The Silent Witness Project is on a mission to bring hope, healing, and an end to domestic violence.

Remember My Story.
Remember My Name.

A Virtual Silent Witness Vigil

[Sponsoring organization] · [Date]





Who are the Silent Witnesses?

The Silent Witnesses are red, life-size silhouettes.

Each one bears a shield on which is written the story of a woman, child or man who was killed by an abusive partner.

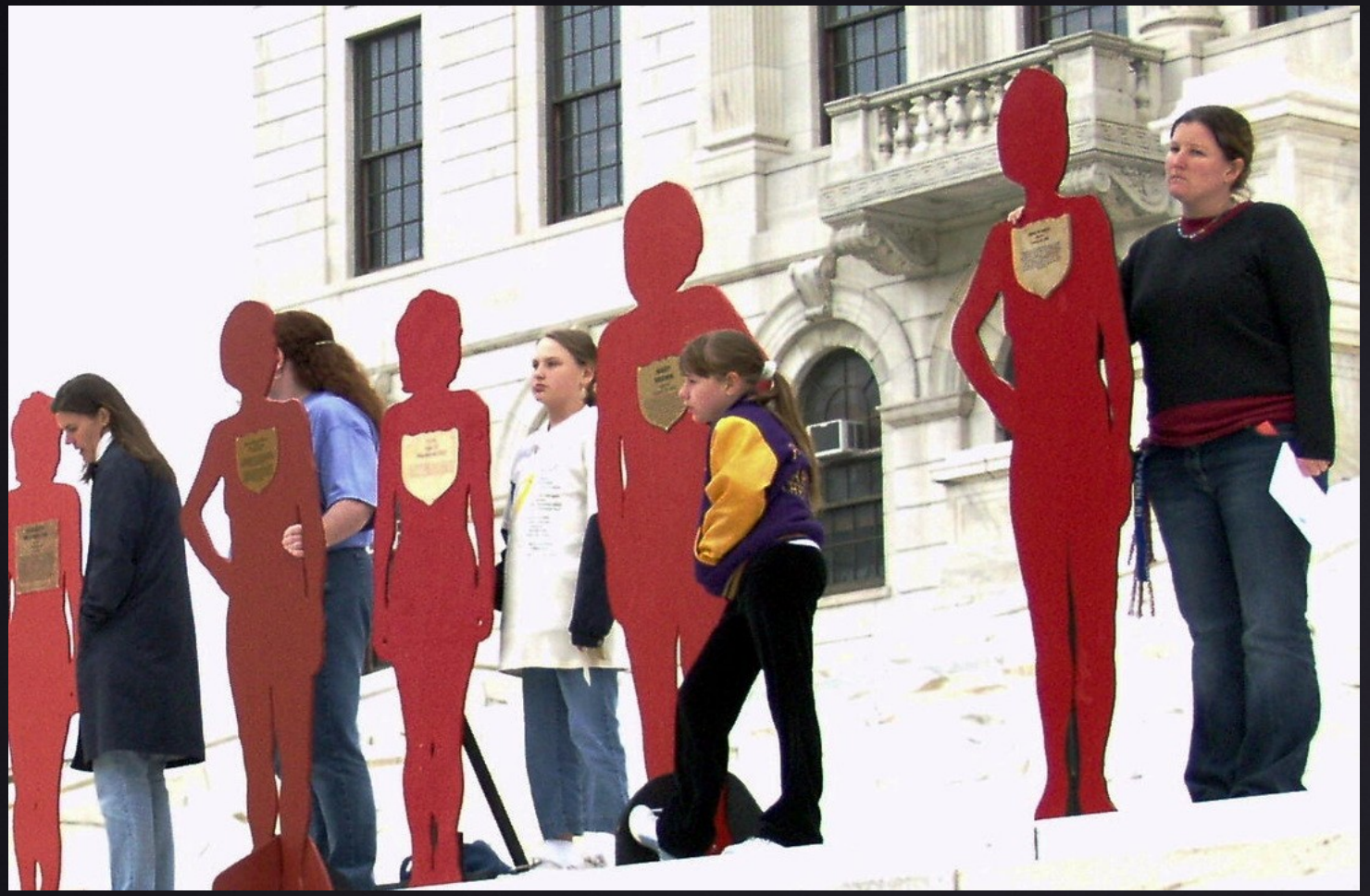
The silhouettes also remember bystanders who were killed in attacks on an intimate partner.

