



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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**RUSH TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO DELIVERS REMARKS AT THE POLICE MEMORIAL
WALL DEDICATION CEREMONY**

Mayor Bill de Blasio: I want to thank Sergeant Andrew McEvoy for his leadership of today's event. It's a somber day. It's a day we gather – we gather together to honor people who did extraordinary things, to keep their memory alive because these men and women set themselves upon a path to protect others, to be there for others in their time of need, and they're no longer with us today because of that. And that is all the more reason why we have to keep their memories strong – because they did the right thing, they did the tough thing, they did the noble thing – and we honor them for it. It's a humbling place, this memorial, because it reminds us of just how many people chose to do the right thing, chose to do the noble thing. Nearly 800 names are engraved on this wall. Each one carries an extraordinary story with it. Each one was a hero who sacrificed so much. All – every one of them – nobly upheld the tradition of the greatest police force on this earth. Each one of them is worthy of our praise and our remembrance and our appreciation and our desire to live the life as good and noble as the one that they lived.

Before I go on, I'd like to thank and recognize a few of the individuals with us here today. First, our hosts, who helped make this event possible – Shari Hyman, President and CEO of the Battery Park City Authority. Of course, the leadership of the NYPD – our extraordinary Commissioner Bill Bratton, our First Deputy Commissioner Rafael Piñero, our Chief of Department Phil Banks – I want to thank them for their tremendous service to this city. I want to thank those who represent the men and women of the NYPD every day – Pat Lynch, president of the PBA; Roy Richter, president of the CEA – thank you for your leadership and support for the men and women who do this crucial work.

Today we focus on and we commemorate the lives of 12 courageous members of the NYPD. I'd like to name them today and appreciate each and every one of them for what they did for this city and for our people.

Detective Thomas F. Weiner Jr.

Police Officer Frank G. Macri.

Police Officer Karen E. Barnes.

Police Officer Richard G. Holland.

Sergeant Michael J. McHugh.

Police Officer Ronald G. Becker Jr.

Detective John F. Kristofferson.

Detective Tracy L. Tack-Czajowski.

Detective Tommy L. Merriweather.

Lieutenant Steven L. Cioffi.

Detective Carmen M. Figueroa.

Police Officer Francis T. Pitone.

Their names have joined a pantheon – a pantheon of heroes that this city honors and will always remember.

All 12 of these good individuals died of 9/11-related illness. Toxic dusts swirled around them as they did their duty, as they searched tirelessly for survivors, as they assisted in all the rescue and recovery efforts. This was extraordinarily difficult and noble duty that they engaged in – and it left them with deep wounds to their health. And sadly their health failed them, and they made the ultimate sacrifice – and it's yet another reminder of so many of our brothers and sisters who are still afflicted today by illnesses related to 9/11 and all that we must do to support them.

Our hearts go out to the family of these noble individuals, their loved ones, and to their second family – the entire NYPD that has stood by these men and women and stood by their families, and always will.

13 years ago, very near this site, our city changed forever. It was one of our toughest moments in our entire history as a city, but in those dark hours, our city shone at its brightest. We continue to be inspired by those who ran towards the danger, by those who came back day after day to help despite the risk they faced, by those who helped others and thought only of helping others. There's a quote from Robert F. Kennedy that helps us to remember what each and every one of those acts of decency and courage and heroism add up to. He said, "It's from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped." These 12 noble individuals helped to shape human history, helped to show what this city was made of and how it would respond to crisis and attack. They helped to put us back on our feet and move us forward – and for that they will never be forgotten. And in their memory, we continue to build on their work, carry on their legacy every day in the work of the NYPD.

On behalf of all 8.4 million New Yorkers, I thank these individuals and I thank all the men and women of the NYPD for their service, their tireless and dedicated service to this city. Thank you.

[Applause]

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