

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WHO: We are pleased to welcome Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan, Simpson Housing Services Executive Director, Steve Horsfield, Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless Executive Director, Rhonda Otteson, and individuals and families experiencing homelessness, advocates, and leadership to join us for the Virtual Homeless Memorial Service.

WHEN: December 17, 2020; 7:00pm | Simpson Housing Service Facebook page: www.facebook.com/simpsonhousing/

Tonight: Virtual Homeless Memorial Service Remembers 197 Individuals Who Passed Away in 2020

Minneapolis -- A virtual Homeless Memorial Service will take place at 7:00 p.m. — Thursday, December 17th, 2020 on the Simpson Housing Services Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/simpsonhousing/>. Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan, community members, family, and friends will share remembrances. We hope to virtually bring together hundreds of community members to remember **84** homeless individuals, **89** formerly homeless folks, and **24** advocates who passed away over the past year. Of the individuals remembered, the average death age of homeless Minnesotans is 42.4. The average death age of formerly homeless individuals is 50.

“For 35 years, community members have come together for the Minnesota Homeless Memorial March and Service to honor people who have died while homeless during the past year. While we are saddened that the Homeless Memorial March will not take place this year due to the pandemic, we are heartened to join with the community in the Homeless Memorial Virtual Service and remember 197 homeless individuals, formerly homeless friends, and advocates who passed away in 2020. Working alongside the community, we remain steadfast in our efforts to end unsheltered homelessness and create safe shelter and long-term housing solutions that provide dignity, safety, and stability for every individual.” - Steve Horsfield, Simpson Housing Services

For 35 years, hundreds of community members have come together for the Homeless Memorial March and Service to remember people who have died while homeless. This year the Homeless Memorial will be a prerecorded video service to honor and remember those who have passed away while homeless.

“As we remember our neighbors, it is incumbent upon each of us to take personal action to advance solutions that make home a reality for everyone. We know that shelter saves lives and housing ends homelessness. Honoring those we have lost means that we won't stop advocating for housing solutions until a safe and dignified home is the reality for every Minnesotan.” - Rhonda Otteson, Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless

EVENT DETAILS:

We have made the difficult decision to cancel the March and Community Meal portions of the Homeless Memorial due to the current health and safety concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Please join us on the Simpson Housing Services Facebook page for the event found here: www.facebook.com/simpsonhousing/, and for all other information visit the website: www.simpsonhousing.org/events/memorial-march/

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