**Walker Speech [EZ Speech No. 16644]**

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Remarks by Township Manager William Walker at Horsham Township’s an-nual Project Blue Light ceremony.

[if you’ve been introduced by someone:] thank you, [name of introducer].

you know, ladies and gentlemen, as we stand here this [morning/afternoon/evening] in the glow of the thousand blue lights decorating this tree of remem-brance, it’s hard not to be uplifted by the beauty and joy of the holiday season now upon us. but there’s a touch of sadness imbedded in that joy, as well, represented by those 28 little white lights you see sparkling out from all the blue.

for each of these white lights represents a passing, the death of a montgomery county police officer killed in the line of duty. a death that reminds us of the bravery and courage of *all* the dedicated men [and women?] who have given their lives in service to their community.

like all their brothers and sisters in police departments throughout the land, these officers weren’t conscripted. they weren’t selected by some nameless draft board somewhere and told that they’d have to put their lives on the line each and every time they put their uniforms on and reported for duty.

no . . . they were volunteers. they chose, with open eyes, to enter a profession that would put them in harm’s way every day, knowing that the shield they wore could sometimes become a target as much as it was a badge of courage. they *chose* a life of service to others, and for this we must all, and forever, be profoundly grateful.

so even as we celebrate this holiday season and recognize all law enforcement professionals around the country, i think it’s wholly right and proper for us take a moment to reflect on the sacrifices made by the 28 brave men [and women] who we’re remembering today, and who, in the words of abraham lincoln, “gave the last full measure of devotion.” [if nobody else on the pro-gram is slated to do this:] so i hope you’ll all join me now in brief moment of quiet prayer and thanksgiving for those selfless souls who we honor today.

thank you.

[introduce next speaker?]

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