

*Proclamation declaring March 21 COVID-19 Memorial Day*

- Whereas* on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization formally declared COVID-19 a global pandemic; and
- Whereas* just ten days later, on March 21, 2020, the first diagnosed case of COVID-19 in Hidalgo County was confirmed; and
- Whereas* since that first confirmed case in Hidalgo County, nearly 175,000 more of our family, friends and neighbors have been infected with this virus and an additional 78 million of our fellow citizens have been infected in the United States; and
- Whereas* this disease has claimed the lives of nearly 4,000 Hidalgo County residents as well as the lives of nearly 1 million of our fellow citizens in the United States; and
- Whereas* beyond the physical toll, the Brookings Institute estimates that COVID-19 has caused a 3.5 percent contraction of the global economy in 2020 alone, the largest contraction since World War II; and
- Whereas* Hidalgo County will have been under emergency operation status for 746 continuous days on March 21, 2022, testing all of Hidalgo County government to respond like few times before in its history, particularly the Office of Emergency Management and the Department of Health and Human Services; and
- Whereas* other entities in Hidalgo County such as our first responders; our health care professionals; our educators; our business community; and our essential workers have contributed to the well-being of our community at this critical time; and
- Whereas* all of the residents of Hidalgo County have been impacted by this largest health crisis in a century and their response proved inspirational as neighbor banded with neighbor and demonstrated the virtues of community.

*Now therefore, be it proclaimed* that Hidalgo County Commissioners Court designates the 21<sup>st</sup> day of each March as Hidalgo County COVID-19 Memorial Day and asks all residents to use this fateful anniversary date as a day of remembrance, reflection, and resolve on behalf of those family, friends and neighbors who succumbed to this terrible virus and prayers for the continued healing of those who have survived.

*Approved this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022.*

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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

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