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HOUSTON COMMUNITY LEADERS HONOR DECEASED HOUSTON HOMELESS ON DECEMBER 21 AT THE BEACON

Houston, Texas (December 18, 2014) - On Sunday, December 21 at 2:00 p.m., [The Coalition for the Homeless of Houston and Harris County](#), along with other partners of [The Way Home](#) and special guests will gather at The Beacon, located at 1212 Prairie, Houston, TX 77002, to honor the lives of those who were homeless when they passed away this year. The ceremony will open with the presentation of colors by formerly homeless veterans, and members of the community will read the names of the deceased homeless individuals for the audience to acknowledge and reflect upon the loss of these people.

December 21 is the longest night of the year and, therefore, the most difficult for someone without housing. Members of the community are encouraged and welcome to join in this vigil of remembrance. People who wish to be more involved on this day may [register online to volunteer with The Beacon](#). With the colder winter weather, the Coalition also encourages people to make in-kind gifts to partner organizations. Examples can be found [here](#).

“From the 2014 Point-in-Time Homeless Count, we know that more than 5,000 Houstonians are homeless on a given night in our community,” said Marilyn L. Brown, President and CEO of the Coalition for the Homeless. “Through the collaborative work of The Way Home partners, we have gone from managing homelessness to ending homelessness, though we still have much more to accomplish together. This ceremony offers the community a moment to honor the individuals we lost this year.”

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.

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The Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County is a non-profit, 501(c)3 whose mission is to provide leadership in the development, advocacy and coordination of community strategies to prevent and end homelessness. In 2011, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) named Houston as a priority community to help end homelessness. Learn more at www.homelesshouston.org.