Governor DeWine Declares March 9 a Day of Remembrance in Honor of Lives Lost to COVID-19

March 09, 2021

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)— Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has declared today a day of remembrance in Ohio in honor of the more than 17,500 Ohioans who have died from COVID-19.

March 9, 2021, marks the one-year anniversary of the first confirmed coronavirus cases in Ohio. Since then, more than 979,000 people have tested positive in the state.

In the Name and by the Authority of

THE STATE OF OHIO

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, the first COVID-19 cases were confirmed in Ohio in Cuyahoga County; and

WHEREAS, in response, a state of emergency was declared in Ohio and the state Emergency Operations Center was activated that same day; and

WHEREAS, even before the first cases, the state set up a call center, launched the coronavirus.ohio.gov website, and held press conferences to keep Ohioans informed about the virus; and

WHEREAS, at each step, Ohioans have responded, first to "flatten the curve" and give hospitals a chance to prepare, then by staying home, wearing masks, and social distancing; and

WHEREAS, as COVID-19 was disproportionately affecting Ohio's minority communities, the Governor's Office formed the Minority Health Strike Force to provide recommendations on pandemic-related concerns and long-standing health disparities; and

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2020, the first COVID-19 vaccines arrived in Ohio, and since then, more than 1.4 million Ohioans have received the vaccine; and

WHEREAS, to improve delivery of the COVID-19 vaccination to underserved populations, the state established Ohio's Minority Health Vaccine Advisory Group; and

WHEREAS, true heroes have emerged during the pandemic, such as health care professionals, who showed great compassion in caring for COVID-19 patients, and other essential workers, who carried out important duties while facing extraordinary challenges; and

WHEREAS, countless lives have been saved, but sadly, more than 979,000 have tested positive with COVID-19 – some with lingering after effects – and more than 17,500 have died of COVID-19 in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, at this one-year mark, it is important to remember and mourn those we have lost to this deadly virus, those who have become sick, and all of their families.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, Mike DeWine and Jon Husted, Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize the

ANNIVERSARY OF COVID-19 IN OHIO

on this 9th day of March 2021.

Mike DeWine
Governor

Jon Husted
Lieutenant Governor