

Proclamation

City of Mission



WHEREAS, the National Parents of Murdered Children (POMC) established September 25 as the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims, following the unanimous resolutions passed by the U.S. Senate on October 16, 2007, and the U.S. House of Representatives on May 14, 2007; and

WHEREAS, POMC is dedicated to honoring the memory of those lost to violence and recognizing the profound and lasting trauma that families and communities endure, alongside the work of the Rio Grande Valley Families and Friends of Murdered Children (RGVFFOMC), which has served more than 2,400 families in our region since 2013; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, 39 lives were lost to homicide across the Rio Grande Valley, affecting an estimated 390 surviving family members and loved ones, demonstrating that the impact of homicide extends far beyond each individual victim; and

WHEREAS, surviving families demonstrate extraordinary courage as they transform grief into remembrance, advocacy, compassion, violence prevention, and a continuing pursuit of healing and justice; and

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2026, RGV-FFOMC will host its **14th Annual Candlelight Vigil** at the Jose "Pepe" Salinas Memorial Recreation Center in Pharr, Texas under the message **"Every Candle Tells a Story,"** bringing families and the community together to honor the lives and legacies of those lost to homicide;

NOW, THEREFORE, We the City Council of the City of Mission, Texas, on behalf of the City Commission and the residents of the City of Mission, do hereby proclaim September 25, 2026 as the:

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MURDER VICTIMS

in the City of Mission, Texas. We encourage our community to remember those whose lives were taken by violence, to support their surviving families and loved ones, and to reaffirm our collective commitment to compassion, healing, remembrance, public safety, and justice. On this solemn day, the City of Mission joins surviving families in declaring that:

**EVERY NAME MATTERS. EVERY LIFE HAS A STORY. EVERY LEGACY
DESERVES TO BE REMEMBERED.**

Norie Gonzalez Garza, Mayor

Jessica Ortega, Councilwoman

Ruben Plata, Mayor Pro Tem

Marissa Ortega Gerlach, Councilwoman

Alberto Vela, Councilman