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COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS HONORS DECEASED HOUSTON HOMELESS ON DECEMBER 20 AT CITY HALL

Houston, Texas (November 11, 2013) On Friday, December 20 at 6:00 p.m., hundreds of Houstonians will gather on the steps of City Hall, located at 901 Bagby, 77002, to honor the lives of those homeless who died in 2013. [The Coalition for the Homeless of Houston and Harris County](#) remembers those members of our community, some of whom have lived on the streets, by reading aloud each person's name at a candlelight vigil. The ceremony will open with the presentation of colors by formerly homeless veterans. An opening prayer will be shared with the audience. Then representatives from the Coalition will read the names of the deceased homeless individuals for the audience to acknowledge and reflect upon the loss of these people. Members of the community are encouraged and welcome to join in this vigil of remembrance.

“From the 2013 Homeless Count we know there are more than 6,300 Houstonians that need a stable home,” said Marilyn L. Brown, President and CEO of the Coalition for the Homeless. “Through the Houston/Harris County Continuum of Care (CoC) homeless service providers are working together to coordinate efforts to move people off the streets and out of shelters into permanent supportive housing. However, even with these efforts we lose on average more than 80 people from the homeless community ever year. This vigil offers the community a moment to honor these individuals.”

Before the vigil at 5:00 p.m., Reverend Alex Morrison with Houston Christway Ministries will serve a hot meal to those living on our streets. Volunteers from the Coalition and area homeless service providers will also distribute hygiene kits, coats, blankets, socks and hats to anyone experiencing homelessness. The vigil is held in conjunction with [National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day](#) an annual event commemorated in more than 150 cities and counties across the United States.

You can help this holiday season by visiting the websites of [Humble Area Assistance Ministries](#), [Bay Area Turning Point, Inc.](#) and [Covenant House](#) to learn more about their holiday collection drives.

The **Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County** is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization that provides support to Houston area homeless service providers that work directly with the homeless. The Coalition provides its agency clients with research about Houston's homeless population; advocates on behalf of homeless individuals; and supports service providers with a myriad of programs including the annual Point-in-Time Homeless Count; the management of a database of homeless people, Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS); Homeless Court and other support programs. The Coalition works collaboratively with homeless service providers to shape the community response to homelessness in Houston and Harris County. For more information about the Coalition's efforts, visit www.homelesshouston.org.

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