



NYPD Honors 88 Members of the Department at Annual Medal Day

June 4, 2019

88 members of the New York City Police Department were honored at the 2019 Medal Day Ceremony. The annual Medal Day Ceremony honors both uniformed and civilian members of the NYPD of all ranks who have made significant acts of heroism, some who have even made the ultimate sacrifice, laying down their lives in the upholding of their sworn oath as Police Officers. The Mayor and Police Commissioner were joined by family members of the honorees at the ceremony at One Police Plaza.

"I'm grateful for the honor and privilege of working alongside members of the NYPD who prove, time and again, that they're the very best at what they do. They have to be the best, because lives depend on how they do their jobs — their lives, the lives of their fellow cops, and the lives of the people they have sworn to protect," **Police Commissioner James P. O'Neill** said. "It is a solemn responsibility, and one that every cop faces just by coming to work. But that is the job, and nobody does it better than the NYPD. This is what New York policing is all about."

"Each year, Medal Day gives us an opportunity to celebrate the many achievements of these talented, committed, and exemplary public servants, and it also encourages us to pay tribute to the generations of men and women in blue and their families who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our city. The NYPD continues to set a global example in improving public safety and has maintained its status as the greatest police force in the world, and I am honored to join today in recognizing this vital workforce that has remained constantly vigilant in forging a better and brighter future for all New Yorkers" **Mayor Bill de Blasio** said.

Medal of Honor — *The Medal of Honor is the New York City Police Department's highest award. Recipients are selected for individual acts of extraordinary bravery intelligently performed in the Line of duty at imminent and personal danger to life.*

Lieutenant Emmanuel Kwo, Sergeant Arvid Flores and Police Officer Elwin Martinez were bestowed the Medal of Honor.

On November 4, 2016, at approximately 11:45 a.m., then-Sergeant Emmanuel Kwo, 43 Precinct Patrol Supervisor # 1, and his operator, responded to a gunpoint robbery in progress that originated from a 911 call, involving a violent custody dispute between a man and his estranged wife. The man had been holding his estranged wife, another woman, and two children at gunpoint inside a house, and had just fled the scene in his vehicle.

Officers from the 43 Precinct, as well as officers from the Recruit Training Section, including then-Probationary Police Officer Elwin Martinez, responded as backup. Sergeant Paul Tuozzolo, 43 Precinct Patrol Supervisor #2, and his operator, then-Police Officer Arvid Flores, also responded to the location. As Sergeant Tuozzolo and his operator were canvassing the area in their marked police van, they saw the perpetrator's vehicle and followed him.

Sergeant Kwo responded to the location and directed his operator to position their vehicle to impede the perpetrator from making a U-turn. However, another police vehicle caused the perpetrator's car to lose control and become immobilized. At that time, Sergeant Kwo, Sergeant Tuozzolo, Police Officer Flores, and Probationary Police Officer Martinez approached the vehicle to confront the gunman and bring him into custody.

As Sergeant Kwo and Sergeant Tuozzolo approached the perpetrator's vehicle on the driver's side with their guns drawn, the suspect opened fire, striking and critically wounding Sergeant Tuozzolo. Police Officers Flores and Martinez returned fire, killing the perpetrator. During the exchange of gun fire, Sergeant Kwo sustained a grazed wound to his left leg. Both sergeants were transported to Jacobi Hospital by responding officers, who performed CPR on Sergeant Tuozzolo until they arrived at the hospital. Tragically, Sergeant Tuozzolo succumbed to his critical injuries.

Police Commissioner James P. O'Neill posthumously promoted Sergeant Tuozzolo to Sergeant Special Assignment during his funeral service on November 10, 2016, and posthumously awarded him the Medal of Honor during Medal Day 2017.

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. Forty-seven members of the service who succumbed to illnesses contracted during the rescue and recovery effort in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks have received the Distinguished Service Medal:*

- Chief of Detectives William Allee
- Captain Carmine Cantalino
- Captain Edward McGreal
- Lieutenant Jeffrey Francis
- Lieutenant Paul Murphy
- Lieutenant James Russell
- Lieutenant William Wanser
- Sergeant Christopher Christodoulou
- Sergeant Michael Incontrera
- Sergeant Colleen McGowan
- Sergeant Anthony Napolitano
- Detective Sixto Almonte
- Detective Thomas Barnitt
- Detective Megan Carr-Wilks
- Detective Pedro Esponda
- Detective Robert Larke
- Detective Michael Ledek
- Detective Mark Mkwanzu
- Detective John Muller
- Detective James Schiavone
- Detective Basilio Simons

- Detective Sally Thompson
- Detective Harry Valentin
- Detective Dennis Vickery
- Detective Jennifer Williams
- Police Officer Curtis Bako
- Police Officer Wilfredo Carradero
- Police Officer Anthony D'Erasmus
- Police Officer William Farley
- Police Officer Scott Fusco
- Police Officer Scott Gaines
- Police Officer Anthony Giambra
- Police Officer Dave Guevara
- Police Officer Diane Halbran
- Police Officer Michael Hance
- Police Officer Gary Koch
- Police Officer Kelly Korchak
- Police Officer Fred Krines
- Police Officer Andrew Lewis
- Police Officer Richard Lopez
- Police Officer Eric McClain
- Police Officer Mark Natale
- Police Officer Joseph Pagnani
- Police Officer Marie Patterson-Bohanan
- Police Officer Frank Pizzo
- Police Officer Cynthia Sands
- Police Officer Robert Summers

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. Twenty-three members of the service received the Police Combat Cross:*

- Lieutenant Barbara Fischer
- Sergeant Michael Bletcher
- Sergeant Keith Bryan
- Sergeant James Weibert
- Detective Joseph Ayala
- Detective Albert Garcia
- Detective Ryan Giuffre
- Detective Christopher Kelley
- Detective James Li
- Detective Yilson Melendez
- Detective Scot Pedrick
- Detective William Reddin
- Detective Trevor White
- Detective Andrew Yurkiw
- Police Officer Juan Candelario
- Police Officer Randy Chow
- Police Officer Alem-Tsehay Clarke
- Police Officer Wanda Crooks

- Police Officer Hart Nguyen
- Police Officer Dennis O'Hara
- Police Officer Steven Pedullo
- Police Officer Magdalena Witkowski
- Police Officer Jorge Zorrilla

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. Fifteen members of the service received the Medal for Valor:*

- Lieutenant Hameed Armani
- Lieutenant Jason Diaz
- Sergeant Daniel McKeefrey
- Sergeant Patrick Socorro
- Detective Jose Barbosa
- Detective Timothy Brady
- Detective Ruben Cespedes
- Detective Stephen Dimario
- Detective John Essig
- Detective Jason Hallik
- Police Officer Peter Cybulski
- Police Officer Elias Khan
- Police Officer Ryan Nash
- Police Officer Jose Pacheco
- Police Officer Paul Palminteri

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 2018:*

- 102 Precinct and 102 Precinct Detective Squad
- 47 Precinct
- 69 Precinct
- 121 Precinct
- Transit District 12
- Police Service Area 1
- 73 Precinct Detective Squad
- 110 Precinct Detective Squad
- Crime Scene Unit
- Highway District
- Emergency Service Unit
- Information Technology Bureau
- Candidate Assessment Division
- Compliance Division
- Project Management Office