING CEREMONY FOR REVEREND FLOYD H. FLAKE**

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Thank you, Daneek. Everyone, I want to thank Council Member Daneek Miller for leading the way. This honor could happen now when we need it to happen. Thank you, Council Member. Good morning, everybody.

Audience: Good morning.

Mayor: It is no accident it is a particularly beautiful fall day because we are celebrating a wonderful man and a beautiful family. Now, Senator Schumer talked about Dr. Flake's life in joyous and extensive detail. So, I'm going to do something for all of us. I'm going to be short and sweet here because there's so many people who want to offer their tribute. But let me say the most important thing I can say, there are moments when I have an honor of speaking for over 8 million New Yorkers with one voice, there are moments that unite us truly, and this is one of those moments because someone arose from this city to do something great for this city, for this neighborhood, for this whole nation, someone arose and did something for the ages. So, on behalf of over 8 million New Yorkers, Pastor Flake I say, thank you. Thank you for all you have done for all of us. And I have to say, because the pastor is an extraordinary talent, someone of a kind of range we rarely see, who can do so much. You choose it. Whether it is in the field of faith or education or affordable housing or serving our seniors or fighting in the halls of Congress, wherever he went, he did it well, and he still does it well.

[Applause]

An extraordinary talent, but every great man, every great person takes energy and faith and works in partnership with their beloved family. The whole Flake family deserves our thanks and praise today.

[Applause]

Now, any traditionalists in the audience, please forgive me, because I've been influenced by the teachings of our First Lady here in New York City. So, at Gracie mansion, we're not allowed to say behind any great man stands a great woman. We say beside every great man stands a great woman. So, Dr. Elaine Flake, thank you. Thank you for all you have built together with Pastor Flake.

[Applause]

I will conclude with this point. I've had the honor of knowing Pastor Flake a long time. Every time we sat in his office, I felt wiser from the experience, I felt clearer, I felt inspired, because a man of great wisdom and great learning, but also a man who understood how to get things done and has always shown us how to get things done. What do they say about faith without works?

Audience: [Inaudible]

Mayor: If ever you want an object lesson of someone who understood that they have to be works to match the faith, it is Pastor Floyd Flake. And so to the, not just hundreds, not just thousands, not just tens of thousands, but to the hundreds of thousands of Queens residents and New Yorkers and Americans who have been uplifted, whose lives have been made better because of everything Pastor Floyd Flake does for all of us, for every one of you, whether you got inspiration or counseling, or whether you got help as a senior citizen, or you got affordable housing, or a better education for your child, or Southeast Queens got its fair share of federal resources, whatever way you look at it, hundreds of thousands of people have benefited by the works of this man who put faith into action every single day.

[Applause]

I conclude with a thanks to all of you. Look around you, people of faith, people who care. Look around you, this army of goodness. Look around you at the heroes who will bring New York City back. It will not be the famous names who bring this city back. It will be every single one of you. Give your neighbor a round applause. Thank each other for the work you are doing.

[Applause]

Thank each other for the fact that every one of our public schools is now open for our children. You did that. Thank you for the fact that this city will move forward. The parents are happy. I like that. Now everybody take inspiration. Senator Schumer said it right, tough road ahead, but here in front of us today, a man who illuminates our path and gives us faith and hope, we will succeed. We will prevail because we have the example of Pastor Floyd Flake. Thank you, Pastor and God bless you.

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