

# Hidalgo County

## Proclamation Recognizing October as Filipino American History Month

*Whereas* the arrival of the first Filipinos in America can be traced to a landing in Morro Bay, California in October of 1587; and

*Whereas* the first known Filipino in Texas is believed to be a man named Francisco Flores who arrived in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and initially lived in nearby Port Isabel before moving to Rockport; and

*Whereas* there are an estimated 4.2 million Filipinos now living in the United States, nearly 200,000 of whom live in Texas and 25,000 whom live in the Rio Grande Valley; and

*Whereas* the Filipino American National Historical Society first proposed a Filipino American History Month to begin in October 1992; and

*Whereas* the Filipino American National Historical Society has designated the theme of this year's Filipino American History Month as "50 Years Since the First Young Filipino People's Far West Convention;" and

*Whereas* this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorates a meeting that took place at Seattle University in 1971, attracting more than 300 students; and

*Whereas* this initial meeting spawned a series of conferences that came to be known as the Filipino People's Far West Conventions and marked the beginning of the Filipino American movement in this country; and


*Whereas* the Filipino American community in Hidalgo County represents a welcome and vital community contributing to a growing diversity in our region; and


*Whereas* the most visible celebration of the Filipino American community in the Rio Grande Valley is the annual Filipino Festival, which is celebrating its 7<sup>th</sup> year; and


*Whereas* this festival not only celebrates the Filipino culture, including offers of food such as pancit and lechon, but acknowledges the welcome presence of Filipino Americans in our community.

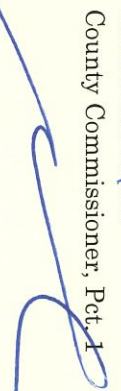
*Now therefore, be it proclaimed* that the Hidalgo County Commissioners recognizes October as Filipino American History Month and honors the Filipino American community in Hidalgo County as a vibrant and growing part of the Rio Grande Valley.


Approved this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November 2021.

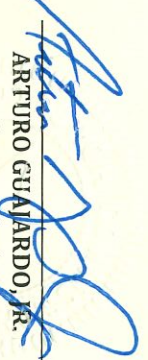
  
RICHARD F. CORTEZ  
County Judge

  
DAVID L. FUENTES  
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

  
EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU  
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

  
EVERARDO "EVER" VILLARREAL  
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

  
ELIE TORRES  
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Attest:   
ARTURO GUAJARDO JR.  
County Clerk

