

*Proclamation calling for a moment of silence on March 17, 2021, the first anniversary of a local declaration of disaster for COVID-19*

- Whereas* on March 17, 2020, Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez signed a disaster declaration because of a local health emergency and, one week later, the Commissioners Court extended that declaration; and
- Whereas* this declaration was based on the quick spread of a new strain of virus that came to be known as COVID-19 that was quickly spreading around the world and in the United States and four days after the disaster declaration would visit Hidalgo County; and
- Whereas* over the course of the next year more than 80,000 residents of Hidalgo County would test positive for this disease and, more importantly, more than 2,700 residents would die from the effects of this disease; and
- Whereas* the ongoing fight to contain the spread of this disease tested the fortitude of our community through some very dark days; and
- Whereas* locally, in response to this challenge, Hidalgo County residents mustered acts of courage as gestures of kindness, ultimately producing a community of heroes in Hidalgo County; and
- Whereas* this deadly virus tested the capacity of our healthcare system as well as the mettle of healthcare workers, first responders, essential workers including Hidalgo County's Health Department and Emergency Management Division, as well as businesses and our spiritual community; and
- Whereas* Hidalgo County cannot yet declare victory over the scourge of this disease, but can declare that victory may soon be in reach; and
- Whereas* the one-year anniversary of the disaster declaration in Hidalgo County is prompting a time of reflection for our community, as well as mourning for the loved ones we have lost; and
- Whereas* this reflection should also prompt gratitude for the manner in which Hidalgo County has evolved into a much tighter community in which acts of neighbor helping neighbor have become common place.

*Now therefore, be it proclaimed* that Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby marks March 17, 2021, the first anniversary of a declaration of disaster, as a day of reflection and prayer for Hidalgo County, and encourages the community to take a moment of silence in honor of those who have perished from this virus and to express gratitude for those who survived.

**Approved this 16th day of March, 2021.**

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**RICHARD F. CORTEZ**  
County Judge

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**DAVID L. FUENTES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

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**EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

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**EVERARDO "EVER" VILLARREAL**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

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**ELLIE TORRES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

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