On Tuesday, October 20, 2015, Detective Randolph Holder was shot and killed by suspects involved in an armed robbery.

At about 8:30 pm, then-Police Officer Holder, along with other officers, responded to calls of shots being fired in the vicinity of East 102nd Street and First Avenue in the East Harlem section of Manhattan. Witnesses reported that several male suspects had fled north along a footpath on the FDR Drive. When responding officers arrived, they were informed by a male victim that his bike had been stolen at gunpoint by one of the suspects.

Officer Holder and his partner, assigned to plainclothes Anti-Crime duty, encountered a male on a bicycle heading northbound on a pedestrian overpass of the FDR Drive near East 120th Street. There was an exchange of gunfire between the male suspect and the two officers. During this exchange, Officer Holder was struck fatally in the head.

The suspect continued to run north along the FDR Drive promenade but was apprehended at 124th Street by responding officers. He had suffered gunshot wounds to his leg. Three other males were taken into custody in the vicinity of East 111th Street and the FDR Drive.

Officer Holder was rushed to Harlem Hospital, in critical condition, and succumbed to his injuries.

During his funeral service on Wednesday, October 28th, 2015, Police Officer Holder was promoted posthumously to the rank of Detective First Grade by Police Commissioner William Bratton. Additionally, Detective Holder was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor at the June 14th, 2016 NYPD Medal Day Ceremony.