

## Detective Randolph Holder

### *NYPD: Badge 9657, Last Watch: 10.20.15*

They stood in the rain, a sea of hats and coats and all with one purpose. It was to pay respects to a police officer that was gunned down in the prime of his life. The thousands of police officers and members of the public took strength from the showers as they paid their respects to this hero of New York.

Police Officer Detective Randolph Holder was a hero long before he gave his life for his adopted country. As a child he was obedient and respectful. He had seen members of his family as police officers. His grandfather and his father Randolph Holder (Sr.) were police officers in Guyana and they helped to inculcate that old-fashioned discipline in the young man. In Guyana the police is viewed generally with respect and in many cases is an extension of the discipline practiced in the home.

Randolph went to school in Guyana where he acquired his early education and from all accounts he was a studious young man. He grew up with a healthy regard for others. In Guyana's multicultural society Randolph was able to mix freely with all around him. He could have chosen any profession but his heart was set on being a police officer. He wanted to walk in the footsteps of his grandfather and father.

As a young man in Guyana Randolph loved football and music. He was the disc jockey belting out popular tunes. According to family members, 'no one ever saw Randolph angry. He was always smiling.' When he was twenty-one Randolph migrated to the United States to join his

dolph brought happiness to many as he spun music and watched the crowd having fun. He reasoned that life was there to be lived and one should take each day at a time.

Then came Tuesday October 20, 2015. Randolph did what he was trained to do, to protect our streets and make the community safer. There was a chase and our Randolph had a mortal fall. On that day we all fell. We realized our own weaknesses and tears flowed. But more important we became aware of the fact that there was no guarantee that a cop may

others, that cared about his neighbors, that wanted to start a life with his fiancé Mary Mohamed, that loved his family and had Guyana and the United States close to his heart.

Mayor Bill de Blasio said that the NYPD was Randolph's extended family. According to the Mayor, 'our city lost a remarkable man, a man that made us better by his presence and we are only getting a small sense of his kindness and his

the words, 'my grandmother taught me.' He kept a close bond with his family and followed through with his commit-

and showed them that the police department was a place that could encourage their talents and interests. They could join the NYPD to make the world a better place.

In a society that is crying out for role models Detective Holder stood tall. He gave love and trust unconditionally. He was special and was a true professional. New York City Police Commissioner

er William Bratton said that calling, courage and compassion make a police officer. This is what Detective Randolph Holder did so proudly. The ex-Policeman's Association of Guyana spoke of the sacrifice of Officer Holder and urged others to follow his example of dedication. After the eulogies Officer Holder was laid to rest, following an impressive ceremony, at Le Repentir cemetery in Georgetown, Guyana. The boy from Lodge in Guyana had done well. The Empire State Building lit up in his honor. The President of the United States, Barack Obama, and the President of his native Guyana, Mr. David Granger, paid tribute to Detective Randolph Holder.

This son of Guyana has made us proud and when the history of the NYPD is written his name will be in shining lights. His brother Prince Holder says, 'Randolph was kind and composed. He cared for everyone and did his duty. He had a good heart.' He certainly did and may he rest in peace.



The casket of Detective Randolph Holder enters Brickdam Cathedral in Georgetown as President David Granger and others pay their respects. Above: Detective Randolph Holder.

moment for his family.

The young Randolph had realized his dream. He was now a member of New York's 'finest' and could stand proudly with his father and grandfather as a police officer. He was sent to work as a housing cop and was aware of the danger that this entailed. But Randolph was not to be deterred. He loved his job. His honesty and integrity spoke volumes and he was able to get along with all. In his spare time Ran-

leave his home and return safely to his family.

The thousands that turned up to pay their respects knew that too. Their conversations were about the need to protect our police officers as four were killed in the past year. But there was the unanimous agreement that Officer Holder was a good man that cared about this community. At his funeral service this theme was reinforced time and again. Here was a man that was kind to

humanity.' Mr. de Blasio said that Randolph made everyone happy. He lived life fully and his laughter was infectious.

The Mayor pointed out that Randolph was dedicated to making a difference in the lives of others. He believed in the American Dream and wanted to pursue the noble profession of his father and grandfather. Randolph wore the police uniform with pride and 'was a truly rooted man.' He began sentences with

ments and to bring joy to others. He had a clean sheet in the NYPD.

Randolph served with grace and lived to connect with those around him, especially young people. 'He did not shy away from being a role model, he embraced it,' said the Mayor. It became clear that Detective Holder was more than a cop. He was a bridge that sought to create greater awareness and understanding among peoples. He was popular among the youths