



[Funeral Service for George Floyd is Held in His Hometown of Houston](#)

The funeral service for George Floyd, who was killed in Minneapolis while under police custody on May 25th, was held on Tuesday in his hometown of Houston. Floyd's death at the hands of four police officers was caught on video and has sparked worldwide protests against police brutality and racial injustice. The service honored other families in attendance who also had relatives killed during interactions with the police, including those of Eric Garner, Michael Brown, and Pamela Turner. Joe Biden, the former U.S. vice president and 2020 Democratic presidential nominee, offered a pre-taped message which was shown at the ceremony. Some of the political figures who spoke included Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, Congressman Al Green, and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. The day after the service on Wednesday, George Floyd's brother, Philonise Floyd, testified on Capitol Hill before the House Judiciary Committee regarding the need for police reform.

Family and friends mourned George Floyd in memories, songs, and prayers, while prominent figures like the Reverend Al Sharpton and others expressed hope that his death would mark a turning point in the pursuit of racial justice. The funeral service came a day after around 6,000 people attended a public memorial in Houston to pay their respects to Floyd. In recent days, memorials for Floyd were also held in Minneapolis, where he lived in recent years, and North Carolina, near where he was born. Following Tuesday's service, Floyd's body was carried by a horse drawn carriage to be buried in Pearland next to his mother.

During the past two and a half weeks since Floyd's death, protesters have taken to the streets both across the United States and around the world demanding justice for Floyd and other unarmed black Americans who have been killed by the police. In the face of these ongoing demonstrations and the growing list of cases of excessive police brutality, elected officials at the city, state, and federal level have been urged to address the critical issue of police reform. Sylvester Turner, the mayor of Houston, stated at the service that he plans to sign an executive order banning police chokeholds and strangleholds, a measure which has also been taken by at least 10 other cities and municipalities throughout the country. Furthermore, state lawmakers in Texas announced that they will be pushing for more criminal justice reforms when the legislature convenes next year in 2021. At the federal level, Congressional Democrats unveiled an extensive police reform bill this week as well.

While localities look to implement police reform strategies, all four officers involved in the killing of George Floyd have also been formally charged. Derek Chauvin, the officer who knelt on Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes despite the latter begging for his life, has been charged with second-degree murder. During a hearing on Monday, Chauvin's bail was set at \$1.25 million. The three other officers involved in the incident – Thomas Lane, J. Alexander Kueng, and Tou Thao – have been charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder and aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter.