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**Nation**

**Epoch Times Staff**

**Out of Care and Into Reform**

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NEW YORK – The sky over New York City glowed with red and purple, the names of those who died from AIDS-related illnesses flashed across the electronic screens of the large crowd that gathered Monday. The crowd included the families, friends, and coworkers of AIDS patients.

It was a heart-wrenching scene as people gathered in Battery Park City to celebrate the three years since the United States went to war on AIDS. The vigil was sponsored by Housing Works, a New York City-based AIDS service organization.

The vigil, called the “Vigil of Names,” honors those who have died from HIV/AIDS since the first case was reported in 1981. The vigil was held to remember the lives lost to AIDS, to honor those who have fought the disease, and to call for continued action.

As the crowd gathered, the names of those who have died from AIDS were projected onto the wall of the vigil site. The names included people of all ages, from all walks of life, and from all parts of the country. The names of those who have died from AIDS are a stark reminder of the importance of continued action to end the epidemic.

Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, spoke at the vigil. He called for continued action to end the epidemic.

"We are making progress," Fauci said. "But we have a long way to go. We still have a lot of work to do."