

RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF JERRY BELL

WHEREAS, Mr. Jerry Bell was born on July 23, 1933, to Everett and Irene Bell in Pharr, Texas. He grew up in the Rio Grande Valley and graduated from McAllen High School where he was a drum major in 1948 and attended Rice University and Texas A&I College, eschewing graduation to take up responsibilities at the family farm; and

WHEREAS, though he lived as a successful farmer growing grain, corn, cotton, peanuts, and watermelons, Mr. Bell’s greatest accomplishment, second only to his family, was what he established in Penitas. Mr. Bell and his first wife Barbara were instrumental parts of the team that incorporated the City of Penitas in the 1990s. Mr. Bell and his brother, Duane, went on to develop parts of their farm into residential neighborhoods, growing Penitas and providing quality infrastructure around which so many families achieved their American Dream; and

WHEREAS, as a lifetime member and crew Chief of the Commemorative Air Force, Mr. Bell helped keep aviation history alive for generations to come. In 2012 he was inducted into the Rio Grande Valley Walk of Fame and Mission Historical Museum's Wall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bell was a fixture of his community, serving on municipal boards and generously supporting children involved in 4-H, FFA, band, athletics, and other pursuits. He donated time and resources to local churches, the Penitas Public Library, La Joya ISD's JFK Elementary, and other worthy causes over his life; and

WHEREAS, his commitment to the citizens and city of Penitas came from a sincere drive to see the area flourish and grow. It later opened doors for commercial developments that provided numerous jobs and services to his neighbors. His legacy lives on through his surviving children, Jeannette Womack (John) and Bob Bell; his grandchildren Brad Womack (Connie), Laura Parker (Ruben), T.J. Womack (Shanei), Bonnie Kuelher (Wayne), Allyson Pratka (Bowen), Leslye Womack, and Quinten Womack; ten great grandchildren; and brothers Duane Bell (Sandra) and Bill Kattmann (Cindy). He is also survived by his third wife, Carolyn Bell.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby honors Mr. Jerry Bell and remembers his love of family, farming, commitment to community, straight-shooting approach to life, and his generous spirit.

Approved this 27th day of August, 2019.

RICHARD F. CORTEZ
County Judge

DAVID L. FUENTES
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

EDUARDO “EDDIE” CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

JOE M. FLORES
County Commissioner, Pct.3

ELLIE TORRES
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.
County Clerk