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DECEASED HOUSTON HOMELESS REMEMBERED ON DECEMBER 21, THE LONGEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

Houston, Texas (December 21, 2015) - On Monday, December 21, [the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston and Harris County](#), along with other partners of [The Way Home](#) will honor the lives of those who were homeless when they passed away this year. December 21 is the longest night of the year and, therefore, the most difficult for someone without housing. The Coalition has provided a [commemorative video observance](#) that shares the names of the [deceased homeless individuals](#) so members of the community may join in this vigil of remembrance.

As the Coalition and its partners in The Way Home wrap up 2015, there is cause to celebrate the recent successes.

“From the 2015 Point-in-Time Homeless Count, we know that there were 1,950 unsheltered homeless people in the Houston area, compared with 4,418 on a given night identified in the 2011 Count and 2,291 identified in 2014,” said Marilyn L. Brown, President and CEO of the Coalition for the Homeless. “We have documented a 56% decrease in the unsheltered homeless population in our community – and we have reduced our overall homeless population by nearly half in four years. Earlier this year, we announced the effective end of veteran homelessness, and we will enter 2016 with a laser focus on helping family and youth end their homelessness.”

With the approach of the colder winter weather, the Coalition also encourages people to join in the effort to *Lead Houston Home*:

- View the Coalition’s compilation of partner organizations who have specific [in-kind needs](#) this holiday season.
- Contribute to The Way Home’s [Barrier Buster Fund](#) to provide newly housed individuals with much needed household items.
- View the list of [The Way Home partner organizations](#) and contact them to volunteer or get more information on how you can get involved.

The Coalition’s In Memoriam 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. Learn more at www.homelesshouston.org.