

# *Proclamation Celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of South Texas Health System's Heart Hospital*

*Whereas* South Texas Health System's (STHS) Heart Hospital opened in January 1996 as one of the first freestanding cardiology and cardiovascular hospitals in the United States and the first dedicated heart hospital in Texas; and

*Whereas* The STHS Heart Hospital is accredited as a Chest Pain Center with percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) by the American College of Cardiology, which means the facility can provide rapid diagnosis and treatment for acute coronary syndromes; and

*Whereas* The 60-bed facility focuses primarily on cardiovascular disease, including 24/7 access to specialized cardiac care and swift intervention for life-threatening cardiac emergencies through the facility's dedicated emergency room, which has expanded over the years to meet needs of the growing Rio Grande Valley community; and

*Whereas* STHS Heart Hospital has earned national recognition throughout the years for its comprehensive cardiovascular services, including Healthgrades' "America's 100 Best Hospitals for Coronary Intervention" and Coronary Intervention Excellence Award in 2026, with the facility ranking among the top 5% in the nation for coronary interventional procedures. The hospital is also ranked among the top three hospitals in Texas for coronary intervention and has received five stars for coronary interventional procedures, pacemaker procedures and carotid surgery; and

*Whereas* The STHS Heart Hospital was the first facility in South Texas to offer intensive cardiac rehabilitation through a special partnership with the Pritikin Intensive Cardiac Rehab. This nationally renowned, scientifically-backed program empowers healthcare providers to offer patients a best-in-class cardiac rehabilitation experience focusing on lifestyle changes like diet and exercise to manage heart conditions like coronary artery disease, angina, and heart failure; and

*Whereas* The Heart Hospital's multidisciplinary team of board-certified physicians and specialists, and specially trained nurses and support staff of nearly 300 employees have provided comprehensive cardiovascular care—from diagnosis and emergency treatment to advanced interventions and post-operative recovery—to thousands of Rio Grande Valley residents in the last 30 years; and

*Whereas* The facility provides compassionate care beyond the medical through no cost preventative education for individuals living with cardiovascular conditions and extensive community outreach. Additionally, they educate residents through events like the "Beat It" Heart Symposium, as well as its popular Heroes with Heart 5K, a run/walk held during American Heart Month that raises awareness for heart disease in the community while promoting heart healthy behaviors.

*Now, therefore, be it proclaimed* that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court recognizes and celebrates the milestone that is the 30 year anniversary of South Texas Health System's Heart Hospital. STHS is a valued community partner and we thank them for providing exceptional, comprehensive care to the people of Hidalgo County and beyond.

**Approved this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February 2026.**

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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