



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
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**RUSH TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO DELIVERS REMARKS AT ONE POLICE PLAZA  
MEMORIAL WALL**

**Mayor Bill de Blasio:** Thank you, Lieutenant Giorgio. I just want to say at the outset – it was very moving to see every kind of New Yorker united today with these beautiful floral tributes, and representing all of the people in this city who are part of this department and part of protecting others every day. It's a moment to remember how extraordinary the NYPD is.

I want to thank everyone who's here in attendance, especially the family members. And I want to acknowledge and thank the extraordinary leaders of this department – Commissioner Bill Bratton, First Deputy Commissioner Ben Tucker, and Chief of Department Jimmy O'Neill. I want to thank all the other leadership that's here. I want to thank our elected officials who are here in support of these families at this moment – Comptroller Stringer, and Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, and all the other elected officials who are here. And I want to thank the leaders of the labor unions who represent the men and women of the NYPD who are here today as well.

This is another day when our hearts are heavy. It can't be a moment like this and not feel deeply the loss. We have now 18 fallen officers. We add their names to the Wall of Heroes. It's – at the same time, as we feel pain and loss, we have to feel pride. We have to feel a tremendous sense that we are here to honor their accomplishments – their extraordinary accomplishments – what they did that most people simply would not have had the strength to do.

On these walls are 863 names all etched in history, reaching as far back as 1849. An unbroken link – those who served because they believed, going back now over a century-and-a-half. Each one – a special story. Each story involved courage and sacrifice, by definition. It takes a special person to have that kind of strength. It takes a special person to run towards danger. The human impulse is to run away from danger. Those who dawn this uniform run toward danger each and every day.

Last Saturday, we got yet another reminder of just how real and present those dangers are. And our thoughts and prayers today are with the family of Officer Brian Moore – a family that has done so much for the city and has been so deeply a part of this department. And today, we honor 18 courageous members of the NYPD who gave this city their all. They loved this city, and they gave their all to it. They made the ultimate sacrifice so others could be safe.

I'll name the names now – Captain Ronald G. Peifer; Sergeant Paul M. Ferrara; Sergeant Donald J. O'Leary Jr; Detective Angel Creagh; Detective Michael R. Henry; Detective Steven Hom; Detective William B. Titus; Detective John J. Marshall; Detective Robert A. Montanez; Detective Christopher Strucker; Police Officer Anthony DeJesus; Police Officer Nicholas G. Finelli; Police Officer Allison M. Palmer; Police Officer Perry T. Villani.

All 18 passed after serving at Ground Zero in unimaginable conditions – conditions that can only be described as brutal and painful. All disregarded their own safety. They searched for survivors. They aided in the rescue and recovery. That was all that motivated them no matter how much danger they encountered. And now years later, in each case, their health has failed them and they have made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of others.

We also honor four extraordinary individuals who fell in the line of duty – Detective Dennis E. Guerra, who rushed into a fire in a housing authority high rise, only thinking of how he can protect the residents and get them to safety; Officer Michael C. Williams – lost in a tragic traffic accident. And last December, this city mourned so deeply the terrible loss of Detectives Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu. And their stories gripped us all, and our hearts were broken because these two men were the American dream.

Detective Ramos never gave up on his dream of becoming an NYPD officer, entering the academy at the age of 37 alongside young men and women much younger than him. But he worked hard and graduated among the top of his class. And he was a deeply spiritual man studying to be a chaplain, wanting to service people – whether wearing his uniform or in his off-hours. His partner, Detective Wenjian Liu, came to this country at the age of 12 and did everything we could ask of a new member of our community. He studied hard. He learned English. He was going to be an accountant, but after 9/11, like so many people, he felt a call to public service. But he went to the farthest extent to answer that call by joining the force that has to deal at the frontline of the fight against terror – the NYPD. And he was so honored to be a part of the NYPD and to protect the city he loves so dearly.

It's important we recognize these officers who represent the best of us – not just the best of the NYPD, the best of all of us, the best of this city. Our hearts go out to the family, to the loved ones, and to their second family – the NYPD – their extended family. Everyone feels a familial bond in this department, and that's part of why it is so extraordinary. We won't forget these individuals. We won't forget their bravery, and we can take some solace in the notion that everything they did contributed to making this city and this world better. Robert F. Kennedy said it so powerfully – he said, "It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped." These 18 officers continue to shape our city because of what they did. And every day, the NYPD builds on their work and carries on their legacy. So on behalf of all 8.5 million New Yorkers, we thank them for their valor, for their dedication, for their tireless service, and for their sacrifice so that we could be free and we could be safe. Thank you.

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