

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY SENATOR FOIL

A RESOLUTION

To recognize those lives impacted by or lost due to the COVID-19 virus and express support for the designation of the first Monday of March as COVID-19 Victims and Survivors Memorial Day.

WHEREAS, COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2), a novel coronavirus, is a potentially deadly illness caused by a virus that can transmit from person-to-person; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, COVID-19 began to spread throughout the world, resulting in a global pandemic which impacted human life, our communities, and our economy; and

WHEREAS, in March 2020, communities in every state began to experience increased loss of life, and families lost fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, and neighbors from the virus; and

WHEREAS, many across the United States were, and continue to be, personally impacted by COVID-19, including mourning their loved ones and neighbors or experiencing long-term health complications from the virus; and

WHEREAS, by the end of February 2023, there were more than one hundred million known cases of the virus in the United States, and more than one million people tragically had lost their lives; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on low-income communities, communities of color, rural and tribal communities, people with disabilities, people with weakened immune systems, unhoused individuals, and those living in congregate settings, highlighting a need for a united effort to strengthen and protect fragile and high-risk individuals; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 affected the health and wellbeing of veterans, especially those struggling with post traumatic stress disorder, by increasing social isolation and disrupting access to mental health services; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 impacted the health and wellbeing of children by reducing access to care and health services, disrupting schooling, lessening their sense of safety and security, and increasing stress on caregivers, and tragically left millions of children grieving the loss of a parent or caregiver; and

WHEREAS, the symptoms and severity of COVID-19 can vary dramatically by individual and the long-term health implications for survivors is largely unknown, as many survivors suffer with lingering side effects of the disease long after they no longer test positive; and

WHEREAS, public servants, frontline and essential workers, and healthcare professionals took selfless actions to protect their neighbors and communities, support struggling local economies, and find innovative ways to provide services; and

WHEREAS, local, state, tribal, and federal government entities provided critical support to businesses, communities, and Americans in need; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have an impact on the United States and countries around the world; and

WHEREAS, each life lost to COVID-19, each life forever changed by COVID-19, and each sacrifice made should never be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, the first Monday in March would be an appropriate day to be recognized as COVID-19 Victims and Survivors Memorial Day.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize those lives impacted by or lost due to the COVID-19 virus and express support for the designation of the first Monday of March as COVID-19 Victims and Survivors Memorial Day.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE