

*Resolution Honoring United States Navy  
Petty Officer Third Class Jose Antonio Saenz*

- Whereas* Jose Antonio Saenz from Edinburg, Texas, enlisted in the United States Navy during World War II with the rank of Petty Officer Third Class and was assigned to the USS Indianapolis (CA 35) with his specialty being Ship's Cook Third Class; and
- Whereas* In July 1945, the USS Indianapolis was on its way back from a secret mission delivering parts for the atomic bomb to a United States Air Force Base in the island of Tinian. This top-secret, high-speed mission played a significant role in ending the Second World War; and
- Whereas* On July 30, 1945, the USS Indianapolis was torpedoed by the Imperial Japanese Navy Submarine I-58 in shark-infested waters and the ship sank within 12 minutes. Of the 1,195 crewmen aboard, approximately 300 went down with the ship; and
- Whereas* The remaining 890 crewmen faced exposure, dehydration, saltwater poisoning and shark attacks while stranded in the open ocean with limited lifeboats and little to no food or water. It is estimated that 50 crewmen perished a day as a result of shark attacks. On the fourth day after its sinking, the Navy became aware of the status of the USS Indianapolis after the crew of a PV-1 Ventura was on routine patrol and spotted survivors. Out of all the crew members aboard the USS Indianapolis, only 316 survived; and
- Whereas* For over seven decades, Petty Officer Saenz, along with other crewmen, was classified as "missing in action" or "unaccounted for." In 2017, a search team located the wreckage of the sunken cruiser in the Philippine Sea at a depth of 18,000 feet. As a result of extensive research between many offices and organizations, 13 crewmen, including Petty Officer Saenz, had their status changed to "buried at sea" bringing closure to the family members of the departed; and
- Whereas* Due to his brave actions and sacrifice during wartime, Petty Officer Saenz was awarded the Purple Heart Medal and on December 20, 2018, the crew of the USS Indianapolis were collectively awarded a Congressional Gold Medal.

*Now therefore, be it proclaimed* that the Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court does hereby recognize and honor one of the City of Edinburg son's, Petty Officer Third Class Jose Antonio Saenz for his acts of bravery, courage and sacrifice during the mission which played a crucial role in bringing World War II to an end. May Petty Officer Saenz Rest in Peace now that a proper classification to his sacrifice has been provided by the United States Navy. May his family receive the needed closure for their loved one and carry with them memories and pride of Petty Officer Saenz, who paid the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

*Approved this 26<sup>th</sup> day of July, 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