

By: Moody

H.R. No. 585

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, People from across the state of Texas and the nation
2 were outraged and deeply saddened by the horrific events that took
3 place in El Paso on August 3, 2019, when a gunman went on a racially
4 motivated shooting rampage that claimed the lives of 23 men, women,
5 and children; and

6 WHEREAS, The gunman, who had published an online essay
7 detailing his white supremacist and anti-immigrant views, traveled
8 10 hours from his North Texas residence with the expressed intent of
9 targeting people of Mexican descent; armed with an assault rifle,
10 he carried out his attack at the Walmart near El Paso's Cielo Vista
11 Mall on a crowded day when more than one thousand shoppers and one
12 hundred employees were inside the store; and

13 WHEREAS, Valiantly risking their own lives, a number of
14 individuals attempted to usher shoppers and employees to safety and
15 protect others in the line of fire; six minutes after receiving the
16 first report of the attack, police arrived and apprehended the
17 gunman, bringing the incident to an end with a final toll of 23 dead
18 and 23 wounded; and

19 WHEREAS, The victims killed that day ranged in age from 15 to
20 90 years old, and many more, including children as young as two
21 years old, suffered traumatic injuries; the Walmart store was a
22 popular shopping destination for both El Pasoans and for Mexicans
23 taking day trips across the border, and a number of Mexican
24 nationals were among those who lost their lives; and

1 WHEREAS, In the aftermath of that tragic day, El Pasoans
2 demonstrated that the spirit of their community was far too
3 resilient to be broken by one disgraceful act of hate; alongside
4 stories of heroism during the massacre were reports of everyday
5 people lining up at hospitals to donate blood, offering profound
6 compassion, support, and comfort to the surviving families, and
7 rallying behind the mantra "El Paso Strong"; in what was perhaps one
8 of the most moving moments in the weeks that followed, a grieving
9 husband invited the public to attend his wife's memorial service,
10 resulting in more than 3,000 fellow residents turning out to pay
11 their respects; and

12 WHEREAS, The incident, which was the deadliest mass shooting
13 targeting Latinos in Texas history, was a devastating shock to a
14 city that is so renowned for its welcoming hospitality and
15 close-knit sense of community; more than a year has passed since
16 that terrible event made headlines all across the world, but the
17 passage of time has not diminished the tremendous sense of grief
18 felt over the loss of 23 innocent lives, nor has it lessened the
19 resolve of the people of El Paso to stand together against the
20 insidious forces of hatred, prejudice, and violence; now,
21 therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
23 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the victims of the mass shooting
24 that took place in El Paso on August 3, 2019, and offer heartfelt
25 condolences to the families and friends who carry on their
26 memories.