



PROCLAMATION

Transgender Day of Remembrance 2025

WHEREAS, Transgender Day of Remembrance is observed annually on November 20th to honor the memory of those whose lives were lost to anti-transgender violence, and to reaffirm our collective commitment to dignity, safety, and respect for all people; and

WHEREAS, this observance was founded in 1999 by advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith in remembrance of Rita Hester, a Black transgender woman whose 1998 murder in Boston inspired a movement to raise awareness about violence faced by transgender and gender-expansive people worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the term transgender refers to people whose gender identity or expression differs from the sex they were assigned at birth, encompassing a diverse community that has existed across cultures and throughout history; and

WHEREAS, transgender and gender-expansive individuals continue to face alarming levels of violence, discrimination, and exclusion, particularly impacting transgender women of color who experience intersecting forms of racism, sexism, and transphobia; and

WHEREAS, recent years have seen increased public discussion and debate surrounding the rights and recognition of transgender people, with many facing barriers to healthcare, public participation, and safety in their daily lives; and

WHEREAS, despite these challenges, the transgender community continues to demonstrate extraordinary courage, resilience, and leadership, contributing immeasurably to our workplaces, schools, families, and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, allyship begins with listening, learning, and treating every person with respect, such as using people's chosen names and pronouns, challenging misinformation, and supporting inclusive policies that protect the rights and well-being of all; and

WHEREAS, Joliet Township Government recognizes the importance of visibility, education, and compassion in creating a community where everyone can live authentically and without fear;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Joliet Township Government hereby proclaims November 20, 2025, as **Transgender Day of Remembrance** in Joliet Township, and encourages all residents to honor the lives lost, support those who continue to face discrimination, and commit to building a community rooted in understanding, compassion, and equal opportunity for all.

ADOPTED this 18th day of November of 2025.

ATTEST:


Kendra Landfair, Township Clerk


Cesar Guerrero, Township Supervisor