COVID MEMORIAL DAY & NATIONAL COVID MEMORIAL

BACKGROUNDER FOR CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES

COVID Memorial Day

Observed annually on the first Monday in March, Covid Memorial Day has been officially recognized by 13 states and more than 250 cities nationwide. This day of remembrance provides a dedicated time for communities to honor the more than 1.2 million Americans lost to COVID-19 and acknowledge the ongoing impact on survivors, including those with Long Covid and children who lost parents or caregivers.

Remember Every One Initiative

Remember Every One is a nationwide effort to identify and collect a name, photo, and story for every person who died from COVID-19 in the United States. This initiative ensures that each individual is honored not as a statistic, but as a person whose life mattered. The initiative conducts outreach and collection events across the country, with particular focus on communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

National Covid Memorial

The National Covid Memorial is both a digital and physical remembrance project designed to honor every person who died from COVID-19 in the U.S. Using innovative augmented reality technology, the memorial allows visitors to experience the stories and faces of those lost, creating an accessible and immersive memorial experience. The project is currently traveling to communities nationwide while advocating for a permanent installation in Washington, D.C., and memorial sites in every state.

Policy Initiatives

Beyond remembrance, Marked By Covid advocates for concrete policies addressing the pandemic's ongoing impacts:

- Successfully secured $115 million for California's HOPE Accounts (Baby Bonds) to support children who lost parents or caregivers to COVID-19
- Advocating for expanded research, treatment, and support for Long Covid patients
- Pushing for improved pandemic preparedness and response systems

Quote from Kristin Urquiza, Executive Director

"Five years after COVID-19 began devastating American communities, national recognition of our collective loss remains critically important. The National Covid Memorial ensures that behind every statistic is a name, behind every name is a story, and behind every story is a community forever changed. This work transcends politics—it's about honoring lives lost, supporting those left behind, and ensuring we learn from this tragedy to build a more resilient and compassionate society. We urge bipartisan support for federal recognition of Covid Memorial Day and the establishment of a permanent memorial in our nation's capital."

ABOUT MARKED BY COVID Marked By Covid is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 2020 following the loss of Mark Urquiza to COVID-19. Through art, advocacy, and education, the organization works to secure justice and remembrance for those impacted by the pandemic. Marked By Covid leads the effort for official recognition of Covid Memorial Day and is developing the National Covid Memorial to ensure every life lost is honored.

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