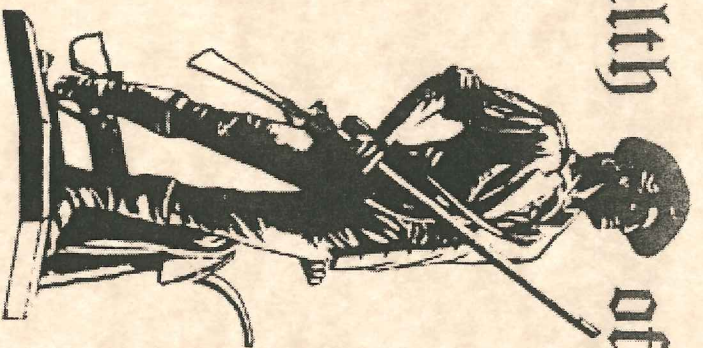


Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

- Whereas** The murder of a loved one robs their family of a mother, father, sister, brother, son, daughter, grandparent, aunt, uncle or extended family member and creates an overwhelming challenge to fill the void that their absence creates; and
- Whereas** Survivors of homicide victims across the Commonwealth need targeted intervention that starts with the death notification and goes far beyond the burial, and in some cases the trial; and
- Whereas** Survivors share their stories of the pain inflicted by the murder to teach lessons of compassion and peace and reject paths of retaliation, shame and isolation; and
- Whereas** Survivors want their murdered children to be valued, regardless of the circumstances surrounding their deaths, and their surviving children to grow up in a safe environment, recognized for their human worth rather than as statistics waiting to happen; and
- Whereas** Throughout the year and particularly during the holidays, survivors of homicide victims experience overwhelming grief, isolation, and despair; and
- Whereas** Survivors of homicide victims are using this painful understanding of violence to honor their loved ones by providing leadership to our society in its quest to find ways to prevent violence and promote peace by effecting policy changes on a local, state and national level,

Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim November 20th – December 20th, 2012, to be

SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS AWARENESS MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this sixteenth day of November, in the year two thousand and twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH



God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts