Vigil honors 275 homeless and poor people who died in SF this year

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Name after name, heartbreak after heartbreak. Death after death.

A crowd gathered in U.N. Plaza on Thursday night for the annual vigil in honor of the homeless and poor people who’ve died this year in San Francisco, and this time they brought cloth banners bearing the names of the dead. There were so many, it was hard to see from one end of the mass to the other.

Janet Parker listens as the names of the 275 homeless people who died in San Francisco this year are slowly read aloud. It’s a solemn annual ritual that has been conducted for more than 20 years in the Tenderloin.

Photo: Photos by Scott Strazzante / The Chronicle
One of the banners read, “baby.” There was Thomas Walsh, 58, shot to death on Turk Street in May. And there was Tyson Feilzer, rescued from the street last spring by his brother only to die of a heroin overdose in September.