

Proclamation

City of Mission



WHEREAS, the National Parents of Murdered Children (POMC) established September 25th as National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims due to the unanimously passed resolutions 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 lasting trauma that families and communities endure. This National Remembrance Day is vital in raising public awareness and ensuring our loved ones are never forgotten; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, an estimated 2,391 homicides occurred in Texas, impacting over 23,910 close relatives, with the Rio Grande Valley alone witnessing approximately 42 murders and over 420 relatives 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 overwhelming challenge to cope with their absence; and

WHEREAS, survivors of homicide victims channel their pain and anger into powerful stories that reject paths of retaliation, shame, and isolation. Instead, they choose to embrace and teach lessons of compassion and peace; 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, Honorable Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza and the City Council of the City of Mission, do hereby proclaim and honor September 25, 2023 as National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims and urge all media outlets, elected officials, victims, and community victim service providers of Hidalgo County to join the 12th Annual Candlelight Vigil "Standing Together, No One Stands Alone", hosted at the Pharr Pepe Salinas Memorial Civic Center from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to celebrate the resilience and unity of our community as we gather to honor the memories of our loved ones.

PROCLAIMED on this the 9th day of September, 2024.

Norie Gonzalez Garza, Mayor

Jessica Ortega, Councilwoman

Ruben Plata, Mayor Pro Tem

Marissa Ortega-Gerlach, Councilwoman

Alberto Vela, Councilman