

Proclamation

Transgender Day of Remembrance

WHEREAS, in 1998, Rita Hester, a Black transgender woman was murdered; this crime remains unsolved; and,

WHEREAS, in 1999, Gwendolyn Ann Smith organized the first Transgender Day of Remembrance in honor of Rita Hester and other transgender people who had lost their lives to violence; it has been observed every year since; and,

WHEREAS, the United States has one of the highest rates of murder of transgender people, particularly for women of color; in 2022 at least 32 transgender people were killed because of hate, fear, and violent attacks; in 2023 at least 35 transgender were killed, and sadly in 2024 so far 25 transgender or gender non-conforming people have been fatally shot or killed by other violent means, the majority of which were Black and Latinx; and,

WHEREAS, a 2020 peer-reviewed study by The Trevor Project's researchers, published in the Journal of Adolescent Health, found that transgender and nonbinary youth were 2 to 2.5 times as likely to experience depressive symptoms, seriously consider suicide, and attempt suicide compared to their cisgender LGBTQ peers; and,

WHEREAS, according to the *2022 U.S. Transgender Survey*, published by the National Center for Transgender Equality, North Carolina is in the top ten states from which respondents moved because of state laws targeting transgender people for unequal treatment; approximately one-third of people who are transgender in the United States has experienced homelessness; and nearly one-third were experiencing poverty; and,

WHEREAS, around the world, many countries make it illegal for transgender people to live as their authentic selves; and,

WHEREAS, there is significant incidence of misgendering or misnaming transgender victims of crime in police reports, indicating that the number of transgender victims of violence and murder is likely far higher than what is officially reported, and local law enforcement is not required to, and frequently fails to, report hate crimes, including murder, specific to the LGBT community; and,

WHEREAS, transgender Americans are making historic progress, highlighted by nondiscrimination laws enacted in several states and an increasing number of transgender elected officials, signaling greater public support for transgender equality and respect for their contributions to society; Congress and the executive branch must follow suit and act to protect and preserve the lives of transgender individuals through inclusive legislation.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Barbara M. Foushee, Mayor of the Town of Carrboro, do hereby declare Wednesday, November 20, 2024, as "Transgender Day of Remembrance" in the Town of Carrboro. I ask all residents to reflect on the challenges facing the transgender members of our community, and to work to ensure that social, cultural, and legislative progress continue to be made so that all people can safely live as their true selves.

This the 19th day of November.


Barbara M. Foushee

