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**TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO AND POLICE COMMISSIONER O'NEILL  
DELIVER REMARKS AT POLICE MEMORIAL DAY EVENT**

**Mayor Bill de Blasio:** Thank you. I want to thank everyone who is here for this moving and important occasion all the family members in particular. We are here in solidarity with you today. I want to thank the leadership of the NYPD here on the dais, Commissioner O'Neill and First Deputy Commissioner Tucker, Chief of Department Monahan – all the leadership here, all the labor leaders who are here. And a particular thank you to the labor organizations and the fraternal organizations for the beautiful tribute you just saw which binds us all together. These ceremonies always bring out a sadness, but they also display something very strong and beautiful about this department and this city – to see people of every conceivable background and faith together in unity and each of the floral tributes exemplifying that. It reminds us of what makes us so strong as a city and as a nation and what those who we honor today stood for. What they fought for, what they protected. It puts in perspective what this moment is all about, why this sacrifice was made by this extraordinary group of men and women that we honor.

Before today the NYPD Memorial Wall held 934 names and formed an unbroken chain of devotion and service and sacrifice going back to 1849, over a century and a half ago. People united in a common cause, literally over the centuries. We are now here to perform a solemn task, to add the names of 27 more great New Yorkers, 27 more heroes who are joining their brothers and sisters in blue on this wall. They all have in common, not just that they proudly wore the uniform of this tremendous department but that they made the ultimate sacrifice protecting others. We will forever be in their debt but also in the debt of their families, all of you and that's why we think it is so important to be with you at this moment to remember our obligation to you. To also remember that these heroes did something which created today's reality that everybody who's ever been associated with the NYPD can be proud of – the safest big city in America because of everyone's service but also because of those sacrifices.

24 of these officers who we honor today passed after serving at Ground Zero, responding to one of the most evil acts that any of us have ever known and certainly the worst tragedy in the history of this city. You'll remember, everyone remembers they disregarded their own safety, they went to try and help others to be there for their brothers and sisters in blue and those family members who yearned to find their loved ones.

We also honor three officers for their bravery, for their heroism, and for their sacrifice, and these stories are so powerful. The story of Detective Miosotis Familia is painful for how we lost her but so inspiring for the life she led. If you ever wanted a definition of the American dream just look to the life of Detective Miosotis Familia because she did it all, a child of immigrants, the first in her family to go to college, she dreamed of being a NYPD officer and she realized that dream and she performed that role with joy and devotion. And how painful and how powerful that someone who epitomized the good in our country died the night that our nation was born, the night of July 4th, 2017? She died a patriot, she died a patriot as an American, as a New Yorker and she died protecting us all.

This whole city has gotten to know her three wonderful children who are here with us and her family and I just want to say to all of you, in your pain you presented to this city the beauty of this family, the devotion and goodness of this family and all of New York was uplifted by you. Let's salute this family.

[Applause]

We also are gathered to honor someone who was beloved by those he served with, whether they were rookies or whether they were veterans, his brothers and sisters in blue called him "the kind of guy you wanted to have on the streets with you." Sergeant Donald "Scotty" Conniff was tragically struck by a drunk driver on his way to his post on January 1st, 1998, succumbed to his injuries years later. But even though the years passed his sacrifice is just as powerful. And we remember him and his service to this city and we remember the Conniff family today and stand by them.

Finally, I would say there is no greater example of inspiration, I think you could search far and wide and you will not find one – nobody who inspired us more than Detective Steven McDonald. And I think I can say this on behalf of all 8.5 million New Yorkers, we all have been moved by the life of Detective Steven McDonald. After he was shot in 1986 and left paralyzed, everyone understands that he would have had the right to bitterness and seclusion and anger but he turned his life into one of the greatest examples in our time – not only of forgiveness, but of faith and of showing that people could transcend circumstance and become all us, better. He made us all better. He implored us all to be better. Last conversation I had the honor to have with him was one in which he expressed such hope for the NYPD and the role it was playing in this city and for the healing that could be achieved in this city. No greater member of this force has ever lived and something we can truly celebrate is that his work is carried on in every way by his wife Patty Ann and his son Sergeant Connor McDonald, thank you both for all you do.

[Applause]

So to conclude there is a motto in the NYPD that all 27 of these officers fulfilled with great devotion and that motto is "faithful unto death." They were faithful, they believed in their mission and their cause and they gave their all. This memorial ensures that their examples will live forever and reminds us and inspire us. We will honor them, we will also remember what they taught us and we will remember to be there for these good families.

Thank you and God bless you all.

[Applause]

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**Police Commissioner James P. O'Neill:** Good morning, everyone. Thanks for being here. It's really important that we are here. Welcome to One Police Plaza and to one of the most important events we hold in the New York City Police Department. Today, we add 27 names to our Hall of Heroes. And it is 27 too many. Every name on these walls is a life spent serving others, and every name is a person who cared deeply about our city and everyone in it. From police officer to chief, uniform member to civilian member, these lives represent us, the nation's largest and greatest police department.

They represent something else too – the very real risk that cops face every time they put on their uniforms and go to work. We knew about this risk when we took the job, we understand it and so do our families and loved ones, but that doesn't make today any less painful. There's no day more important than today because every name in this hall is a reminder that even in the safest large city in the nation there are still those who wish to do us harm.

And they are a reminder that the tragedy of September 11th has not ended for us or for our city. Crime is down, Lower Manhattan has been rebuilt but these names are stark reminders to never take anything for granted. We know that no plaque, no memorial, no ceremony will ever fill the void left by these brave men and women. But that's not why we are here. We are here to make sure that we, all of us here, all of New York City, and future generations never forget because every time someone looks up and reads these names, it's another opportunity for us to tell their heroic stories and to continue their remarkable legacies. It's a tremendous responsibility but it's our solemn duty. We will never forget our fallen Finest, and we will never forget their families. We will be back again and again to honor them and to remember everything they did for us and nothing we do as a police family is more important than that. So thank you again for being here and thank you to every cop and every civilian in this department who each and every day make us proud to be part of the NYPD. Always watch out for one another and please stay safe.

Thank you very much.

[Applause]

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