Beat: News

NYPD Detective Luis Alvarez Laid To Rest

Funeral Service for 9/11 First Responder

New York City, 04.07.2019, 04:07 Time

Associate Press News - NEW YORK (AP) “” A former police detective, Luis Alvarez, who fought until his final days for the extension of health benefits for Sept. 11 responders was hailed as a hero Wednesday by family, fellow officers and political figures who pledged to advance his message.

Reference: Associated Press article | www.apnews.com |
Alvarez died Saturday after a three-year battle with colorectal cancer. He attributed his illness to the three months he spent digging through rubble at the World Trade Center´s twin towers after the terrorist attack.

Researchers continue to study whether there is a link between cancer and toxins present during the cleanup.

In June, a frail Alvarez appeared before the House Judiciary Committee with former “Daily Show“ host Jon Stewart to request the extension of the Sept. 11 Victim Compensation Fund, which has been largely depleted. Stewart was among those at the service Wednesday.

Alvarez´s life was “a testament to American heroism,“ New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez said outside the Immaculate Conception Church.

For many of the mourners, the loss also was a deeply personal one.

“Before he became an American hero, he was mine,“ said Alvarez´s son, David.

The Star-Spangled Banner played as hundreds of uniformed officers stood at attention outside and police helicopters soared overhead. Officers waited in formation as a hearse carrying Alvarez´s flag-draped coffin slowly drove away.

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