

State of Texas *
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County of Comal *

Proclamation

Recognizing 2021 Living Legend Ramiro "Ray" Martinez

WHEREAS, Ramiro "Ray" Martinez, a farmer's son turned police officer, narcotics officer, Texas Ranger, volunteer, and now a Braunfels Foundation Trust Living Legend was born in Kent County, Texas about 85 miles southeast of Lubbock; and

WHEREAS, the third of five children born to a west Texas farming family, Ray is a third-generation Texan, attended elementary school in Hobbs, graduated from Rotan High School in 1956, then joined his older brother Gilbert at the University of Texas where the brothers worked forty-plus hours six days a week at the Austin State Hospital, carried a full academic load, and sent money home to the farm; and

WHEREAS, after a semester, Ray left school and joined the Army where he was trained as a combat medic serving out his three-year commitment in Germany – Ray could not have imagined he would one day call another German community his home; and

WHEREAS, after the military, Ray applied for a job with the Austin Police Department, partly because they paid \$335.00 per month, and with the help of six bananas and a quart of milk he met the 140-pound weight requirement to be accepted into the Austin Police Academy; and

WHEREAS, in 1961 Ray Martinez became one of only three Hispanic Austin police officers, and later that same year he married VerNell Schmidtzensky; and

WHEREAS, as an Austin police officer, Ray was awarded the Austin Police Department Medal of Valor, named the Peace Officer of the Year by the National Police Officers Association, and was honored by the National Rifle Association for his heroism on August 1, 1966, when Ray along with other officers and one civilian stormed the University of Texas Tower and ended a shooting spree by Charles Whitman that killed sixteen and wounded thirty-three; and

WHEREAS, in 1968 Ray joined the Texas Department of Public Safety as a narcotics agent, then in 1973 he joined the Texas Rangers – again, one of only three Hispanics, and then in 1978 Ray was transferred and New Braunfels became home to "Ranger Ray"; and

WHEREAS, Ray Martinez retired from official public service in 1991, but with twin daughters Janice and Janette, his service to New Braunfels was just beginning as VerNell and Ray helped with the girls' school activities, manned the very first Canyon Band Booster funnel cake booth at Wurstfest, Ray volunteered at Gruene Music and Wine Fest to benefit United Way and served on their board, he served on various committees and as president of the New Braunfels Noon Lions Club where he earned the Melvin Jones Fellow and Lions Silver Spur, and he served as a director of the Comal County Crimestoppers; and



WHEREAS, Ray earned his Blue Coat and Life Membership with the New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce, served as chair of and is an active member of Retirees Are Progressive Council and the Military Affairs Committee, in 2002 was awarded the Chamber's Chair of the Board Award for Community Service, in 2007 was inducted into the Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce Hall of Honor, and in 2018 was recognized as a Pillar of the Community by the New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung; and

WHEREAS, Ray is a Senior Opa in the Wurstfest Association, he and VerNell are members of the Friends of the Library and volunteer at the Saints Peter and Paul Thrift Store, Ray has served as President of the Texas Rangers Association and as a director of both the Ranger Association and Foundation, and he is a published author with two buildings in Austin named after him.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Comal County Commissioners Court, acting in its capacity as the governing body of Comal County, does hereby recognize and commend Ray Martinez for being named by the Braunfels Foundation Trust as a Living Legend in Comal County.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this the 23rd day of October, 2021.


Sherman Krause, County Judge

 
Donna Eccleston, Commissioner Pct. 1 Scott Haag, Commissioner Pct. 2

 
Kevin Webb, Commissioner Pct. 3 Jen Crossover, Commissioner Pct. 4

Attest: 
Bobbie Koepf, County Clerk

