

*Proclamation Recognizing
National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims*

Whereas The National Parents of Murdered Children (POMC) has designated September 25 as National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims, a decision affirmed by the unanimous resolutions of the U.S. Senate on October 16, 2007, and the U.S. House of Representatives on May 14, 2007; and

Whereas This National Remembrance Day is essential for raising public awareness and ensuring that those we have lost are never forgotten; and

Whereas In 2025, Texas saw the homicide rate drop by 13%, marking the third straight year of statewide declines. The state reported 1,464 murders, with the Rio Grande Valley reporting approximately 39 murders, affecting over 390 relatives directly; and

Whereas The murder of a loved one creates an irreplaceable void in the lives of families—whether they be mothers, fathers, siblings, partners, children, or extended family members—posing a profound challenge to cope with such an overwhelming loss; and

Whereas Relatives of homicide victims turn their grief into powerful stories that reject revenge and isolation, instead promoting compassion and peace, using sorrow to drive positive change by leading, supporting others, and advocating for violence reduction and policy reform locally and nationally; and

Whereas POMC Chapters nationwide, along with organizations such as the Rio Grande Valley-Families and Friends of Murdered Children, remain committed to honoring victims of violence and acknowledging the lasting trauma faced by their families. They invite the media, elected officials, victims, and community victim service providers in Hidalgo County to join them for the 14th Annual RGV-Families and Friends of Murdered Children Candlelight Vigil. This year’s theme, “Every Candle Tells a Story,” aims to celebrate the resilience and unity of the community while honoring loved ones. The event will be held at Pharr’s Jose “Pepe” Salinas Memorial Recreation Center on Wednesday, September 25, 2026, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Now therefore, be it proclaimed that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby recognizes September 25, 2026, as National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims and acknowledges the profound impact of violence, supporting survivors, and committing ourselves to the ongoing effort to prevent such tragedies.

Approved this 15th day of September 2026.

RICHARD F. CORTEZ
County Judge

DAVID L. FUENTES
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

EDUARDO “EDDIE” CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

EVERARDO “EVER” VILLARREAL
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

ELLIE TORRES
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Attest: _____
ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.
County Clerk