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By:  Ordaz Perez H.R. No. 1284

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, During the weeks that followed the mass shooting at the Cielo Vista Walmart in El Paso on August 3, 2019, the Zaragoza Rotary Club partnered with El Paso City Council member Henry Rivera to maintain the temporary memorial that was created to honor the 22 people who lost their lives on that tragic day; and

WHEREAS, To commemorate those who were killed in the horrific attack, El Pasoans began visiting and bringing flowers, candles, stuffed animals, signs, and other items to a makeshift memorial overlooking the Walmart parking lot; soon after, El Paso City Representative Henry Rivera recognized the need to tidy up the memorial, and he went on to enlist the help of the Zaragoza Rotary Club of El Paso, which volunteered to make weekly visits to the site before a permanent structure could be established; and

WHEREAS, Rotary Club volunteers removed wilting flowers from the memorial, which were then taken to the El Paso Zoo to be recycled into compost; the organization continued performing this service until the store reopened on November 14 and the memorial was removed; on November 23, a permanent monument called the "Grand Candela," a 30-foot-tall illuminated obelisk, was unveiled and dedicated to each of the victims and survivors of the tragedy; and

WHEREAS, In the immediate aftermath of the horrific events of August 3, 2019, El Pasoans gathered at the makeshift memorial to mourn and pay their respects to the innocent people whose lives were cut short by an appalling act of violence, and Representative Henry Rivera and the Zaragoza Rotary Club are deserving of praise for their commitment to ensuring that the site received the care that it deserved; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby commend El Paso City Representative Henry Rivera and the Zaragoza Rotary Club of El Paso for their efforts to maintain the temporary memorial at the Cielo Vista Walmart in El Paso and extend to them sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Representative Rivera and the Zaragoza Rotary Club as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.