



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS AWARENESS MONTH

2019

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, homicide includes all deaths caused by willful murder and non-negligent manslaughter; homicide devastates the lives of family members, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and acquaintances of the murdered victim; and

WHEREAS, following a homicide, family members and loved ones of murdered victims experience a complex range of emotions and reactions; while the term “survivors” describes the circumstances that family members and friends enter following a homicidal death of a loved one, the term “co-victims” is generally used to stress the level and intensity of their reactions; and

WHEREAS, according to the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation Annual Summary Report of 2017 Uniform Crime Reporting Data, 637 people were murdered in our state in 2017, and 5,431 people were murdered between 2008 and 2017, leaving behind countless co-victims to grieve and cope; and

WHEREAS, survivors are at risk of developing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other problems in which extreme anxiety, fear, sadness, nightmares, and/or intrusive thoughts remain constant; additional support and counseling are often very helpful in managing these overwhelming emotions; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime, resources are available in most communities to help survivors of homicide victims cope after the murder of a loved one; however, co-victims of homicide remain an under-served community and additional support and awareness are needed; and

WHEREAS, it is important that co-victims have access to victim assistance professionals, victim advocates, and/or support groups, as these resources can be particularly helpful in the coping process; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina recognizes the life-changing impact of the trauma, hardship, and loss that result from homicide, and encourages people to advocate, raise awareness, and support those in our communities who are survivors of homicide victims;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 20 – December 20, 2019, as “**SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS AWARENESS MONTH**” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this nineteenth day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fourth.