

HOUSE No. 4224

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Natalie M. Blais and Mindy Domb

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolution:

Resolutions establishing the annual observance of COVID-19 Remembrance Day.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	<i>9/7/2021</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>9/7/2021</i>
<i>Patricia A. Duffy</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>	<i>9/9/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>9/9/2021</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>9/9/2021</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>9/9/2021</i>
<i>Steven C. Owens</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	<i>9/9/2021</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	<i>9/9/2021</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>9/9/2021</i>
<i>Kate Lipper-Garabedian</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>	<i>9/10/2021</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>	<i>9/10/2021</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>	<i>9/10/2021</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>	<i>9/12/2021</i>
<i>Christopher Hendricks</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>	<i>9/13/2021</i>
<i>Danillo A. Sena</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>9/13/2021</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	<i>9/13/2021</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>9/13/2021</i>

<i>John Barrett, III</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>	<i>9/15/2021</i>
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>	<i>9/16/2021</i>
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>	<i>9/16/2021</i>
<i>Linda Dean Campbell</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>	<i>9/16/2021</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>	<i>9/20/2021</i>
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>	<i>9/21/2021</i>
<i>Carol A. Doherty</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>	<i>9/22/2021</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>	<i>9/23/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 4224

By Representatives Blais of Sunderland and Domb of Amherst, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Natalie M. Blais, Mindy Domb and others for the annual issuance of a proclamation by the Governor designating the first Monday in March as COVID-19 remembrance day. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)

Resolutions establishing the annual observance of COVID-19 Remembrance Day.

- 1 SECTION 1. The General Court hereby finds and declares that:
- 2 (i) the 2019 novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, also known as COVID-19, is a deadly
- 3 illness caused by a virus that can transmit from person to person;
- 4 (ii) in 2020, COVID-19 began to spread throughout the world, creating a global
- 5 pandemic that has had a catastrophic impact on human life, communities in the commonwealth,
- 6 communities in the United States and the United States economy;
- 7 (iii) in March 2020, communities in every state began to experience increased loss of life
- 8 and families lost loved ones, friends and neighbors to the virus;
- 9 (iv) the governor declared a state of emergency in response to the virus on March 10,
- 10 2020, which was subsequently terminated on June 15, 2021;

11 (v) beginning in 2020, many across the commonwealth and the United States were, and
12 continue to be, personally impacted by COVID-19, including mourning their loved ones, friends
13 and neighbors or suffering from the long-term health implications of the virus;

14 (vi) by the end of August 2021, there had been nearly 711,400 known cases of the virus
15 in the commonwealth and over 17,850 people had tragically lost their lives;

16 (vii) by the end of August 2021, there had been more than 39.5 million known cases of
17 the virus in the United States and more than 642,000 people tragically lost their lives;

18 (viii) COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on low-income communities and
19 communities of color, with high rates of infection and death, exacerbating inequities already
20 prevalent in our systems that must be addressed throughout the commonwealth and the United
21 States;

22 (ix) public servants, frontline and essential workers and health care professionals took
23 selfless actions to protect their neighbors and communities, support struggling economies and
24 find innovative ways to provide services;

25 (x) local, state, tribal and federal government entities provided critical support to
26 businesses, communities and the people of the commonwealth and the United States in need;

27 (xi) the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have an impact on the commonwealth, the
28 United States and countries around the world; and

29 (xii) each life lost to COVID-19, each inequity and broken system brought to light and
30 each sacrifice made shall never be forgotten.

31 SECTION 2. Chapter 6 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section
32 15LLLLLL the following section:-

33 Section 15MMMMMM. The governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting apart
34 the first Monday in March as COVID-19 Remembrance Day, in recognition of those who died
35 from 2019 novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, the suffering of those who contracted
36 COVID-19 and survived but carry with them the long-term health implications of the virus, and
37 to acknowledge the frontline and essential workers who provided services to our communities
38 and the selfless actions of the many residents of the commonwealth who volunteered to support
39 their neighbors and communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, and recommending the day be
40 observed in an appropriate manner by the people of the commonwealth.