

By: Fierro

H.R. No. 474

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.