

2021-K138

Assembly Resolution No. 138

BY: M. of A. Giglio JA

RECOGNIZING Monday, March 1, 2021, as COVID-19 Victims and Survivors Memorial Day in the Town of Riverhead, a day to pause and remember the residents of Riverhead lost to the disease and to celebrate the lives of those who survived

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize certain official days of significance which bring the people of the State of New York together to honor the memory and remember the lives of their loved ones; COVID-19 Victims and Survivors Memorial Day in the Town of Riverhead is one such day; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to recognize Monday, March 1, 2021, as COVID-19 Victims and Survivors Memorial Day in the Town of Riverhead; and

WHEREAS, Since March of 2020, there have been 162,243 total cases reported and 3,076 fatalities in Suffolk County; and

WHEREAS, Monday, March 1, 2021, marked the one-year Anniversary since health officials confirmed the first COVID-19 case in the State of New York; just eight days later, Suffolk County would report its first case of the virus; and

WHEREAS, On this day, local leaders gathered to commemorate COVID-19 Victims and Survivors Memorial Day in the Town of Riverhead; various religious leaders joined elected officials and offered prayers for those who have passed away from COVID-19, those who have survived, and a prayer for the future and the end of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, The ceremony also featured a performance of "God Bless America" by Catherine Renshaw, who won the Riverhead Idol competition in 2020; and

WHEREAS, To pay tribute to the victims, town officials dedicated a newly planted copper beech tree, donated by Case's Creek Nursery and John Spila of Whitman Nurseries Inc., and a granite marker, donated by Rothwell Monuments; the tree and the stone marker are located outside of Town Hall; the stone reads: "We shall forever cherish the memories of those we lost during the COVID-19 pandemic. We pray for strength and healing to the survivors and peace to all whom have suffered."; and

WHEREAS, In addition, county officials assembled to unveil the Memorial, which is composed of ribbons affixed to a wooden structure that bears the name of a COVID-19 victim; and

WHEREAS, The Memorial will provide a quiet, reflective spot for residents to grieve and remember; it also represents hope, resilience and recovery as family members and friends recognize and pay tribute to all those who survived this life-threatening and devastating pandemic and continue to experience the lingering effects of the disease; and

WHEREAS, The Memorial will be on display at the Suffolk County Legislature's William H. Rogers Building in Smithtown throughout March and a temporary structure will also be placed in the lobby of the Evans K. Griffing Building in Riverside; and

WHEREAS, Our society is deeply saddened at the loss of neighbors, family members, and friends but grateful for the opportunity to come together as a community and reflect upon the lives lost to this horrific pandemic; this Legislative Body encourages all New Yorkers across the State to pause and honor the memory of the lives of those victims and survivors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize Monday, March 1, 2021, as COVID-19 Victims and Survivors Memorial Day in the Town of Riverhead, a day to pause and remember the residents of Riverhead lost to the disease and to celebrate the lives of those who survived; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to COVID-19 Victims and Survivors Memorial Day in the Town of Riverhead Committee.