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**RUSH TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO DELIVERS REMARKS AT FUNERAL FOR
DETECTIVE FIRST GRADE RANDOLPH HOLDER**

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Thank you, Reverend Mullings. And thank you for all the support that you have provided the Holder family.

All of New York City is in pain at this moment. We all mourn the loss of Officer Randolph Holder, and no one is feeling it more than his beloved family. And our hearts and our prayers are with this good family – with his father, Randolph Holder, Sr.; with his stepmother, Princess Holder; with his sister, Sherry; his brothers, Kelon, Prince, Con; his fiancée, Mary Muhammad; and Mary’s daughter, Sieann, for whom Randolph was like a father. Our hearts are with all his family, all his friends, his neighbors, and also with his second family – his extended family, the NYPD, in particular with all the men and women of PSA 5, who miss him so much.

I want to thank everyone who is here – all the community leaders, and elected officials, and labor leaders – everyone here in unity, in solidarity with this family, and with the NYPD.

We know our city lost a remarkable man – a man who made us better by his presence. You’ve heard already some of things he achieved, and we’re only getting a small sense of the warmth, the humanity, the kindness, the smile he wore so often on his face, the witty turn of a phrase that was so ready at the tip of his tongue, and the laughter – the booming, contagious laughter. This was a man who lived life so fully and gave so much to so many.

He was not about himself. Officer Randolph Holder was dedicated to others, to his family, and to all the people of this city. He was dedicated to making a difference in their lives. He believed he could accomplish a dream. It takes a strong man to dream and an even stronger one to accomplish it. He achieved his own vision for himself, and, at the same time, achieved today’s version of the American dream, 12 years ago, coming here from Guyana, joining his father in Far Rockaway, and determined – determined not just to carry on his father’s name, but to achieve the noble profession that his father pursued. He was determined to follow in the footsteps of his father, his grandfather, his great-uncle before him, to wear a police officer’s uniform.

He cared – he cared for others. He believed in living up to the expectations of his family. He cared about his heritage. This is a rooted truly man. Things guided him – he followed to the fullest. His family and his homeland of Guyana were never far from his heart – always in his mind, always a part of everything he did, even after he made New York City his home. He listened carefully and learned powerful lessons, and it was common to hear him say sentences that began with the words “my grandmother taught me”. They were very close. He always invoked her and spoke of her, and he called her regularly because he was a good man, a good son, a good grandson. He kept a close bond with his younger brother Kelon. He vowed one day he’d bring him to the United States from Guyana and help him on his way – the kind of man who followed through on his commitments.

And whether he was on-duty or off-duty, Officer Holder dedicated himself to others who wanted to not only protect, but to bring joy, warmth, kindness – things we always need more of, he had a ready supply of to share with others. As a member of New York’s Finest, he served with such dedication, with humility, with grace. He

served as a peace officer in the truest sense of the word. He built peace. He spread peace. He encouraged peace in all he did. He loved to be in the community. He loved to connect with the people around him. He took every opportunity to get to know the people he was serving, to build real relationships with them. And he especially wanted to get young people to understand the right way. He believed he could reach young people. He believed he could be a positive influence. He believed he could be an example. He did not shy away from being a role model – he embraced it.

This was a disciplined young man. This was a focused young man. And he knew, as he engaged those young people, he was opening their eyes to what they could become. He was showing them more possibilities because he lived it. He was a living example. And he believed he could draw them closer and he could create a bond between our young people and our police for the good of all. He aimed to show them by his work, by his deeds, by his words, by everything about him, that not only were the police on their side, but they too could aspire to join the finest police force in the world. He opened the doors for them. And he wanted them to start their own family traditions, just as he had followed a great tradition – join the NYPD, make the world better.

By his examples – by example, excuse me, and his teachings, and his words, and his actions he showed young people what discipline, and focus, and hard work could achieve. And he showed them that if you believe in something, it becomes possible, because he believed in something and he made it possible.

Officer Holder loved the people he served, and they loved him back. They felt comfortable with him, they trusted him. And he showed us how we can work towards a safer world for all – safer streets through stronger bonds between our police and our community.

A man of integrity and goodness becomes an example and a beacon. So, everyday people could see there was something special about Officer Holder. I assure you his commanding officers saw it as well, and they saw it quickly. Very early on in his police career, they recognized his hard work, they recognized his intelligence, they recognized his professionalism, and he started to advance quickly. His colleagues saw a model officer – active, energetic, effective. And all you have to do is look at that record of many, many commendations to see how much he achieved in just five short years on the NYPD.

He also showed such grace and generosity to all he served with. People liked to work with Officer Holder. They liked to be around him, they sought out his counsel because he was wise beyond his years. Some of you may know him by the name “Doc” because he had the answers. People looked to him for wisdom – whether it was a personal matter or a financial matter or a professional matter. And he would go out of his way for his fellow officers, literally. When one of his fellow PSA 5 officers wasn’t able to get to work too easily because he didn’t have a car, Officer Holder drove out of his way to pick him up – about 40 minutes, some days, extra added to his commute. And he did this every day for four years, and never complained. In fact, he used to sing along the way. And if any of you know about his DJ skills, somehow he knew every song that came on the radio. No matter what the style, no matter what the era, he knew the lyrics. His love of music was deep, and he shared it with all around him.

So, it’s a moment to reflect, to find some solace in all that Randolph Holder gave to this world, and it’s time to think about what we can learn from him and how we can comport ourselves just like him – learn from his example, live as he did, because that’s how we will honor his legacy. We can learn from him that we are all in this together. We can learn from him that the police and the community must become one, because, at the root of it all, we are one. Police represent all of us and protect all of us, and it is our job to protect them as well.

We, as New Yorkers, in the year 2015 – we are living in one of the largest and most complicated and most diverse cities in the history of all of humanity. We are far, far away from our ancestral roots. Once upon a time, all of us – every single one of us – came from a small village far away. And in that village, there were guardians. The guardians were of, and by, and for the village. And everyone understood it. And once again, we must find a way to understand that even in our complicated world, there are guardians who protect our village. The police are our guardians, and they are of, and by, and for us.

Randolph Holder never stopped thinking about his roots, his heritage, his family, and he knew that he came from a family of guardians. And he showed us how to stay true to that tradition. Even in the modern world, that essential notion still lives – there are guardians chosen from among us to protect us all.

And we owe it to him to follow through. We know he didn't die in vain because of all the lives he touched, all the good he did, all those who loved him, and all those who carry on his memory. But we have changes to make so we don't lose more good men and women like Officer Holder. In our nation, changes must be made to keep guns out of the hands of criminals.

[Applause]

And here we must make sure that those whose only aim is to harm others are simply not allowed to walk our streets.

[Applause]

But work remains to be done, and I'll conclude with this point. The work remains to be done, and some might say almost instantly that these changes are beyond our reach – they won't happen in our time no matter what we do. But that wouldn't be the way Officer Holder would have thought about things. We know from his example he was not one to dwell on what couldn't be done. He was not one to accept someone else's definition of what was possible. His very life was an example of aiming higher, beating the odds, believing something better could be achieved. In his name, we will not give up – we won't give up until our society is more just and our people are safer.

Thank you, and may God bless you all.

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