



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2023, Minneapolis

Memorial at State Capitol will show names and faces of loved ones lost to opioid use.

Community members invited to submit names and photos of lost loved ones to be included in a memorial to continue healing and advocate for legislative action.

May 11, 2023, MN State Capitol – Remember Our Loved Ones is a memorial bringing the faces of people lost every day to opioids or alcohol in the state of Minnesota. There will be speakers, music and an opportunity to view over 100 photos which will be placed on lawn signs on the promenade.

“We invite people to share their stories,” Explains event organizer Suzanne Nash, a program manager from the Indigenous Peoples Task Force . “There is no place for families who have lost loved ones to connect with each other. By coming together, we will send the message that this is a real health crisis that demands action.”

There will be an 11 AM program on the Capitol Steps featuring elected officials, community members, and artists. Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan and Representative Dave Baker will speak.

“This memorial is for *all* people in Minnesota. Substance use affects all communities, regardless of race, culture, or class. We want to break the stigma and share that the loved ones we have lost are real people,” explains Nash.

Through her work at the Indigenous Peoples Task Force, Suzanne Nash has worked for decades in substance abuse prevention. The issue became much more deeply personal to her when she lost her son. “I want to continue his kindness and remember our loved ones.”

Remember Our Loved Ones is a program of the Indigenous Peoples Task Force in collaboration with others. For 37 years, the Indigenous Peoples Task Force has been at the forefront of closing the health equity gap for Native American and other marginalized communities impacted by HIV/AIDS across the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota. Based on Indigenous values and ways of knowing, our programs have grown to include services that promote the integral role of first medicines, the use of cultural arts to support youth development, and programs that foster food security in ways that reconnect Indigenous and other peoples to the land and waters.

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