

State of Texas \*  
\*  
County of Comal \*

# Proclamation

## Recognizing the Panteón Hidalgo (Hidalgo Cemetery) with a Texas Historical Commission Historic Texas Cemetery Marker

**WHEREAS**, the Panteón Hidalgo, located at East Dittlinger Street and Peace Avenue in New Braunfels, Texas, has been awarded a Texas Historical Commission Historic Texas Cemetery Marker as it was determined to be a significant part of Texas history; and

**WHEREAS**, the cemetery, originally recognized as San Juan Bautista, began in the late 1800's, and with the growth in agriculture and mining industries, and political instability in Mexico, many migrants settled in New Braunfels; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1920, the local organization, *Asociación Mutualista De Beneficencia* (Hidalgo Mexican Cemetery Association), was established modelling similar groups in Mexico, with dues and extra fees paid when members died; and

**WHEREAS**, additional lots were purchased in 1920, 1935, and 1951, with the layout featuring an informal design as reminiscent in Mexican villages; and

**WHEREAS**, many grave markers are homemade with hand-carved inscriptions, rustic artwork and Catholic-inspired designs, and includes sections for children and unmarked graves; and

**WHEREAS**, notable burials include many veterans, community activist and cofounder of the cemetery, Francisco Estevez (1861-1959), and Professor Gregorio Jose Maria Cardona (1876-1920), who successfully petitioned for a Mexican School; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2010, a genealogy database was established for the Mexican descendants in New Braunfels, and a group formed 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 706 burials in the cemetery; and

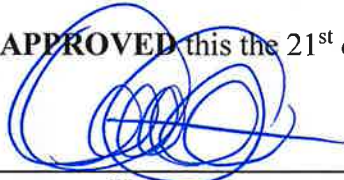
**WHEREAS**, the Panteón Hidalgo represents the history and culture of the New Braunfels Mexican working-class community and the impact on cultural, economic, and industrial growth of New Braunfels; and

**WHEREAS**, this marker was funded through the Texas Historical Commission Undertold Marker Program and sponsors are the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, the Texas Historical Commission, and Ramiro Ayala and Joe Ayala; and

**WHEREAS**, a marker dedication will be held Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 10:00am at the entrance to the cemetery on Peace Avenue.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Commissioners Court of Comal County and the Comal County Historical Commission wish to commend Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Ramiro Ayala, and Joe Ayala 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 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2024.



Sherman Krause, County Judge



Donna Eccleston, Commissioner Pct. 1



Scott Haag, Commissioner Pct. 2



Kevin Webb, Commissioner Pct. 3



Jen Crownover, Commissioner Pct. 4

Attest:   
Bobbie Koepp, County Clerk

