



**The Rio Grande Valley  
Families & Friends Of Murdered Children, Inc.**

**“For those who have died by homicide forever in our hearts and seeking justice”**

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08/16/2018

Attn: Ramon Garcia, Hidalgo County Judge  
302 W. University Dr.  
Edinburg, TX 78539

**RE: Proclamation Support  
September 25th National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims**

Dear Honorable Ramon Garcia Judge:

National Parents Of Murdered Children (POMC) established September 25th 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) to honor the memory of victims who have been killed by violence and acknowledging the resulting long-term trauma for families, communities, and the Nation is an essential way of promoting public awareness.

As a local contact person for National POMC you Judge Ramon Garcia, would honor us, by issuing a Hidalgo County proclamation to commemorate **2018 September 25th National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims** in the County of Hidalgo. We have enclosed/attached sample language for your consideration in drafting a proclamation.

Your proclamation is an essential component of these efforts to educate Homicide Survivors and the public about resources for victim assistance and rights, advocacy and community safety. The theme for this event is **“Find Strength in unity, Love in fond memories and Hope in the future.”**

We appreciate your consideration of our request and know that Ramon Garcia Judge proclamation will enhance our efforts to promote our **6th Annual September 25th as a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims.**

Sincerely,

Robert Garcia, MS

**ENCLOSURE/ATTACHMENT:** Sample Proclamation Language



## COUNTY OF HIDALGO

### PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, the National Parents Of Murdered Children (POMC) established September 25th 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);

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

**WHEREAS**, POMC Chapters, Contact Persons, and organization such as the Rio Grande Valley-Families and Friends Of Murdered Children, Inc., will be holding an event to commemorate the Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims on Sunday, September 25, 2018;

**WHEREAS** In 2017, there were an estimated 17,250 homicides nationwide of which the Hidalgo County experience 34 homicides. One Murder every 33.5 minutes in the United States and Texas One Murder every 6 hours;

**WHEREAS** The murder of a loved one robs their family of a mother, father, sister, brother, son, daughter, husband, wife, partner, grandparent, aunt, uncle, extended family member, friend, neighbor or colleague, and creates an overwhelming challenge to fill the void that their absence creates;

**WHEREAS**, Survivors of homicide victims are in need of specific and targeted intervention in the aftermath of the homicide, which starts with death notification and goes far beyond the burial and in some cases the trial;

**WHEREAS** Survivors of homicide use their tragedies to tell stories of pain and anger inflicted by a homicide. They have rejected paths of retaliation, shame, and isolation and instead lean toward learning and teaching lessons of compassion and peace;

**WHEREAS**, Survivors of homicide victims want their murdered children to be valued, regardless of the circumstances surrounding their deaths, and their surviving children to grow up in a safe environment, recognized for their human worth rather than as statistics waiting to happen;

**WHEREAS**, Throughout the year and particularly during the holidays, anniversary's and birthdays, survivors of homicide victims experience overwhelming grief, isolation, and despair; and

**WHEREAS**, Survivors of homicide victims transform their pain and anger into power and action; by honoring the memory of their loved ones affected by homicide. Through leadership, grief support and advocacy, survivors are reducing violence and promoting prevention and policy change on a local, state and national level and;

Now, Therefore, I, Judge Ramon Garcia, Hidalgo County do at this moment proclaim September 25, 2018, as:

**National Day of Remembrance For Murder Victims**

And we urge all the citizens of Hidalgo County and to join us for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Candlelight Vigil "Find Strength in unity, Love in fond memories and Hope in the future," be held at the Pharr Event Center located at 3000 N. Cage, Pharr, TX 78577 at 6:00pm to 9:00pm take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

We reaffirmed the Hidalgo County commitment to respect and enforce victims' rights and express appreciation for those homicide survivors who have turned their tragedy into a motivating force to improve our response to homicide survivor's family left behind and built a more just community.

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date