

RANDOLPH “RANDY” EVANS

May 4, 1961 - November 26, 1976

Randolph Evans was a 15-year-old boy from Brooklyn, NY who was shot and killed by NYPD officer Robert Torsney on November 25, 1976. Evans was a ninth-grader at Franklin K. Lane High School in Brooklyn at the time of the shooting.

On Thanksgiving Day 1976, responding to a report of a man with a gun in the Cypress Hills housing projects, Officer Torsney encountered a group of youths. After a brief conversation, Torsney shot one of them, Evans, point-blank in the head for no reason. In 1977, almost to the day, the jury sentenced Officer Torsney to two years of psychiatric treatment with home visits on the weekend.

The outraged community called for Black Christmas '77 - a citywide economic boycott. Eventually, the focus concentrated in Brooklyn. Demands were made on the business community in downtown Brooklyn. There was a demand for a Blue Ribbon Commission on Youth, and a demand that Officer Torsney be tried on the violation of Randolph's civil rights. The Feds refused to indict Torsney. Mayor Ed Koch agreed to the Commission,

and, after eight months of boycotting, the business community agreed to the demands. Among the ten demands was the support of the Randolph Evans Scholarship for five years. After the fifth year, the business leaders liked the program so much that they continued to fund it for the next 20 years.

The Randolph Evans Memorial Scholarship is one of the oldest scholarship programs in the city, and the only continuous scholarship program that is derived from a police killing. Rev. Daughtry, who is the Chairman of the Board, conceived the idea along with Former Assemblyman Al Vann, Dr. Sam Pinn, and the late Jitu Weusi. They formed a leadership group that led marches, demonstrations, workshops, and political conventions, which eventuated into the National Black United Front and many other organizations.