

**Proclamation in Honoring Sergeant Alfredo "Freddy" Gonzalez
On the 50th Anniversary of His Heroic Death**

WHEREAS, Alfredo "Freddy" Gonzalez was born May 23, 1946, in Edinburg, Texas and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in May of 1965;

WHEREAS, After his first tour of duty in Vietnam, Sergeant Gonzalez learned of an ambush in which men who had served under him had been killed; he then selflessly volunteered for a second tour in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, in January of 1968, the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops launched the massive Tet Offensive, Sergeant Gonzalez and his platoon were ordered to Hue to relieve the pressure on that city; en route, Sergeant Gonzalez saw an injured marine lying on the road ahead and ran through enemy fire to carry him to cover; during this rescue mission, Sergeant Gonzalez received fragmentation wounds in the rescue; and

WHEREAS, Fighting in Hue on February 4, his platoon of some 35 troops was again pinned down by a ferocious barrage; telling his unit to stay behind shelter, Sergeant Gonzalez alone moved forward aggressively firing numerous rounds against enemy emplacements;

WHEREAS, Entering a fortified area, where the North Vietnamese were heavily fortified, he succeeded in suppressing virtually all of their fire; before the last of it could be silenced, however, he was mortally wounded during this offensive; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Gonzalez was credited with saving the lives of the men in his platoon; the following year, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, becoming the only marine in combat during the Tet Offensive to receive that award; and

WHEREAS, Among the awards subsequently conferred on Sergeant Gonzalez were three Purple Hearts, four Presidential Unit Citations, and a Combat Action Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, and Cold War Certificate; in addition, he was the posthumous recipient of two South Vietnamese decorations—the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with gold palm and star and the Vietnam Service Medal with four bronze stars; in 1996, the U.S. Navy commissioned a new guided missile-destroyer in his honor; and

WHEREAS, His extraordinary and selfless actions resulted in being honored in his native Edinburg with the naming of Freddy Gonzalez Drive, Freddy Gonzalez Memorial Park and more recently, Freddy Gonzalez Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, The bravery exemplified by Sergeant Gonzalez continues to inspire and influence a generation in Hidalgo County and, particularly in Edinburg, Texas, wherein his lasting legacy continues to positively impact his community; and

WHEREAS, this upcoming Sunday, February 4, 2018, marks the 50th anniversary of his heroic death; and

WHEREAS, through his relentless and unfaltering devotion to duty, honor, and freedom, Sergeant Alfredo Gonzalez embodied the highest ideals of the armed service, and he most assuredly merits the this proclamation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby unanimously passes this Proclamation Honoring Sergeant Alfredo "Freddy" Gonzalez on the 50th Anniversary of His Heroic Death in recognition of his heroic service; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this proclamation be prepared for Dolia Gonzalez, the honorable mother of Sergeant Alfredo "Freddy" Gonzalez, as an expression of highest regard held by the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court to the heroic legacy of Sergeant Alfredo "Freddy" Gonzalez.

Approved this 30th day of January 2018.



RAMON GARCIA
County Judge



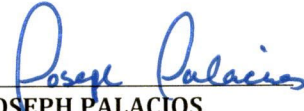
DAVID L. FUENTES
County Commissioner, Pct. 1



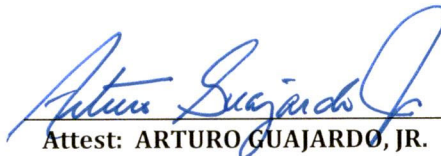
EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2



JOE M. FLORES
County Commissioner, Pct. 3



JOSEPH PALACIOS
County Commissioner, Pct. 4



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