

**A RESOLUTION OF THE OCONEE COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY
TO PARTICIPATE IN “PURPLE THURSDAY”**

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) evolved from the Day of Unity, conceived by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence in October 1981. In 1989, Congress passed Public Law 101-112, officially designating October of that year, *National Domestic Violence Awareness Month*. Such legislation has been passed each year since.

WHEREAS, Oconee County, South Carolina Sheriff’s Department reported over 200 cases of Domestic Violence (DV) in 2022. South Carolina records an average of 32,563 DV cases per year. 42.3% of women and 29.2% of men in South Carolina will experience Intimate Partner, physical or sexual violence in their lifetimes. 50-70% of cases go unreported.

WHEREAS, more than 60% of Domestic Violence cases are dismissed, 10-18% of those arrested for domestic violence are arrested again within six months, 15-30% face a second arrest within 28 months, and more than 60% are rearrested within ten years. Victims of Domestic Violence commonly decide to recant their testimony and not follow-through pursuing charges against their intimate partner. When a victim of Domestic Violence refuses to testify or recants and testifies that the incident did not happen, it makes it harder to get a conviction. The abuser is released from jail, avoids consequences, and the cycle of violence is free to repeat itself – and often repeats itself. Research has revealed that it is not always threats that abusers use to sway their victims into changing their stories; rather, it's a sophisticated emotional appeal that typically progresses through five distinct stages designed to minimize their actions and gain the sympathy of the victim. Abusers protect their actions, minimize their abuse, convince victims “they don’t understand us,” convince victims to lie, and plan to corroborate their story.

WHEREAS, more than 4,000 women die each year due to domestic violence in the United States, 57 South Carolinians lost their lives in domestic violence events in 2021. Of the total Domestic Violence homicides, about 75% of the victims were killed as they attempted to leave the relationship, or after the relationship had ended.

WHEREAS, in July 1978, more than 100,000 women marched on Washington, D.C. in support of equal rights. Many of them wore purple and lavender to make a stronger visual impact as they assembled in support of their cause. The U.S. Military awards a Purple Heart to those who have been wounded in service. For survivors of Domestic Violence who also may be wounded, both physically and emotionally, purple is meant to be a symbol of peace, courage, survival, honor, and dedication to ending this violence. Purple was selected as the color to promote awareness for the first Domestic Violence Day of Unity in October 1981. The third Thursday of October has now become nationally recognized as “Purple Thursday” where people, nationwide, are encouraged to wear purple to increase awareness for Domestic Violence.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, in this 35th year since Unity Day, The Oconee County Republican Party stands resolute against intimate partner abuse, and recognizes its effects on families and communities. In a token of this resolute solidarity, the Men and Women of the Oconee County Republican Party will be encouraged to wear purple to the regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting on Thursday, October 20, 2023. Further, they will take a collection to provide as a donation to Safe Harbor Seneca, SC.

Adopted by the Oconee County Republican Party Executive Committee on August 17, 2023