

# New York governor Cuomo attends NYPD officer Wenjian Liu's wake two days after his father's death

By Mike Balsamo  
The Associated Press

**N**EW YORK — Hundreds of police officers from across the country streamed into the wake of a slain New York City officer this past weekend, and New York governor Andrew Cuomo said his late father would have wanted him there after “really pointless” killings.

The uniformed police officers showed respect rather than disdain for New York mayor Bill de Blasio when he arrived with police commissioner William Bratton, with some saluting as the men entered at the start of the daylong event for officer Wenjian Liu.

“This is a really tragic story,” said Cuomo, who attended the wake two days after the death of his father — former New York governor Mario Cuomo.

He noted that Liu and his wife were newlyweds who had just moved into a home months into their marriage.

“She’s now a widow,” he said. “This is really pointless. It had nothing to do with them. They did nothing wrong. It wasn’t about them. It was pure and random hatred.”

Cuomo also expressed his own sorrow.

“Today is not the day for my dad, but I can say I miss him already. There’s a hole in my heart,” he said.

Liu was shot to death in his patrol car December 20 along with officer Rafael Ramos, whose funeral was held December 28. Their killer committed suicide soon after the shooting.



**GOD BLESS NYPD.** A police officer (left photo) helps a mourner place a candle at a makeshift memorial near the site where NYPD officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu were murdered December 20 in the Brooklyn borough of New York. In the photo on the right, mourners stand at a barricade in the Glendale section of Queens in New York on December 26, 2014. Officer Ramos was buried December 28 and officer Liu was buried January 4. (AP Photos/John Minchillo)

For de Blasio, the gesture of respect during the wake contrasted with the back-turning insults hundreds of officers displayed toward video screens showing the mayor speaking at Ramos’ funeral. Bratton had urged rank-and-file officers to refrain from making political statements at Liu’s wake and funeral.

“A hero’s funeral is about grieving, not grievance,” Bratton said in a memo read to all commands at roll calls



on January 2 and 3. “I issue no mandates, and I make no threats of discipline, but I remind you that when you don the uniform of this department, you are bound by the tradition, honor, and decency that go with it.”

Police union officials, who are negotiating a contract with the city, had accused de Blasio of helping foster an anti-police atmosphere by supporting demonstrations following the chokehold death of an unarmed black man who resisted arrest on Staten Island.

The back-turning at Ramos’ funeral mimicked what some police union officials did outside a hospital when the officers were killed. As de Blasio eulogized Liu during the funeral, however, hundreds of police officers turned their backs.

Liu and Ramos were ambushed in their patrol car on a Brooklyn street by Ismaaiyl Brinsley. Brinsley had made references online to the killings of unarmed black men at the hands of white police officers, vowing to put “wings on pigs.”

Investigators say Brinsley was an emotionally disturbed loner who started off his rampage by shooting and wounding an ex-girlfriend in Baltimore.

The police killings ramped up emotions in the already-tense national debate over police conduct. Since Ramos and Liu were killed, police in New York have investigated at least 70 threats made against officers, and more than a dozen people have been arrested.

Liu’s funeral took place January 4 with a Chinese ceremony led by Buddhist monks, followed by a traditional police ceremony with eulogies led by a chaplain. His burial took place at Cypress Hills Cemetery.

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**THE DOCTOR IS IN.** President Barack Obama says Dr. Vivek Hallegere Murthy’s confirmation to serve as U.S. surgeon general will better position the nation to save lives abroad and protect Americans at home. Pictured is Dr. Murthy testifying on Capitol Hill in Washington on February 4, 2014. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

## New surgeon general will help U.S. save lives

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama says Dr. Vivek Hallegere Murthy’s confirmation to serve as U.S. surgeon general will better position the nation to save lives abroad and protect Americans at home.

Obama says Murthy has a lifetime of public health experience dealing with diseases and health promotion that he’ll bring to the job. He says Murthy’s confirmation also helps the U.S. continue to combat Ebola in the U.S. and in West Africa. Obama says Murthy will start right away to ensure every American has necessary information to keep their families safe.

The senate approved Murthy’s nomination despite longstanding opposition from some lawmakers over his public support for gun control. Murthy is a 37-year-old physician and Harvard Medical School instructor.

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