H.R. No. 474

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Residents of El Paso were deeply saddened by the untimely death of Lillian E. Blancas, a widely respected attorney and El Paso County magistrate judge, on December 7, 2020, at the age of 47; and

WHEREAS, A native of El Paso, Lillian Blancas was born to Victor and Maria Elena Blancas on May 2, 1973, and she was raised with the companionship of two brothers, Moises and Victor, and a sister, Gabby; her parents, who emigrated from Mexico, believed strongly in the importance of education, and Ms. Blancas and all three of her siblings went on to become first-generation college graduates; after receiving a degree in political science from The University of Texas at El Paso in 2002, she taught middle school science in El Paso for several years and then pursued her legal education at the Texas Tech University School of Law; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Blancas acquired valuable experience while working as an assistant district attorney in El Paso; after transitioning to being a public defender, she provided counsel to underprivileged and often very young defendants, and on the side, she mentored other lawyers who were interested in working with indigent clients and clients with mental health issues; she was known as a skilled and hardworking advocate for those she represented, and she endeared herself to her colleagues with her abundant compassion, charm, and wit; and

WHEREAS, In 2019, Ms. Blancas struck out on her own and went into private practice; she had long dreamed of ascending to the bench, and after working part-time as a criminal law magistrate judge, she decided to run for a judicial seat on the El Paso Municipal Court; securing 40 percent of the vote in the general election held on November 3, she was then posthumously declared the winner of the runoff election on December 12, 2020, five days after her passing; and

WHEREAS, Lillian Blancas earned the admiration and affection of countless people through her lifelong commitment to advancing justice for all, and she will be greatly missed by all who were privileged to know her; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Lillian E. Blancas and extend heartfelt condolences to her family, friends, and colleagues; and, be it further

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

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 474 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on April 9, 2021.

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Chief Clerk of the House