



SULLIVAN COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Transgender persons are targeted and killed for living authentically and courageously; and

WHEREAS, Transgender people are victimized over four times more often than cisgender people, according to a 2021 study published by the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law; and

WHEREAS, half of all violent victimizations of Transgender people are not reported to police; and

WHEREAS, gender identity-based violence is misrepresented due to errors in identifying a victim's gender identity or name; and

WHEREAS, 419 Transgender or gender-nonconforming people have died violently across the globe thus far in 2025, as reported by The Trans Remembrance Project; and

WHEREAS, Transgender and Nonbinary youth are 2 to 2.5 times as likely to experience depressive symptoms, seriously consider suicide, and attempt suicide compared to their cisgender LGBTQ peers; and

WHEREAS, half of Transgender and Nonbinary youth are not accepted by their family for their identity; and

WHEREAS, Transgender persons are a part of every country, every culture, and every faith tradition today and throughout all of recorded history; and

WHEREAS, the Transgender community exceeds more than two million people in the United States, some of whom are residents of Sullivan County; and

WHEREAS, Transgender persons should have equal rights and be able to live free from violence and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, we commit to creating a more accepting and safer community for our Transgender family, friends, and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, we remember:

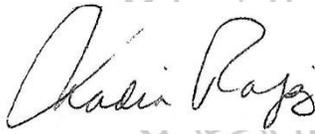
- **Honee Walker**, 37 years old, who was killed in a hit-and-run incident.
- **San Coleman**, 48 years old, who was brutally attacked and left to die on a popular walking trail near her home.
- **Cam Thompson**, 18 years old, a recent Job Corps graduate, who was shot to death for her gender identity.
- **Elisa Rae Shupe**, 61 years old, who took her own life near the Syracuse VA Medical Center on January 27, 2025, where she had recently been an inpatient, after bravely serving her country in the Army, retiring as a Sergeant First Class, and earning numerous military decorations after 18 years of service.

- **Aubrey Dameron**, a 25-year-old two-spirit Cherokee trans woman who had been missing for nearly 6 years, whose remains were positively identified five days after being found in January of this year.
- **Sam Nordquist**, 24 years old, who died after being horrifically tortured over an extended period of time, leading to seven people being charged in connection with his murder.
- **Kelsey Elem**, 24 years old, shot and killed by an abusive boyfriend.
- **Jonathan Joss**, 59 years old, a cisgender man who died after being shot by a neighbor in a homophobic attack while defending his partner, a trans man.
- **Aurora Pellegrina**, age 35, who left this world too soon and, like so many trans people, was estranged from her birth family - even in death.
- **Katelyn Rinnetta Benoit**, 15 years old, who took her own life after struggling with depression and bullying, yet is remembered for her creative passions, irreplaceable smile, her unique sense of humor, her huge and generous heart, and the impact she had on those around her.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the below-named members of the Sullivan County Legislature hereby proclaim November 20th, 2025, as TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE, and urges all residents of Sullivan County to honor and remember the transgender individuals whose lives were lost to anti-transgender violence, as well as those who have died by suicide or accident as a result of the discrimination, marginalization, and challenges faced by the transgender community.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this day serve as a reminder of the need for compassion, understanding, and continued commitment to ensuring that all people may live authentically, safely, and without fear.

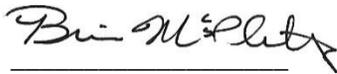
Proclaimed this 20th day of November, 2025



**Nadia Rajsz, Chair
Legislator, District 2**



**Matthew McPhillips
Legislator, District 1**



**Brian McPhillips
Legislator, District 3**



**Catherine Scott
Legislator, District 5**



**Luis Alvarez
Legislator, District 6**



**Amanda Ward
Legislator, District 8**