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State of Texas  
County of Comal

# Proclamation

## Recognizing the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cemetery with a Texas Historical Commission Subject Marker

**WHEREAS**, the Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) Cemetery has been awarded a Texas Historical Commission subject marker as it was determined to be a significant part of Texas history; and

**WHEREAS**, the OLPH Cemetery was started by the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church to meet the needs of the growing Mexican-American New Braunfels population that saw an increase in the late 1880s through the 1900s; and

**WHEREAS**, Mexican workers and their families migrated north for employment due to the industrial revolution, political discord in Mexico, and for a better way of life in Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, a great majority of those migrating from Mexico in the early years brought their Catholic faith, and churches, schools, and subsequently cemeteries were established for their needs, and in 1926 the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church was established and in 1931 the parish purchased land for its own cemetery on Peace Avenue; and

**WHEREAS**, tombstones are written in Spanish and English and are made from a variety of materials including concrete, fieldstone, limestone, wood, and later granite and marble, and are decorated with small shrines, mosaic tiles, ceramic photographs, conch shells, and marbles pressed in to concrete, and reflect old and new Hispanic traditions and their strong catholic faith; and

**WHEREAS**, notable burials include Gregorio Coronado (1920-1978), the first Hispanic attorney in New Braunfels, Francisca Chapa Sanchez (1872-1951), a well-known midwife, and Ruben Chapa (1924-2018), the first Hispanic quarterback at New Braunfels High School; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2010, Robert and Estella Farias established a genealogy database for the Mexican descendants in New Braunfels, and formed a group to research Hispanic family histories, using the Morales Funeral Home records and thousands of obituaries from the New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung and compiled a list of 1,167 burials as of 2018 in the cemetery; and


**WHEREAS**, the OLPH cemetery is a reflection of the migration, history, and lasting culture of the New Braunfels Mexican-American community; and

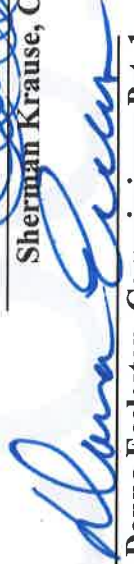
**WHEREAS**, this marker was funded through the Texas Historical Commission Undertold Marker Program and sponsors are Robert and Estella Delgado Farias, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, and the Texas Historical Commission; and


**WHEREAS**, a marker dedication will be held Saturday, April 15 at 2:00 pm at the cemetery entrance on Peace Ave.


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Commissioners Court of Comal County, Texas, duly convened and acting in its capacity as the governing body of Comal County, and the Comal County Historical Commission wish to commend Robert and Estella Farias and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church on your work towards receiving this marker and your dedication to historical preservation and recording the history of Comal County.

PASSED AND APPROVED this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.

  
Sherman Krause, County Judge

  
Donna Eccleston, Commissioner Pct. 1

  
Scott Haag, Commissioner Pct. 2

  
Jen Crownover, Commissioner Pct. 4

Kevin Webb, Commissioner Pct. 3

Attest:   
Bobbie Koepp, County Clerk