Silent Witness began in Minnesota in 1990. Today the figures stand in exhibits, vigils and marches across the United States, Canada and beyond.



We walk with them.

Silent Witness march, Iaşi, Romania







Every figure carries a name.

Communities carry the Silent Witnesses in marches and candlelight vigils, so the people they represent are not forgotten.

Each figure stands for someone
who was loved.

Please join us in a moment of silence
as we hear their stories.



Jane Doe

Age 38
Died: 2025

In the summer of 2025, Jane Doe, 38, was assaulted and fatally strangled. Her body was found along a rural highway not far from her home. The medical examiner ruled her death a homicide. Two months later, the perpetrator, her estranged boyfriend, was arrested and charged with second-degree murder and aggravated domestic assault. He had a prior conviction for domestic assault. Jane had volunteered and worked at her local food pantry. She loved the outdoors, all animals, especially dogs, and time at the lake.


The light comes back to the hills
slowly,
the way it always has,
and for everyone.

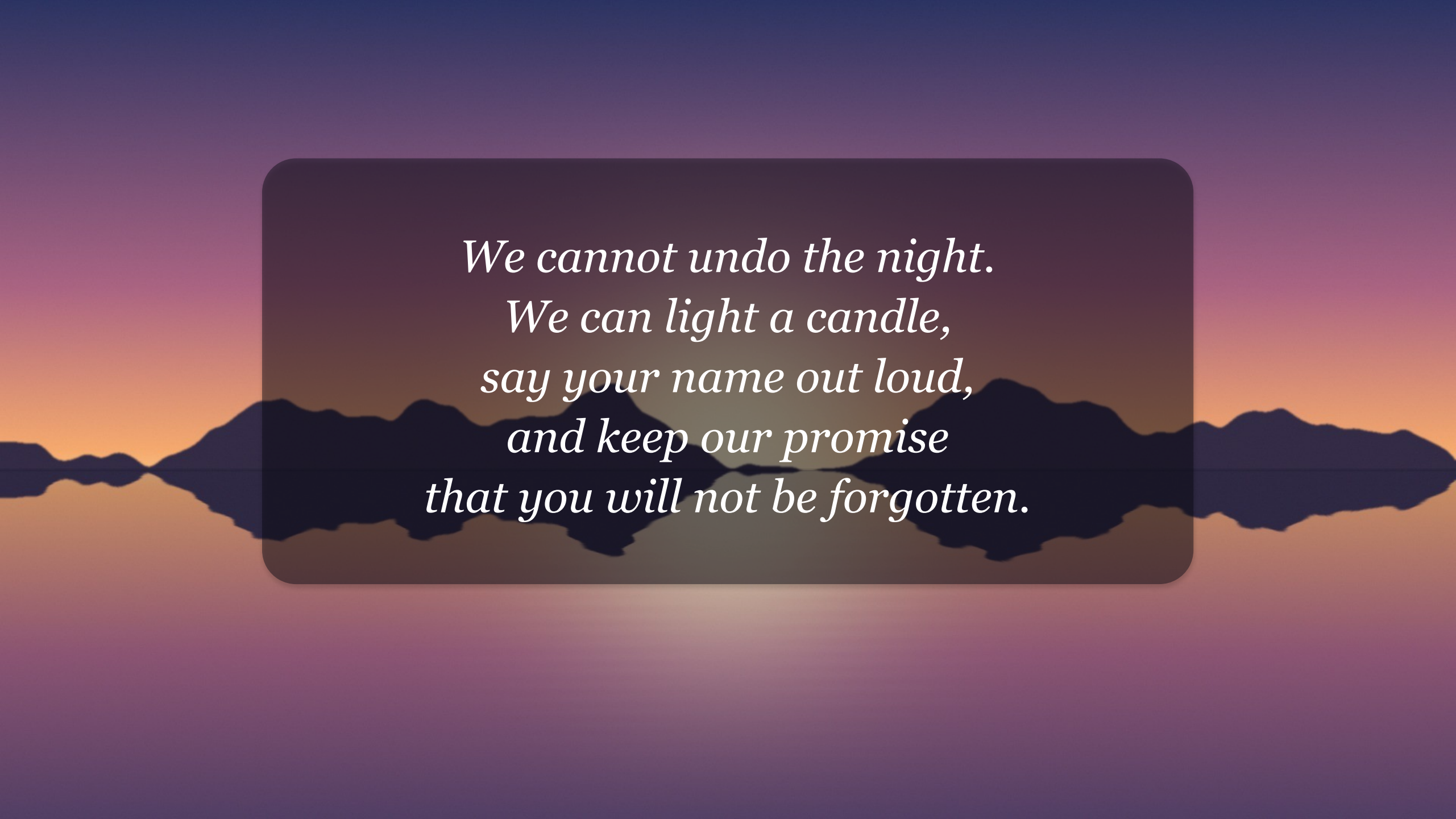


[Name]

