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**RUSH TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO DELIVERS REMARKS AT FLIGHT 587 14TH
ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Thank you, Father Fajardo, and thank you, Father Cunningham, for the very moving invocations.

Me siento muy honrado de estar con ustedes en esta ceremonia en la que recordamos este evento tan triste para todos.

Before I talk about what this day means to the families here and to all New Yorkers, let me just thank some of the people who have helped to make this possible today and who are here in solidarity. I want to thank two of New York City's Finest and Bravest who will toll the bell as we observe today's moment of silence, Detective Dan Byrnes of the NYPD and Firefighter James Sorokac of the FDNY.

I want to thank the members of my administration – our Community Affairs Commissioner, Marco Carrion, and our Design and Construction Commissioner, Feniosky Peña-Mora. And I want to thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito for being with us today. And Assembly Member Guillermo Linares I want to give a special thank-you to because he has been such a strength and a support to the families from the very beginning, and it's obvious as we spoke to families today how much they have leaned on Guillermo as a support and how he has been there for them throughout. So, thank you, Assembly Member.

It has been 14 years – and as I heard from so many people here today, 14 years but the pain is still so strong. There is always the hope that time provides a little healing, but at the same time the grief is sharp and remains intense.

We may be a city of eight-and-a-half million people, and we may seem all different, but today we mourn as one.

On that terrible day 14 years ago, we lost mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, friends, neighbors – the tragedy touched us all. But it was particularly painful for our Dominican community.

Los acompañamos de corazón, y oramos por todas las personas que perdimos ese trágico día.

We gather today in remembrance. We gather today as a testament to the strength and resilience of all who are here and all the families who continue despite the pain.

We gather today also to honor the first responders who rushed to the scene with courage, with compassion, with strength. And they were there for the families in the days after. And so many people came to the aid of the families because they felt this pain with them.

Those who are lost, they will really never vanish. You can see today their memories are strong and they're being kept alive. And the enduring grace of memory sustains them, and their legacies continue – and in that way, their lives continue.

Scripture tells us, “God heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.” So let us all pray today for those who perished and for their families. Let us pray for healing and strength.

I heard so many people say what a difficult day this is – every year it comes back to them. And yet, people come here together to support each other. And I want to thank all the family members who have been there for each other, even for families that are not their own, who have felt that calling to help. Some of you have put so much energy and so much devotion over these 14 years into making sure that each family had what they needed. That is something we honor today as well – the devotion you've had for each other and the fact that you will never let the memories pass away – you will continue them in all you do.

Now, let us bow our heads and have a moment of silence to honor those who were lost.

[Detective Byrnes and Firefighter Sorokac toll the bell]

We will now read the names of those who were lost on that painful day.

[...]

I want to thank you all for being here today to honor those who were lost.

Let us depart, remembering to live our lives as our loved ones would have wished – to live them to the fullest, to do all that they would've wished for us.

In closing, I want to welcome Freddy Rodríguez to come forward to share a letter from José Tomás Pérez, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the United States.

[...]

Thank you very much. And thank you all. God bless you all. And now we will proceed to this beautiful and powerful memorial behind us to pay our respects.

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