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Middlesex sheriff participates in Massachusetts White Ribbon Day



Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian, serving as campaign co-chair, joined more than 300 people March 3 at the Massachusetts Statehouse to take a stand against gender-based violence as part of the Massachusetts White Ribbon Day Campaign. Courtesy Photo

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AMESBURY

Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian, serving as campaign co-chair, joined more than 300 people March 3 at the Massachusetts Statehouse to take a stand against gender-based violence as part of the Massachusetts White Ribbon Day campaign.

The White Ribbon Campaign, launched locally by Jane Doe Inc., is focused on shifting the understanding of what it means to be a man in today's world and encouraging men to become positive role models.

"Having been involved in this effort since its inception nine years ago, I was honored to be asked to co-chair this year's White Ribbon Day Campaign," Koutoujian said. "As a son, a brother, a husband and a father, I recognize my

responsibility to model behavior which proves a man's strength is shown through his character and moral judgment, never through the use of force or violence.”

As co-chair, Koutoujian was joined by MassHousing director of community service and HoodFit founder Thaddeus Miles. Gov. Charlie Baker served as the honorary chairman.

The Statehouse ceremony included remarks by Baker, Koutoujian, Miles, Jane Doe Executive Director Debra Robbin and Jane Doe Men's initiative coordinator Craig Norberg-Bohm, as well as New England Patriots director of community affairs Andre Tippett and Capt. James “Brett” Millican, commanding officer of Coast Guard Base Boston. The ceremony also featured performances by spoken-word poet Charlie Lake and hip-hop artist and Lawrence community activist Andres “DraMatik” Gonzalvez.

Koutoujian also recently participated in White Ribbon Day proclamation ceremonies hosted by the city of Cambridge and by The Second Step in Newton. MSO officers and civilian staff also participated in a proclamation event hosted by the city of Lowell and Alternative House.

To learn more about the White Ribbon Day Campaign, visit whiteribbonday.janedoe.org.