

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 224

In Memory
of
The Victims of the Tragic Shooting
in El Paso on August 3, 2019

WHEREAS, People from across the state of Texas and the nation were outraged and deeply saddened by the horrific events that took place in El Paso on August 3, 2019, when a gunman went on a racially motivated shooting rampage that claimed the lives of 23 men, women, and children; and

WHEREAS, The gunman, who had published an online essay detailing his white supremacist and anti-immigrant views, traveled 10 hours from his North Texas residence with the expressed intent of targeting people of Mexican descent; armed with an assault rifle, he carried out his attack at the Walmart near El Paso's Cielo Vista Mall on a crowded day when more than one thousand shoppers and one hundred employees were inside the store; and

WHEREAS, Valiantly risking their own lives, a number of individuals attempted to usher shoppers and employees to safety and protect others in the line of fire; six minutes after receiving the first report of the attack, police arrived and apprehended the gunman, bringing the incident to an end with a final toll of 23 dead and 23 wounded; and

WHEREAS, The victims killed that day ranged in age from 15 to 90 years old, and many more, including children as young as two years old, suffered traumatic injuries; the Walmart store was a popular shopping destination for both El Pasoans and for Mexicans taking day trips across the border, and a number of Mexican nationals were among those who lost their lives; and

WHEREAS, In the aftermath of that tragic day, El Pasoans demonstrated that the spirit of their community was far too resilient to be broken by one disgraceful act of hate; alongside stories of heroism during the massacre were reports of everyday people lining up at hospitals to donate blood, offering profound compassion, support, and comfort to the surviving families, and rallying behind the mantra "El Paso Strong"; in what was perhaps one of the most moving moments in the weeks that followed, a grieving husband invited the public to attend his wife's memorial service, resulting in more than 3,000 fellow residents turning out to pay their respects; and

WHEREAS, The incident, which was the deadliest mass shooting targeting Latinos in Texas history, was a devastating shock to a city that is so renowned for its welcoming hospitality and close-knit sense of community; more than a year has passed since that terrible event made headlines all across the world, but the passage of time has not diminished the tremendous sense of grief felt over the loss of 23 innocent lives, nor has it lessened the resolve of the people of El Paso to stand together against the insidious forces of hatred, prejudice, and violence; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 87th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the victims of the mass shooting that took place in El Paso on August 3, 2019, and offer heartfelt condolences to the families and friends who carry on their memories.

Blanco

Alvarado	Hinojosa	Paxton
Bettencourt	Huffman	Perry
Birdwell	Hughes	Powell
Buckingham	Johnson	Schwertner
Campbell	Kolkhorst	Seliger
Creighton	Lucio	Springer
Eckhardt	Menéndez	Taylor
Gutierrez	Miles	West
Hall	Nelson	Whitmire
Hancock	Nichols	Zaffirini

Patrick, President of the Senate

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 7, 2021, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate