



COVID-19 Causes Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum to Close Temporarily Plans for April 19th Being Discussed, Virtual Option Offered Memorial Marathon Postponed

Due to public health concerns, the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum will be closed temporarily beginning Sunday, March 15, 2020. The Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon is postponed until fall 2020.

Likewise, Memorial officials are busy planning the 25th Anniversary Remembrance Ceremony to be held on Sunday, April 19, 2020, and that will be altered in some fashion due to these concerns. More information will be communicated to the family members, survivors and first responders as these plans develop.

With the spread of COVID-19, the safety of every person is our priority. After conferring with the City-County Health and the City Emergency Response Officials, a decision was made to close the Museum which draws visitors internationally and from all 50 states and **postpone the Memorial Marathon until Sunday, October 4, 2020.**

“Please know we do not make this decision lightly – it is spring break and many were planning to come here from all over the country to learn our story. We are working with tour groups to reschedule, but at this time bringing the large amount of visitors into the Museum isn’t prudent,” said Kari Watkins, Executive Director. “We also know how much time, effort, and dedication goes into preparing to run the Marathon and we look forward to working with everyone to run in the fall.”

“We regret that dozens of vendors that make the *Run to Remember* possible will be heavily impacted, and some have already completed their work for the race. We know runners, volunteers, sponsors and neighborhoods that have already put a lot of time into this race will be disappointed, but we had to make a decision based on our visitors, runners and the current facts and advice given to us by officials,” said Bob Ross, Chairman of the Oklahoma City National Memorial Foundation.

“These are extraordinary times and extraordinary measures are being taken around the country. I appreciate that the leadership at the Memorial took its time and considered these issues thoughtfully. The Museum and Marathon uniquely draw from a national audience, and so I respect that these

decisions today are in the best interest of public health for our community,” said Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt.

Race registrations will automatically transfer to the rescheduled race on October 4, 2020. As per the refund policy signed at the time of registration, runners’ entry fees and donations are non-refundable. However, we are waiving the race change fee through the month of April should athletes choose to run a different race.

“We hope everyone will understand and will join us to *Run to Remember* in October for a coming together of our community,” Watkins said. “We will provide updates on the Museum reopening as we know more.”

As more information becomes available it will be shared on both the Memorial and Marathon websites, through our social media channels and through local media.