

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, In 2019, Ms. Blancas struck out on her own and went

1 into private practice; she had long dreamed of ascending to the
2 bench, and after working part-time as a criminal law magistrate
3 judge, she decided to run for a judicial seat on the El Paso
4 Municipal Court; securing 40 percent of the vote in the general
5 election held on November 3, she was then posthumously declared the
6 winner of the runoff election on December 12, 2020, five days after
7 her passing; and

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

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

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

Fierro

H.R. No. 474

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.

Chief Clerk of the House