

Proclamation

City of Mission



WHEREAS, the National Parents of Murdered Children (POMC) established September 25 as a 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; and the RGVFFOMC,

WHEREAS, in 2024, Texas recorded 1,847 homicides, impacting over 18,470 close relatives, with the Rio Grande Valley alone suffering 53 murders and more than 530 surviving family members directly affected; and

WHEREAS, the murder of a loved one steals from a family a mother, father, sister, brother, son, daughter, husband, wife, partner, grandparent, aunt, or uncle, leaving an unfillable void and an overwhelming challenge to cope with their absence; and

WHEREAS, survivors of homicide victims channel their pain and grief into powerful stories of courage that reject retaliation and isolation, instead embracing compassion, peace, and justice for others; and

WHEREAS, families in our community — including those of Mission's own fallen hero Cpl. Jose "Speedy" Espericueta and the many other Mission families whose loved ones were taken by homicide — remind us daily that behind every statistic is a face, a name, and a legacy of love that must never be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, survivors transform their grief into a force for change, honoring their loved ones through leadership, grief support, and advocacy, working to reduce violence, promote prevention, and influence policy change locally and nationally;

NOW, THEREFORE, We, the City Council of the City of Mission, do hereby proclaim September 25, 2025, as the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims in Mission, Texas. With the theme "Light Their Name. Lift Their Legacy," we celebrate the resilience and unity of our community as we gather to honor the memories of our loved ones.

And extend a heartfelt invitation to all media outlets, elected officials, victims, and community service providers of Hidalgo County to join us at the 13th Annual Candlelight Vigil on Thursday, September 25, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Jose "Pepe" Salinas Memorial Recreation Center, 1011 W. Kelly Ave., Pharr, Texas.

Together, we stand in solidarity, united in our mission to build a world free from violence and to ensure that no family walks this path alone.

PROCLAIMED on this the 23rd day of September 2025.

Norie Gonzalez Garza, Mayor

Jessica Ortega, Councilwoman

Ruben Plata, Mayor Pro Tem

Marissa Ortega Gerlach, Councilwoman

Alberto Vela, Councilman