

Proclamation



A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR LIVES LOST TO COVID-19

FEBRUARY 24, 2021

WHEREAS, Nearly one year ago, as we were beginning to stand up the District's emergency operations and joint information centers to address and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, we could not have known the toll it would take on our city; and

WHEREAS, On March 20, 2020, Washington, DC experienced the first tragic death from the coronavirus and our losses would continue; and

WHEREAS, Today, we sadly announce the 1,000th death from coronavirus in Washington, DC; and as we have with each, offer our sympathy unconditional support to the families and loved ones of our lost neighbors; and

WHEREAS, I am grateful for the hard work and heroic efforts of our health care workers, first responders, and public health teams who have cared for and treated the sick and kept our community informed throughout the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, For nearly a year, our community has made tremendous sacrifices to protect our most vulnerable neighbors and slow the spread of the virus, and we continue to do so; and

WHEREAS, The virus has disproportionately affected and taken the lives of Black and Brown Washingtonians, while leaving no community untouched. The lives lost represent neighbors from across all 8 wards—they were front line workers, photographers, police officers, immigrants, DC Government employees, professors, television executives, and religious leaders, among many others; and

WHEREAS, Most importantly, these 1,000 beautiful souls who passed were our parents, children, cousins, neighbors, classmates, colleagues, friends, and our cherished loved ones:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF WASHINGTON, DC, do hereby proclaim February 24, 2021 in Washington, DC as **"A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR LIVES LOST TO COVID-19"** and call on all Washingtonians to pause and remember the neighbors, family, and friends whose lives were lost, and I encourage them to continue wearing their masks, maintaining social distancing, getting tested, staying home if sick, and getting vaccinated when eligible to help keep us all stay healthy, safe and strong.

A handwritten signature of Muriel Bowser in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

