

By: Fierro

H.R. No. 297

R E S O L U T I O N

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

4 WHEREAS, Philip Ray Martinez was born in El Paso on July 13,
5 1957, to Phil and Evangelina Martinez, and he grew up with four
6 siblings, Richard, Roger, Patrick, and Rebecca; after graduating
7 from Burges High School, Mr. Martinez earned his bachelor's degree
8 in political science from The University of Texas at El Paso, and he
9 went on to earn his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1982; he
10 worked in private practice until 1990, when he embarked upon an
11 outstanding career as a county, state, and federal jurist that
12 spanned three decades; and

13 WHEREAS, After winning election to El Paso County Court at
14 Law No. 1 in 1990, Mr. Martinez was elected judge of the El Paso
15 County 327th District Court in 1991 and remained in that seat until
16 2001, when he was nominated by President George W. Bush to the U.S.
17 District Court for the Western District of Texas; he was confirmed
18 by the U.S. Senate in February 2002 and served as a federal judge
19 until his death; over the course of his long and impressive tenure
20 on the bench, he oversaw many important cases, including trials
21 involving murder, public corruption, and drug and sex trafficking,
22 and he was recognized with numerous awards and honors; and

23 WHEREAS, Devoted to his beloved El Paso and a strong advocate
24 for education, Judge Martinez established a scholarship for UTEP

1 undergraduates and helped interview applicants for Harvard Law
2 School; a man of strong religious faith, he attended St. Patrick
3 Cathedral every morning to pray the rosary and play the piano; and

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

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

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

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