

*Proclamation to create the Spirit of the Valley Award
for Hidalgo County*

- Whereas* in the year 2020, a pandemic virus known as COVID-19 brought the world to a standstill; and
- Whereas* initial evidence of the pandemic's presence in the County of Hidalgo manifested itself with a DECLARATION OF A LOCAL DISASTER DUE TO A HEALTH EMERGENCY on the Seventeenth day of March 2020; and
- Whereas* one of the initial responses in the name of public safety was to close down area schools; and
- Whereas* schools, institutes of higher learning, governmental institutions, businesses and much of the economy was eventually impacted by this declaration in the spirit of protecting the community and slowing the spread of this deadly disease; and
- Whereas* sacrifices by the people of the County of Hidalgo, including people sheltering at home, people wearing facial coverings and people avoiding mass gatherings were made to protect the community; and
- Whereas* such measures and sacrifices took place over the course of forty-five days; and
- Whereas* public health workers, first responders and those people dedicated to ensuring the safety of the community demonstrated valiant efforts in the name of the community; and
- Whereas* the long-term effects of this pandemic will be measured in decades.

Now therefore, be it resolved that the COUNTY JUDGE FOR THE COUNTY OF HIDALGO and the COMMISSIONERS COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF HIDALGO will memorialize this event by highlighting not the dark days of challenge that this pandemic brought, but, instead, the spirit of community that emerged to give all the people of the County of Hidalgo hope, direction and even salvation from this dreaded disease; and

Further be it resolved that the memorialization of this event shall be Ordered in the form of a service award forever known as the SPIRIT OF THE VALLEY AWARD; and

Further be it resolved that the SPIRIT OF THE VALLEY AWARD be given at the discretion of the County Judge of Hidalgo County and shall be considered the highest community honor bestowed in the County of Hidalgo.

Approved this 19th day of May 2020.

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