

THE TRUTH ABOUT TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

[Bill Donohue](#)

Today is Transgender Day of Remembrance. According to GLAAD, the gay rights organization, “The Transgender Day of Remembrance is an annual commemoration of those whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence.” What they don’t say is that [most of the violence](#) against these people is being committed by other trans people. They would have the public believe that they are being killed by hate-filled heterosexuals.

Transgender Day of Remembrance honors the memory of Rita Hester, a man who falsely claimed to be a woman; he was killed in 1998. Others who are memorialized antedated the Hester murder. They are Chanelle Pickett, Debbie Forte and Monique Thomas; they were also men who falsely claimed to be a woman.

The more we know about these murders, all of which occurred in Massachusetts, the less convincing the narrative is that heterosexuals are a threat to the trans community.

After all these years, Hester’s case remains unresolved, but there are clear indications that he was done in by his own. His real name was William Hester; he changed his name when he “transitioned.” The 6-foot, 2-inch man liked to hang out in trans bars in Boston, dressed as a woman. After he left the Silhouette Lounge one evening, he went home to his apartment. Neighbors heard a lot of banging sounds and a loud yell. He was stabbed 20 times.

The police said there were no signs of forced entry, and that “the killer might have known the victim.” This suggests he was murdered by another trans person (they tend to associate with those of the same identity), though everyone is reluctant to

draw the obvious conclusion.

Chanelle Pickett's real name was Roman Pickett. Dubbed a "transsexual" by the *Boston Globe*, he was strangled to death five hours after he met William C. Palmer Jr. in a Combat Zone bar, located in the red-light district, in 1995. They hooked up at the Playland Café, one of Boston's well-known "transsexual pick-up bars." They smoked crack cocaine before heading to Palmer's bedroom, where they had sex.

A jury found Palmer guilty of assault and battery, but not murder. He told the court he did not know Pickett was trans. But this account was shot down by several others, including Pickett's brother, who also falsely claimed to be a woman. They said he was a frequent customer at the trans bar. Moreover, six trans people came forward admitting they had sex with him, and two of them testified against him.

Debbie Forte's real name was John J. Forte Jr. He was dressed as a woman the night he was murdered by Michael Thompson in 1995. The killer said they were "messing around" and after he discovered Forte had a penis, he killed him. There is no evidence to the contrary.

Monique Thomas' real name was Rufus Thomas. He was killed by George Stallings two months before Hester was murdered by asphyxiation. His body was found next to his bed. That does not appear to be a coincidence. We know that after he was sexually abused by a family member growing up, he became confused about his sexuality.

In other words, in three of the four most heralded cases where a trans person was killed—they are the basis of Transgender Day of Remembrance—the killer was apparently a trans person himself. And since we know that *most of the violence* against trans people today is an inside job, the day of remembrance should focus on the violence within their own community.

No matter, the temptation to deflect, to blame others, is too

much to resist. The LGBTQ crowd likes to cite the 2022 U.S. Trans Survey as proof that they are victims of harassment. The evidence, however, is weak.

The “Health & Wellbeing” section of the survey says that some of the respondents (the percentages vary) claim to have been victims of harassment. But how do we know the claims are true? After all, the claims were not subjected to independent verification—the “findings” are all self-reports. For example, the document says that 50 percent of those who considered suicide were “verbally harassed.”

What constitutes “verbal harassment” is not said. Were they called names? They may have, but it would be useful to know how many non-trans people experienced name-calling over the same period of time—for all kinds of reasons (e.g., you are “too fat,” “too ugly,” “too nerdy”).

At bottom, no decent person wants to dishonor anyone who has been truly abused, verbally or otherwise. But when there is a calculated effort to deceive the public about the true nature of the abuse, we are dealing more with politics than honest reporting.