

Yom Kippur 5781
Yizkor For COVID-19 VICTIMS
By Chaplain Barry E. Pitegoff, BCC

*Like Moses whose pleas went to ears that would not listen:
"Let my people go," Moses cried out,
But too many suffered from plagues when Pharaoh would not listen.
Like our scientists, clergy, and humanitarians all ...
They, too, cried out,
Be careful in your laboratories,
Take only the good in you when you travel,
Bring back only memories,
Be compassionate and kind to all,
"They would not listen, they did not know how
Perhaps they'll listen now. ("Vincent," by Don McLean)"*

Three-quarters of a million deaths from COVID-19 worldwide,
as we approached Yom Kippur 5781.
*... deaths of those many in years, deaths of those young in years
...deaths of our teachers, and deaths of their students
...deaths of parents, grandparents, children, and treasured friends
...deaths of those trying to save those suffering from the pandemic
...deaths of those dying of loneliness because COVID-19 isolated them
...and the list goes on.*

May we now dedicate ourselves to
*...treasure the blessings they gave us
...honor their memories
...ask G-D to elevate their souls through our communal Yom Kippur Yizkor.*

*Yizkor E-lohim ... May G-D remember the souls of all our departed who
were taken from us in the past year though the COVID-19 pandemic or its
side effects, especially loneliness, isolation. and despair. We pledge to
perform acts of charity and goodness with their names in our hearts. May
our deeds, prayers, and teshuvah help to keep their souls bound up in the
bond of life everlasting. Amen.*