

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of El Paso are mourning the loss of  
2 admired U.S. District Judge Philip R. Martinez, who passed away on  
3 February 26, 2021, at the age of 63; and

4 WHEREAS, Philip Ray Martinez was born in El Paso on July 13,  
5 1957, to Phil and Evangelina Martinez, and he grew up with four  
6 siblings, Richard, Roger, Patrick, and Rebecca; after graduating  
7 from Burges High School, Mr. Martinez earned his bachelor's degree  
8 in political science from The University of Texas at El Paso, and he  
9 went on to earn his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1982; he  
10 worked in private practice until 1990, when he embarked upon an  
11 outstanding career as a county, state, and federal jurist that  
12 spanned three decades; and

13 WHEREAS, After winning election to El Paso County Court at  
14 Law No. 1 in 1990, Mr. Martinez was elected judge of the El Paso  
15 County 327th District Court in 1991 and remained in that seat until  
16 2001, when he was nominated by President George W. Bush to the U.S.  
17 District Court for the Western District of Texas; he was confirmed  
18 by the U.S. Senate in February 2002 and served as a federal judge  
19 until his death; over the course of his long and impressive tenure  
20 on the bench, he oversaw many important cases, including trials  
21 involving murder, public corruption, and drug and sex trafficking,  
22 and he was recognized with numerous awards and honors; and

23 WHEREAS, Devoted to his beloved El Paso and a strong advocate  
24 for education, Judge Martinez established a scholarship for UTEP

1 undergraduates and helped interview applicants for Harvard Law  
2 School; a man of strong religious faith, he attended St. Patrick  
3 Cathedral every morning to pray the rosary and play the piano; and

4         WHEREAS, Phil Martinez shared his life for 36 years with his  
5 wife, Mayela Del Carmen Martinez, and he was the proud father of two  
6 daughters, Jaclyn and Lauren; he was later blessed with a grandson,  
7 Robert, and he was also close to his many nieces, nephews, and  
8 godchildren; and

9         WHEREAS, Although his death has brought profound sorrow to  
10 those who were privileged to know him, the Honorable Philip  
11 Martinez leaves behind a legacy of integrity, generosity, and a  
12 passion for justice that will remain a lasting source of  
13 inspiration; now, therefore, be it

14         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
15 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of U.S. District Judge  
16 Philip R. Martinez and extend heartfelt sympathy to his family and  
17 many friends; and, be it further

18         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
19 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
20 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Philip  
21 Martinez.

Fierro

H.R. No. 297

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 297 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 18, 2021.

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Chief Clerk of the House