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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEMORIAL EVENT TO REMEMBER THE PULSE SHOOTING 5 YEARS LATER

On June 12, the nation will mark five years since the tragedy in Orlando. This serves as a moment to reflect on the progress that has been made since the shooting, pause to honor the lives of the 49 people who were shot and killed, the 58 others who were injured, and the many more affected. To commemorate this tragic event, the City of Salisbury, Salisbury PFLAG, and the Lower Shore Local Group of Moms Demand Action for Gunsense in America are collaborating on a Pulse Remembrance Memorial event.

The Memorial will feature speakers, musical performances, lighting of 107 luminaries to represent those killed or injured at Pulse, the reading of the 49 names of those killed, and a moment of silence. The event is scheduled from 8:00-9:00 p.m. and will be held at the Riverwalk Amphitheater in Salisbury, Maryland located at 210 Salisbury Boulevard.

The victims of the Pulse attack were primarily LGBTQIA+ and Latinx, senselessly killed in a hate-fueled rampage in what was supposed to be a safe space while celebrating their shared identity and Pride month. Pulse represents the deadliest attack on the LGBTQIA+ community in American history. At the time, it was also the largest mass shooting in American history — until it was surpassed by the shooting in Las Vegas.

Over 10,000 hate crimes in the US involve a firearm each year, which equates to more than 28 each day. A report produced last year for the 4th anniversary of Pulse by the Human Rights Campaign, Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, Giffords Law Center, and Equality Florida found an 11% increase in anti-LGBTQ hate crimes over the prior year and a 41% increase in reported crimes directed against individuals for their gender identity.

In addition to the event being held locally, there is also a national moment of silence scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on the 12th sponsored by The Coalition for Pulse: 5 Years Later.

For more information contact SalisburyPFLAG@Outlook.com.

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