

Hidalgo County

Resolution honoring Eugene "Gene" Gutierrez for 100 years

Whereas born on September 14, 1921, Eugene Gutierrez was a 1941 Harlingen High school graduate; and

Whereas Mr. Gutierrez answered his nation's call to duty right out of high school by enlisting in the United States Army in 1941, and the following year, he volunteered as a paratrooper in the First Special Service Force, the forerunner to today's Special Forces Units; commonly known as the "Devil's Brigade," this 1,800-member unit was composed of elite American and Canadian soldiers who specialized in hand-to-hand combat and mountain warfare; and

Whereas after returning to civilian life, he graduated with two degrees from Oklahoma State University, and in 1950 he settled in McAllen; there, he enjoyed a fulfilling career in education with the McAllen Independent School District as a principal, and later serving as superintendent; he retired as principal of Lincoln Middle School in 1980; and

Whereas Mr. Gutierrez continues to be an active member of his community through his efforts as a parishioner at Our Lady of Sorrows Church and as a member of the Sierra Club; in all of his endeavors, this esteemed Texan is blessed with the love and support of his wife of 62 years, Penny, and he takes great pride in his three children and four grandchildren; and

Whereas in addition to being honored for his military service with the Bronze Star Medal in 2008, Mr. Gutierrez was presented with the Congressional Gold Medal, one of the nation's highest civilian awards and first presented to George Washington in 1776, at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., on February 3, 2015; and

Whereas Mr. Gutierrez served his country bravely and loyally during a crucial moment in its history, contributing to the ultimate Allied victory in World War II, and he is truly deserving of this prestigious Congressional commendation; and

Whereas today, Hidalgo County honors Mr. Eugene Gutierrez, an American hero, for his long history of commitment and unyielding dedication to our country and county. We thank you for standing strong in your honored life of 100 years.

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court does hereby wish Mr. Eugene "Gene" Gutierrez a joyful 100 years young of life this September 14 and recognizes his bravery, compassion and love for life with sincerest gratitude.

Approved this 7th day of September 2021.



Richard F. Cortez

RICHARD F. CORTEZ
County Judge

David L. Fuentes

DAVID L. FUENTES
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu

EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

Everardo "Ever" Villarreal

EVERARDO "EVER" VILLARREAL
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

Ellie Torres

ELLIE TORRES
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Arturo Guajardo, Jr.
Attest: **ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.**
County Clerk