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Press Release

September 28, 2015

[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

Street Near Verrazano-Narrows Bridge Renamed In Honor Of MTA Bridge and Tunnel Officer Thomas Choi

MTA Bridges and Tunnels officials, Staten Island elected officials and family members of fallen MTA Bridge and Tunnel Officer Thomas Choi attended a solemn ceremony Monday to rename a portion of Major Avenue in honor of Choi, who was critically injured at the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge in October 2013 and succumbed to those injuries last December after remaining in a coma for 14 months.

The roadway is located directly behind the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge administration building where Choi was assigned during his 11-years of service at MTA Bridges and Tunnels.

"Renaming this street in Officer Choi's honor serves as a permanent reminder to the public, our employees and his family of his dedication as a public employee. His service will not be forgotten," said MTA Executive Vice President and Chief of Operations James Fortunato.

Among those in attendance were Choi's wife, Michelle; Acting MTA Bridge & Tunnel President Donald Spero, Vice President of Operations Patrick Parisi, Director of Bridges South William McCann, who oversees the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge staff; fellow officers and union officials from the Bridges and Tunnel Officers Benevolent Association, and Superior Officers Benevolent Association, the union representing sergeants and lieutenants.

Elected officials in attendance included City Council Minority Leader Steven Matteo, who sponsored the bill to rename the block in Choi's honor, State Senator Martin Golden, State Assemblyman Michael Cusick, Deputy Borough President Ed Burke, who represented Borough President James Oddo, and representatives for U.S. Rep. Daniel Donovan and State Senator Andrew Lanza.

"It is important that we commemorate Officer Choi for the dedicated service he provided to Staten Island and the City of New York," State Assemblyman Michael Cusick said. "The honor being bestowed upon him today, albeit a small token of gratitude, ensures that his sacrifice is never forgotten. Our thoughts and prayers remain with his family and loved ones as we commemorate this special occasion."

"Those who knew Thomas Choi will always remember him as a dedicated Bridge and Tunnel officer, or as a proud father and loving husband. But this street sign will ensure that hundreds of thousands of travelers who use this road every day, many driving onto the very same bridge Officer Choi spent years patrolling, will also remember his service to the public," said City Councilman Matteo.

The MTA Bridges and Tunnels Honor Guard led the ceremony, followed by brief speeches, a prayer by Monsignor Robert Romano and the unveiling of the street sign.

Officer Choi was struck by a vehicle while performing his duties at the Brooklyn-bound side of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge the morning of Oct. 20, 2013. The driver of the car remained at the scene and was not charged. Choi remained in a coma for 14 months before succumbing to his injuries Dec. 29, 2014.

Choi, a decorated officer who received a meritorious service award for a felony arrest at the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge in 2005, was born and raised in Hong Kong. He came to the United States in 1979 and became a citizen in the 1980s. Choi, who resided in Staten Island, is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

ADDITIONAL QUOTES

U.S. Rep. Daniel Donovan: "While nothing can heal the wounds caused by Officer Choi's loss, it's a privilege to participate in dedicating this street to honor his life and service. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, as well as all of the MTA Bridge and Tunnel Officers who put themselves at risk to protect our safety."

State Assemblyman Joseph C. Borelli: "We often take for granted the role MTA Bridge and Tunnels Officers have in ensuring our cross-borough commutes go as smoothly as possible. Officer Choi was one of our city's finest "gatekeepers," and today's street renaming is a fitting tribute which recognizes his life and service to the people of the City of New York."

State Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis: "Renaming this section of Major Avenue in remembrance of Officer Choi, in the shadow of the Verrazano Bridge where he so ably served, is a fitting honor not only to he and his family, but to all Bridge & Tunnel Officers who serve our community every day. This dedication will not only ensure that generations to come will know Officer Choi's name, but will serve as a reminder for all New Yorkers of the danger our officers face each day."

Staten Island Borough President James Oddo: "It is fitting to rename Major Avenue in memory of Bridges and Tunnel Officer Thomas Choi, who spent his career serving and protecting the nearby Verrazano-Narrows Bridge. We are lucky to have men and women like Officer Choi serving our borough and

city, I am glad we have this opportunity to honor his memory and recognize his years of service to our community.”