



## A SOULFUL HEART MEMORIALIZING GEORGE FLOYD, JR.

### *A 501 (c)3 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION*

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The sense of hope and renewal that comes on the first day of each New Year was shattered by utter pain and disbelief, when Shamsud-Din Jabbar deliberately rammed a rental Ford pickup truck into a crowd of New Year's Day revelers on Bourbon Street in New Orleans. The 42-year old Texas citizen, an Army veteran, killed fourteen people and seriously injured dozens of others, before leaving his vehicle and opening fire on law enforcement. Jabbar was pronounced dead at the scene from the officers' return fire.

Questions surrounding Jabbar's motivation for the unprovoked slaughter remain, although he had made videos prior to the attack indicating he had joined ISIS. An ISIS flag was located in the vehicle, as were other weapons and a potential IED. According to the FBI, Jabbar had planted additional IEDs in two separate ice chests he placed in the French Quarter prior to the terrorist attack; the detonator for the ice chests was found in his vehicle.

The victims of the attack are not just a faceless collective of those murdered in a terror attack; they are people. We honor them by sharing their names: (1) Martin "Tiger" Bech, a 29-year-old former football player for Princeton; (2) Nikyra Cheyenne Dedeaux, an 18-year-old slated to start nursing training in late January; (3) Edward Pettifer, a UK national whose step-mother, the former Tiggy Legge-Bourne, was the nanny for Prince William and Prince Harry in the 1990s; (4) Reggie Hunter, a 37-year-old store manager and father of two; (5) Kareem Badawi, a recent high school graduate; (6) Hubert Gauthreaux, a 21-year-old student; (7) Nicole Perez, a 27-year old manager and mother to a four-year-old son; (8) Matthew Tenedorio, a 25-year-old audio-visual tech at New Orleans' Superdome; (9) Drew Dauphin, a 26-year-old recent graduate of Auburn University; (10) Billy DiMaio, a 25-year old employee of broadcasting company, Audacy; (11) Terrence "Terry" Kennedy, a 63-year-old native of New Orleans; (12) Elliot Wilkinson, a 40-year-old native of Slidell, Louisiana; (13) LaTasha Polk, a 47-year-old nursing assistant and mother of a 14-year-old son; and (14) Brandon Taylor, a 43-year-old musician.

In a nation where hate is being promulgated and normalized by inflammatory rhetoric and diminishing compassion, it is every individual's responsibility to reject the divisiveness that arises from those who focus on the differences and reject the commonalities among us. A Soulful Heart is committed to contributing to the vision of a united citizenry, where respecting individual dignity, embracing the human rights of all, and living in a society that is free of judgment - which is rooted in a fundamental lack of understanding of others - is the strongest commonality amongst all.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of the victims of the New Orleans terrorist attack, and the City of New Orleans.