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**TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO, COMMISSIONER NIGRO DELIVER
EULOGIES AT FUNERAL FOR FDNY LIEUTENANT MICHAEL DAVIDSON**

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Your eminence, thank you so much for welcoming all of us to this great cathedral. Thank you for your beautiful homily which I know meant so much to everyone here.

Our City is in pain today. We're in mourning. We're in mourning for this good family. We're in mourning for our Fire Department. For everyone who knew and loved Lieutenant Michael Davidson, we're here in grief but we're also here in solidarity to stand by this family.

Eileen, your strength is so clear despite your pain. We're all here for you. We're here for your beautiful children. We're here for Michael's strong and wonderful mother, Paula, for his father, Robert, a retired firefighter who's served this City before Michael, taught him the way, for his brother, Eric, who continues to serve our City as a firefighter.

We're here for everyone in Engine 69, Ladder 28, and the entire FDNY. I offer the condolences of this entire City and an appreciation for a hero because now this whole City knows that Lieutenant Michael Davidson was a hero of the highest order. This is a City built of concrete and steel, famous for its skyline, but what is more important is the foundation and the foundation is the good people who make this City possible. They are the source of our strength and no one exemplified that more than Michael. No matter what the challenge, no matter what the crisis, he acted without fear, he acted with strength, he acted with compassion for others.

Michael made this City great through his actions every day and for him it was not just enough to serve, he exhibited so many forms of leadership. He was a cornerstone, a cornerstone of his company as the nozzle man, cornerstone of his wonderful community, Floral Park. A firefighter's firefighter, an example to everyone, someone the rookies looked up to and learned from. The embodiment of the term "The Bravest" but no more, nowhere was he more an cornerstone, nowhere was he more devoted, than when it came to his family. Michael's father told me at the wake, that family always came first.

To Michael's children, to Brooke, to Joseph, to Emily, to Amy, this is a difficult, painful, confusing time for young people there's so much to wonder about. Let me offer you a personal thought. I had a dad who wore a uniform and served with pride as well, lost him too early in life

as well. One thing you will find that you will remember your father as a hero, you'll remember his goodness, in your own moments of challenge, in your moments of doubt, your father will be there with you. You will know who he was, you'll know what he did for others, you'll know what an imprint he left on this earth, and that will sustain you. He will never leave you and that is something we can say about all the good men and women of the FDNY. They never leave us. They never shy away from the danger. They are there for us no matter what.

I'll conclude with a vignette that struck me, on Friday evening standing in front of this site of this tragedy with Commissioner Nigro and Chief Leonard. We were looking at the building and a woman approached us from the neighborhood and she had tears in her eyes and her voice was halting, and she said, I just want all of you to know how thankful we are for the firefighters and what they do for us. I want to express that gratitude on behalf of all 8.5 million New Yorkers and my profound condolences to the Davidson family, to the FDNY, to all who knew and loved Michael.

God bless you all.

Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro: Every firefighter wants the nozzle. Even the ones in the truck when they're honest, they'll admit it too, every firefighter wants that moment to battling a fire, pushing it back, and feeling when you ultimately defeat it. As a probie you long for that first chance, it's one of the core tasks of our Department, saving life and property by literally fighting fire. It's a skill honed overtime and using our most important tool, and those who battled alongside him will tell you, Lieutenant Michael Davidson was a natural born nozzle man. But he still worked and trained hard every single day to make himself even better.

Many nights Mike led his company into a fire, toward the danger, using his remarkable abilities and talents to extinguish the fire. On one occasion in particular, very early in his career, with only two years on the job he showed the incredible tenacity he possessed battling a growing third alarm fire on multiple floors, Mike pushed forward, crawling and inching room by room to knock down the fire on the third floor. The fact that he sustained serious burns to both of his hands did not deter him. He would not stop, he kept fighting. He demonstrated the unwavering dedication to duty that would make both senior members of his firehouse and his officers stand up and take notice.

It was clear from the very beginning of his career that he was special. He showed it that night, he showed it every day of his 15 years of brave service. Mike commanded every situation and led his fellow firefighters into battle. He wasn't their captain, he wasn't their Lieutenant, but he was without question a leader. Leadership is not simply about rank, it's about how you carry yourself, how much harder you work than everyone else, and how much effort you put in to setting a strong example for others to follow.

Mike trained hard, he was physically fit, he was always learning, looking to discuss recent fires and new ideas with fellow members. He took them under his wing and he worked to make them better. Mike Davidson loved being a New York City firefighter. He loved the opportunity that gave him to help others on every tour. Perhaps it was because firefighting was in his blood. His father, Robert, served 26 years, nearly all of that time in Harlem at Engine 69 and Ladder 28.

And his brother Eric serves us in Engine 88 in the Bronx. Helping others is the family business for the Davidsons and Mike knew at a young age that he wanted that career and he entered the Department at age 22. But his love of this career was not only about fighting fires, it's about the camaraderie and the family this job offers you.

In the last several days you've all rallied around Mike's family. His wife Eileen and their four beautiful children, Eileen that support will always be there for you, now and forever, the FDNY family will stand by your side. Your children will grow up knowing their father was a true hero who gave his life fighting for others. We will never forget Mike. We will honor him, we'll remember all the good he did, and we will watch over his family always.

God bless firefighter Michael Davidson, God bless the entire Davidson family, and may God continue to bless the FDNY.

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