

ONYX MID-ATLANTIC

November 20, 2021

A Statement from ONYX Mid-Atlantic

The **Transgender Day of Remembrance**, also known as the International Transgender Day of Remembrance, has been observed annually on November 20 as a day to memorialize those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia. It is a day to draw attention to the continued violence endured by transgender people.

ONYX Mid-Atlantic celebrates transgender people and stands united in the fight against the rampant inequality, discrimination and violence endured by our transgender siblings.

Transgender Day of Remembrance was founded in 1999 by a small group, including Gwendolyn Ann Smith, to memorialize the murder Rita Hester (November 30, 1963 – November 28, 1998) in Allston, Massachusetts on November 28, 1998. Rita Hester was murdered two days before her 35th birthday.



A transgender, African American woman, Rita was well known throughout the LGBTQ community. She was violently murdered in her own apartment, having been stabbed over 20 times. As is the case with most violence against members of the transgender community, her case remains unsolved. For the second year in a row, the transgender community has seen a grim milestone: 2021 has become the deadliest year on record, just as 2020 was. With 46 known deaths since January 1, the Human Rights Campaign has officially recorded more violent deaths of transgender and gender non-conforming people than any year since they began tracking this violence in 2013.

“Transgender Day of Remembrance seeks to highlight the losses we face due to anti-transgender bigotry and violence. I am no stranger to the need to fight for our rights, and the right to simply exist is first and foremost. With so many seeking to erase transgender people — sometimes in the most brutal ways possible — it is vitally important that those we lose are remembered, and that we continue to fight for justice.”

– Transgender Day of Remembrance founder Gwendolyn Ann Smith

As People of Color, we the community must stand united for all our members and allies. We call upon our friends in Leather and Kink, our LGBTQIA+ family, and all people of conscience to take a stand against transphobia and a stand for equal rights and treatment for our all of our transgender siblings.

Silence is complicity. Demonstrate solidarity! Speak up! Take Action!

Papa ONYX

Papa / Marcus Allen

www.onyxma.com

#TransDayOfRemembrance
#TransRightsAreHumanRights
#SayTheirNamesShareTheirStories
#StandUnited
#StrongerTogether

Want to be learning more about the trans community. Education starts with you! Check out some of our articles and videos at: <http://www.onyxma.com/teach/education/>

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Below are just a few of our siblings tragically taken from us in 2021. Their memories live on in their personal stories and we continue to honor them each time we “Say Their Name”.

<i>Tyianna Alexander</i>	<i>Natalia Smut</i>	<i>Tierramarie Lewis</i>
<i>Samuel Edmund Damián Valentín</i>	<i>Iris Santos</i>	<i>Miss CoCo</i>
<i>Bianca “Muffin” Bankz</i>	<i>Tiffany Thomas</i>	<i>Pooh Johnson</i>
<i>Dominique Jackson</i>	<i>Keri Washington</i>	<i>Disaya Monae</i>
<i>Fifty Bandz</i>	<i>Jahaira DeAlto</i>	<i>Briana Hamilton</i>
<i>Alexus Braxton</i>	<i>Whispering Wind Bear Spirit</i>	<i>Kiér Laprí Kartier</i>
<i>Chyna Carrillo</i>	<i>Sophie Vásquez</i>	<i>Mel Groves</i>
<i>Siblings Jeffrey “JJ” Bright</i>	<i>Danika “Danny” Henson</i>	<i>Royal Poetical Starz</i>
<i>Jenna Franks</i>	<i>Serenity Hollis</i>	<i>Zoella “Zoey” Rose Martinez</i>
<i>Diamond Kyree Sanders</i>	<i>Oliver “Ollie” TaylorThomas Hardin</i>	<i>Jessi Hart</i>
<i>Rayanna Pardo</i>	<i>Poe Black</i>	<i>Jo Acker</i>
<i>Jaida Peterson</i>	<i>EJ Boykin</i>	<i>Rikkey Outumuro</i>
<i>Dominique Lucious</i>	<i>Aidelen Evans</i>	<i>Jenny De Leon</i>
<i>Remy Fennell</i>	<i>Taya Ashton</i>	<i>Marquiisha Lawrence</i>
<i>Tiara Banks</i>	<i>Shai Vanderpump</i>	

