

PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MURDER VICTIMS

WHEREAS, the National Parents Of Murdered Children (POMC) established September 25 as a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims as a result of unanimously passed resolutions by the U.S. Senate on October 16, 2007 (S. Res. 326), and the U.S. House of Representatives on May 14, 2007 (H. Res. 223); and

WHEREAS, POMC believes that honoring the memory of victims who have been killed by violence and acknowledging the resulting long-term trauma for families and communities in Texas and the nation is an essential way of promoting public awareness and remembering our loved ones; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, there were an estimated 17,000 homicides nationwide and over 170,000 close relatives were affected. The Rio Grande Valley experienced 42 murders, leaving behind over 420 close relatives; and

WHEREAS, survivors of homicide victims need specific and targeted intervention in the aftermath of the homicide, which starts with the death notification and goes far beyond the burial and in some cases the jury trial leaving a lasting impact on any person, regardless of age, national origin, race, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, immigration, or economic status; and

WHEREAS, throughout the year, and particularly during the holidays, anniversaries, and birthdays, survivors of homicide victims experience overwhelming grief, isolation, and despair. Engaging a broader array of healthcare providers, community leaders, law enforcement agencies, faith organizations, educators, and businesses can provide new links and services that improve their safety, healing, and access to justice; and

WHEREAS, citizens of Hidalgo County are encouraged to participate in the 7th Annual Candlelight Vigil "Together We Climb The Mountain To The Peak Of Hope," to be held at the Pharr Events Center located at 3000 N. Gage in Pharr from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby proclaims September 25th, 2019 as a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims Rio Grande Valley-Families.

Approved this 27th day of August, 2019.

Richard F. Cortez

RICHARD F. CORTEZ
County Judge

David L. Fuentes

DAVID L. FUENTES
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu

EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

Joe M. Flores

JOE M. FLORES
County Commissioner, Pct.3

Ellie Torres

ELLIE TORRES
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Arturo Guajardo Jr.

Attest: **ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.**
County Clerk