Age [ ]

Died: [Month Day, Year]

[Type the story from the shield here: where they lived, what happened, and who they were: their work, their family, what they loved. Keep it to about 150 words so it fits the shield.]


We cannot undo the night.
We can light a candle,
say your name out loud,
and keep our promise
that you will not be forgotten.

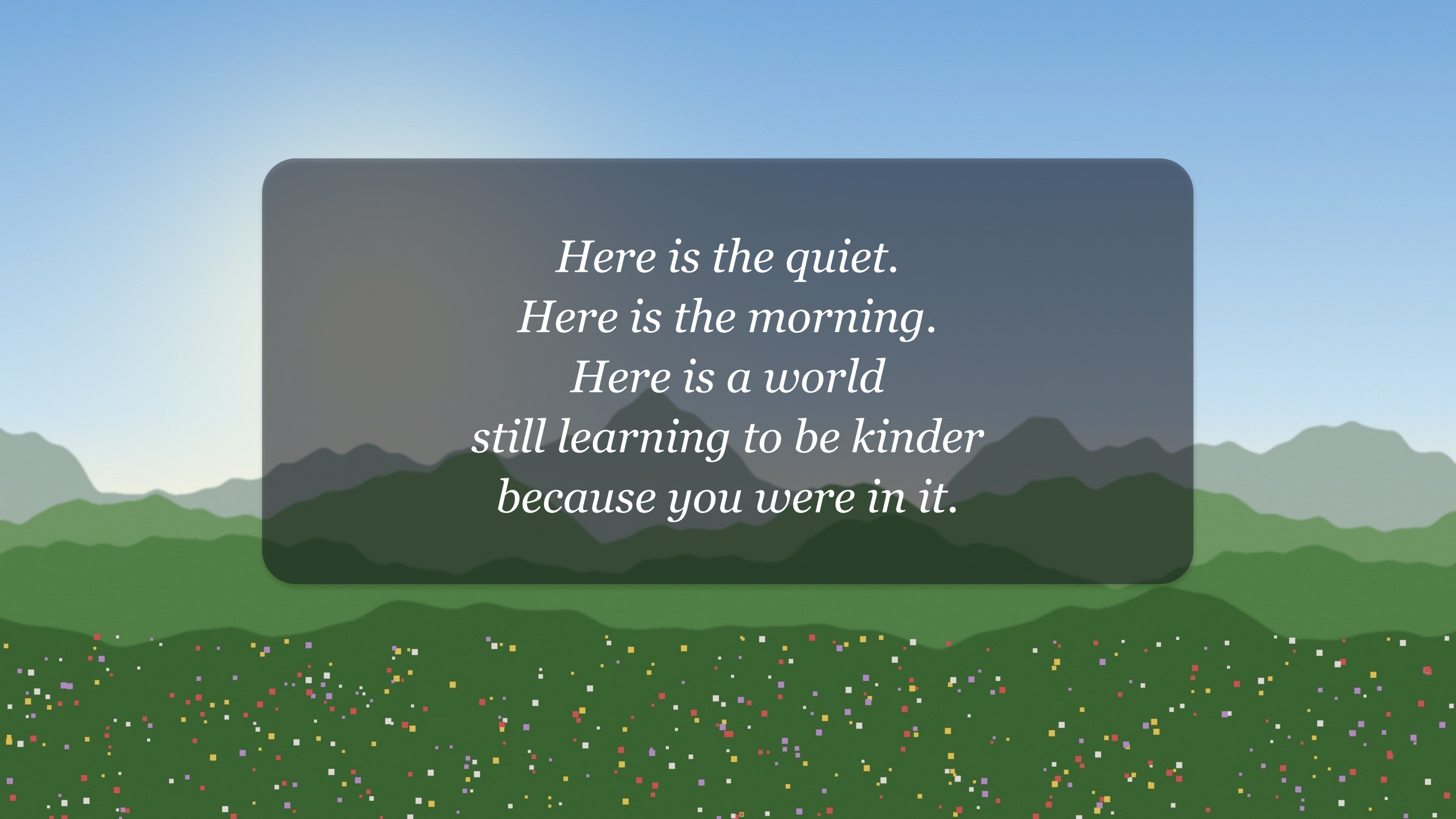


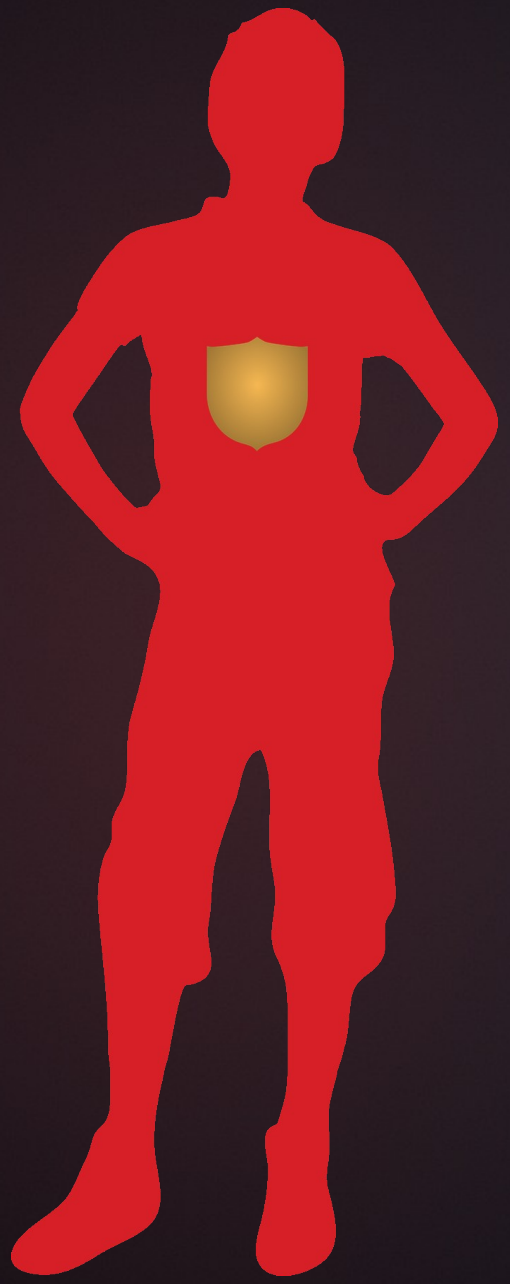
[Name]

Age [ ]

Died: [Month Day, Year]

[Children's stories often begin with the adult relationship that put them in danger. Type the story from the shield here.]


Here is the quiet.
Here is the morning.
Here is a world
still learning to be kinder
because you were in it.



[Name]

Age [ ]

Died: [Month Day, Year]

[Type the story from the shield here.]



Unknown Victim

Name unknown
Never forgotten

This figure stands as a visual placeholder for the anonymous individuals currently living in dangerous situations or those whose domestic violence murders went unsolved, were erroneously ruled accidental, or whose stories were never officially recognized.

Help is here in our community

[Sponsoring organization] · [phone] · [website]

[Sponsor logo]

Shelters & safe housing

[Shelter name]
[24-hour phone]
[website]

[Shelter name]
[24-hour phone]
[website]

Counseling & support groups

[Agency name]
[phone]
[website]

[Agency name]
[phone]
[website]

Prevention & education

[Program name]
[phone]
[website]

[Program name]
[phone]
[website]

Legal help & advocacy

[Agency name]
[phone]
[website]

[Agency name]
[phone]
[website]



National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

Text START to 88788 · Chat at thehotline.org · In an emergency, call 911

THE SILENT WITNESS INITIATIVE

Remember My Story.
Remember My Name.

We carry their names forward.

Thank you for standing with us.

With thanks

Music: "I'll Stand in the Rain" by Leslie Monaghan, New Brunswick Silent Witness Project (silentwitness.ca). Used with permission.

Photographs: Silent Witness National Initiative archive (silentwitness.net).

Silhouette and shield artwork: Silent Witness exhibit print files.

Scenery, purple ribbon and verses: created for this vigil.

Silent Witness Initiative · silentwitness.net · silentwitnessexhibits@gmail.com