

Proclamation

City of Mission



WHEREAS, Olivia Guerra was born on April 23, 1923, is a true pillar of the Mission, Texas community is celebrating her 101st Birthday. Born and raised on this very land, Olivia's story, is one of unwavering determination and faith in God, spreading love and joy to all those around her in Mission, Texas; and

WHEREAS, with a humble fifth grade education, Olivia embarked on a journey of love and partnership when she married her beloved Marcelino Guerra Sr. in 1940. She taught her family the importance of prayer and expressing gratitude for our blessings every single day. Her words of wisdom truly resonate: "Ser pobre es algo honesto y bueno. Dios siempre nos dice haz tu lucha y yo te ayudare! Todo se puede hacer en este mundo si tienes fe en Dios y te aplicas."; and

WHEREAS, her entrepreneurial spirit has inspired countless individuals in the community, leaving a lasting impact on the lives she touched. Inspired by her father, Tomas Garcia, Olivia's entrepreneurial spirit shone bright as she transformed a simple 12-pack of sodas into the renowned neighborhood market, Guerra Grocery's. She truly created a special place with her neighborhood mom and pop grocery store. Olivia's homemade raspas, burritos, and candy were a hit with the neighborhood children, who would come after school for treats, school supplies and even video games. On the weekends, she woke early to cook her homemade tamales and barbacoa because she knew how much people enjoyed that; and

WHEREAS, her selflessness and unwavering dedication to helping others have made her a true beacon of kindness and beloved figure especially to her family with the sacrifices she made. Weekends were spent toiling in the fields of Mission and summers, Olivia and her family would embark across the great expanse of our nation, seeking work and opportunity as migrant workers. Olivia's dedication and resourcefulness during challenging times is admirable. She did what she had to do to provide for her loved ones; and

WHEREAS, a matriarch of immense wisdom, Olivia imparted the values of honesty and integrity upon her family. She passed on these qualities to her six children, twenty-one grandchildren, fifty-six great-grandchildren, twenty-six great-great-grandchildren and three great-great-great-grandchildren. Her incredible cooking skills and strong work ethic were not only evident in her business, but also in how she took care of everyone around her. Her family will always remember her as an inspiration and role model.

NOW THEREFORE, we the City Council of the City of Mission do hereby congratulate Olivia Guerra on her 101st Birthday as we celebrate her extraordinary life, her unwavering determination and the immeasurable impact she has had on our community.

PROCLAIMED on this the 22nd day of April, 2024.

Norie Gonzalez Garza, Mayor

Jessica Ortega, Councilwoman

Ruben Plata, Mayor Pro Tem

Marissa Ortega Gerlach, Councilwoman

Alberto Vela, Councilman