

**STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

During the holiday season, families across the nation join together to express gratitude and spread hope; as such, it is among the most joyous and celebratory times of the year. But for victims of violent crimes and their families, December can exacerbate the pain that weighs so heavily on their hearts, making this ostensibly wonderful time of year anything but merry. Thankfully, however, the Tree of Angels was initiated in Austin, Texas, in 1991 by Verna Lee to support those who need it most.

Like a candle in the darkness, a special angel ornament on a Christmas tree offers comfort and hope to Texans who have been tragically impacted by violent crime. During the season of love, joy, and giving, we must reach out to friends and neighbors who have been affected by violent crime and support them by any means possible. Tree of Angels ceremonies invite us to acknowledge the pain and suffering in our world, and they provide a solemn space in which we can pray, find hope, reinforce our faith, and rededicate ourselves to serving our fellow man.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to support crime victims, their families, and those who work to protect us from violence. We must remain steadfast in our commitment to justice, safety, and security, and we must do everything in our power to provide healing, comfort, and closure to victims and their loved ones.

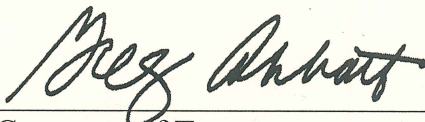
Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby recognize December 4–10, 2024, to be

Tree of Angels Week

in Texas and urge all Texans to observe the occasion with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto affixed my signature this the 1st day of October, 2024.




Governor of Texas