

Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Launches "Remembering with Dignity," a Digital Memorial to Honor Those who Died During the COVID-19 pandemic

Beverly, Mass. – August 8, 2025 – To honor the more than 25,000 Massachusetts residents who died during the COVID-19 pandemic, Dignity Alliance Massachusetts (DignityMA) has launched "Remembering with Dignity," a new online memorial. The public is invited to submit remembrances of those lost between January 2020 and May 2023.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused unprecedented upheaval, and yet the 1.2 million Americans who died from the disease have no official national day or place of remembrance. During the COVID-19 emergency, widespread closures led to profound isolation. Many individuals died in healthcare and other facilities without the comfort of family, and survivors were often deprived of the ability to hold traditional funerals or grieve with their families and friends.

"The pandemic left a void, not just in our families but in our collective memory," said Deborah W. Coogan, Chair of the 'Remembering with Dignity' initiative. "So many died in isolation, and their stories risk being lost in the statistics. 'Remembering with Dignity' provides a way to honor their essence – the values they lived by – and ensures they are remembered as more than just a number. It is a first step toward healing and advocating for a future where we better protect our most vulnerable." The platform seeks to capture the spirit of each individual. Submissions can be made at the DignityMA's website.

How to Submit a Remembrance:

- Visit www.dignityalliancema.org and navigate to the "Pandemic Memorial" page under the "Resources" tab or click on <https://tinyurl.com/DignityRemembrance> or <https://forms.gle/GbzP2H9RG1sWSzA3A>. The QR code below can also be used.
- A remembrance should be no more than **175 words**.
- Rather than a formal obituary, each submission should describe the person's essence, values, and their story.
- Please include the circumstances of their passing (e.g., if they lived or worked in a high-risk setting such as a nursing home, rest home, group home, or hospital, or as a caregiver or essential worker).

DignityMA will host a virtual event in the fall of 2025 or early 2026. This gathering will provide a forum for survivors to honor their loved ones and channel their grief into advocacy for policies that better protect vulnerable populations during future public health crises. Details will be announced at a later date.

About Dignity Alliance Massachusetts: Dignity Alliance Massachusetts is a statewide coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to advancing the rights, dignity, and quality of life for older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers. Through advocacy, education, and collaboration, the Alliance works to ensure that all residents of the Commonwealth can live and age with respect, dignity, and independence.

