

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 believes in honoring the memory of victims killed by violence and acknowledging the resulting long-term trauma for families and communities. This National Remembrance Day is essential for promoting public awareness and remembering our loved ones; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, an estimated 2,017 homicides occurred in Texas, and over 20,170 relatives were affected; and

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande alley in 2022 experienced about 40 murders, and over 400 close relatives were affected; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Jose Luis "Speedy" Espericueta Jr., Mission Police Department Corporal, made the ultimate sacrifice, killed (murdered) in the line of duty, we will be honoring his memory; and

WHEREAS, the murder of a loved one robs the victim's family of a mother, father, sister, brother, son, daughter, husband, wife, partner, grandparent, aunt, or uncle, creating an overwhelming challenge to fill the void their absence makes; and

WHEREAS, survivors of homicide victims use their tragedies to tell stories of pain and anger inflicted by a homicide. They have rejected paths of retaliation, shame, and isolation and instead lean toward learning and teaching lessons of compassion and peace; and

WHEREAS, homicide victims transform their pain and anger into power and action; by honoring their loved ones impacted by homicide. Through leadership, grief support, and advocacy, survivors reduce violence and promote prevention and 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 11th Annual Candlelight Vigil "Always on our Minds and in our Hearts", hosted at the Pharr Jose "Pepe" Salinas Memorial Recreation Center from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

PROCLAIMED on this the 11th day of September, 2023.

Norie Gonzalez Garza, Mayor

Jessica Ortega, Councilwoman

Ruben Plata, Mayor Pro Tem

Abiel Flores, Councilman

Alberto Vela, Councilman