



Hidalgo County Commissioners Court

Richard F. Cortez
County Judge

David L. Fuentes
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Everardo "Ever" Villarreal
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Ellie Torres
Commissioner, Precinct 4

**OFFICE OF
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RICHARD F. CORTEZ**

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Hidalgo County Judge creates COVID-19 Memorial Task Force

EDINBURG – Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez will create a Task Force to explore the formation of a memorial honoring COVID-19 victims as well as community survivors.

Judge Cortez made the announcement during a video commemorating the first anniversary of his declaration of a local disaster due to COVID-19 on Wednesday.

The Task Force will be comprised of five members, each appointed by a member of the Commissioners Court, whose responsibility will be to recommend the design, location, cost and funding source for the memorial. The monument will not only encompass the memory of the nearly 3,000 lives lost to COVID-19, but will also honor the resilience of our health care workers, essential employees and the entire community who continues to endure this deadly disease.

Judge Cortez will ask the task force that these recommendations be sent to him by July 1, 2021.

"It's both an honor and privilege to work on this memorial project," said Judge Cortez. "I extend my heart as we continue to mourn these lives while offering a place of remembrance for surviving victims."

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Hidalgo County is home to one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. We provide health and justice to the over 800,000 residents of our county. We strive to be accessible and responsive to our citizens by providing excellent public service through the values of leadership, transparency, fairness, collaboration, respect and fiscal responsibility. Follow our social media feed at www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/followus