87R14312 JGH-D

By:  Fierro H.R. No. 297

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Devoted to his beloved El Paso and a strong advocate for education, Judge Martinez established a scholarship for UTEP undergraduates and helped interview applicants for Harvard Law School; a man of strong religious faith, he attended St. Patrick Cathedral every morning to pray the rosary and play the piano; and

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

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

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

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