

PROCLAMATION

NATIONAL TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Annually on November 20

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park is committed to fostering a community grounded in the values of diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and respect for all individuals, regardless of gender identity or expression; and

WHEREAS, National Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR) was founded in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998, and to memorialize all transgender people whose lives have been lost to acts of anti-transgender violence; and

WHEREAS, each year on November 20, communities across the nation and around the world come together to remember, honor, and celebrate the lives of transgender and gender-diverse individuals who have faced discrimination, violence, or marginalization simply for living as their authentic selves; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park recognizes that transgender and gender-diverse people enrich our community through their resilience, creativity, leadership, and contributions across all sectors of civic life; and

WHEREAS, while significant progress has been made in advancing equality and inclusion for the LGBTQ+ community, transgender and gender-diverse individuals continue to experience disproportionate levels of violence, discrimination, and barriers to equitable access to healthcare, housing, and employment; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park stands in solidarity with the transgender community, reaffirms its commitment to advancing gender equity, and continues to promote policies and practices that ensure safety, belonging, and opportunity for all residents; and

WHEREAS, National Transgender Day of Remembrance calls upon all of us to honor people whose lives were cut short by anti-transgender violence, to celebrate the strength of people who continue to fight for equality, and to recommit creating a world where everyone can live free from fear and with full dignity and respect.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park, along with the Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim November 20, 2025, as **National Transgender Day of Remembrance** in the Village of Oak Park and encourage all residents to join in reflection, solidarity, and action to advance safety, understanding, and equality for our transgender and gender-diverse neighbors.

DATED this 18th day of November 2025.

ATTEST

Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk

Vicki Scaman, Village President