

By: Fierro

H.R. No. 273

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of El Paso were profoundly saddened by the
2 loss of beloved educator Zelene Blancas, who passed away on
3 December 28, 2020, at the age of 35; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of Victor A. Blancas and Gloria Luna,
5 Zelene Blancas was born on November 19, 1985; she grew up with a
6 brother, Mario, and was like a second mother to him, even though she
7 was just four years older; eventually, she became the devoted aunt
8 of one niece, Natalia; she also cherished her two canine "babies,"
9 Rocky and Chico; and

10 WHEREAS, Ms. Blancas majored in bilingual, multilingual, and
11 multicultural education at The University of Texas at El Paso;
12 after completing her bachelor's degree, she went on to earn a
13 master's degree in bilingual and multilingual education from Texas
14 Tech University; and

15 WHEREAS, A gifted educator with a decade of experience,
16 Ms. Blancas taught first grade at Dr. Sue A. Shook Elementary
17 School, where many of her students were English language learners;
18 she focused on social and emotional development as well as
19 academics, encouraging compassion and positive relationships;
20 fostering a nurturing environment, she let the children choose from
21 a menu of good morning and goodbye salutes, including hugs,
22 handshakes, and high fives, and when she posted a video of them
23 happily sharing such friendly greetings, it touched hearts across
24 the country, receiving more than 22 million views on Twitter; and

1 WHEREAS, In the wake of the mass shooting in El Paso,
2 Ms. Blancas helped the school heal through a collaboration with
3 Pinksocks Life, and she volunteered with the organization, which
4 promotes kindness and empathy; when her campus switched to remote
5 learning because of the COVID-19 pandemic, she supported her
6 students by delivering care packages to each one; in her free time,
7 she was writing and illustrating a children's book; the Socorro
8 American Federation of Teachers placed a memorial bench and plaque
9 on the Shook Elementary campus in her honor in February 2020; and

10 WHEREAS, Zelene Blancas brightened the world for all who were
11 fortunate enough to know her, and although she is greatly missed,
12 her warmth, generosity, and optimism will remain a lasting source
13 of inspiration; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
15 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Zelene Blancas and
16 extend sincere sympathy to all who mourn her passing; and, be it
17 further

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