

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DATE: Tuesday, December 16, 2025

26th ANNUAL HOMELESS MEMORIAL CEREMONY

The public is invited to attend the **26th Annual Homeless Memorial Ceremony** on **Friday, December 19, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.** This year's event will take place at the **Portuguese Hall of Santa Cruz**, located near Harvey West Park at **216 Evergreen Street**.

As of November 30, 2025, **35 community members experiencing homelessness have died this year**, whether on the streets, in local hospitals, or in care facilities. While this number may rise by the time of the ceremony, it currently reflects a significant decrease from last year's total of 75 deaths.

People experiencing homelessness face significantly shortened life expectancies and disproportionately high rates of violence, trauma, and serious health conditions. The annual memorial provides our community with an opportunity to honor their lives, acknowledge these inequities, and recommit to efforts that support the safety and dignity for everyone in our community.

Individuals wishing to honor someone who passed away this year are encouraged to attend and share a brief remembrance. The ceremony will include dedicated time for community members to speak.

Held in conjunction with **National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day**, this ceremony has been a Santa Cruz tradition for more than two decades. This year's memorial is organized by the **Human Services Department's Housing for Health Division**, the **Homeless Persons' Health Project**, and **Housing Matters**.

For event details and to download a flyer, please visit the [Homeless Memorial webpage](#).

Homeless Memorial

Portuguese Hall of Santa Cruz, 216 Evergreen Street

Friday, December 19, 2025, from 10 – 11:30 a.m.

On-site parking is available.

Light snacks and refreshments will be served.

ABOUT THE HOUSING FOR HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

The Housing for Health Partnership is a collaboration of the County and each city within Santa Cruz County, along with local homelessness service providers. It acts as the federally-designated continuum of care for Santa Cruz County and helps allocate State and federal funding to address homelessness. The County of Santa Cruz serves as lead agency for the H4H Partnership.

For more information, visit our [website](#), [FaceBook page](#), and [Instagram account](#).