

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, according to Everytown for Gun Safety, Since January 2017, 311 transgender and gender-nonconforming Americans have been murdered, the majority of whom were Black and Latinx women; 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 LGBTQIA+ community; 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 LGBQ peers.

WHEREAS, we have seen a rapid rollback of the rights of transgender Americans in the past year, with restrictions at the federal level such as serving in the armed forces, obtaining a passport or visa with an accurate gender marker, limiting federal funding to be used for transgender healthcare, and in the case of transgender youth, attempting to ban transgender healthcare altogether; and

WHEREAS, we have seen at the state level additional restrictions designed to demean and disrupt the lives of their transgender citizens, including the State of North Carolina now using birth certificate updates to forcibly out transgender North Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, Congress and the executive branch must not only undo the onerous restrictions placed on transgender and gender-nonconforming Americans in the past year at the federal level but protect and preserve their rights through inclusive legislation.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Barbara M. Foushee, Mayor of the Town of Carrboro, do hereby declare Thursday, November 20, 2025, as "Transgender Day of Remembrance" in the Town of Carrboro. I ask all residents to reflect on the challenges and dangers facing the transgender members of our community, and to work to ensure that social and legislative progress be made so that all people can safely live as their true selves.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Transgender Pride Flag be flown at Carrboro Town Hall from Friday, November 14 through Friday, November 21, 2025 in remembrance of those transgender Americans whose lives were cut short by violence.


Barbara M. Foushee

