



EL PASO COUNTY STATE OF TEXAS

RESOLUTION



WHEREAS, Wallace Eric Hardgrove was born in Maine on August 7, 1963 and was affectionately known as Wally; and,

WHEREAS, Wally came to El Paso at a young age when his family relocated from Maine to Fort Bliss, Texas and adopted El Paso as his new home, where he graduated from Andress High School and the University of Texas at El Paso; and,

WHEREAS, he was a deeply committed and passionate public servant who provided El Paso County with more than 34 years of service; and,

WHEREAS, he was a dedicated and thoughtful employee who was hired on January 3, 1989, and through the years worked his way up the ranks of the County Auditor's Office to First Assistant and then in 2015 became the County's first and only Executive Director of Budget and Fiscal Policy to help usher in a new period of excellence in County government; and,

WHEREAS, he was a great teacher and contributed to the development of staff, new Directors, and Elected Officials in their understanding of the County's finances and best practices; and,

WHEREAS, he was quick and precise with his numbers as he could always be found with his trusty Texas Instruments BA-20 'Profit Manager' Calculator he purchased in 1989, when he started; and,

WHEREAS, he always had time to discuss the particulars of our County Budget with employees and on bigger platforms as a frequent lecturer at meetings with the Government Finance Officers Association, Texas Association of Counties, and the County Auditors Association; and,

WHEREAS, he was an avid outdoorsman, conservationist, Boy Scout Troop Leader, hunter, fisherman, photographer, nature lover in general and shared his passion with his son Joshua and others, including sharing some of the best sites and locations in hopes to spark an interest in others; and,

WHEREAS, he was playful and good humored and enjoyed a good joke and made things fun for all. He was a music, movie and entertainment enthusiast and enjoyed talking about his most recent trips to the cinema or live performances, especially those featuring his daughter, Nichole; and,

WHEREAS, upon adoption of the annual County budget, he would switch his focus to the County's Halloween contests and loved to tell how many times he had won recognitions over the years; and,

WHEREAS, he was a food enthusiast, both home cook and patron of the newest hotspots or local dives. His famous Swim Land Sky Chili with 7 different types of meat was a foodie's delight; and,

WHEREAS, he took an immense amount of pride in the county as exhibited throughout his 34 years of service; and,

WHEREAS, he was a proud regular at Ascarate Park and at the Lake in particular and could be seen fishing or kayaking its waters. Where he once told of how his daughter once pulled a catfish out of the water with her bare hands, and if you did not know he was the County's Budget and Fiscal Policy Executive Director, you might think he was the Ascarate Park and Lake owner/ manager and would happily take people to tour the lake he enjoyed so much; and,

***WHEREAS**, his zest for life was undeniable and he made everyone feel special by sharing his love for life, but no love was greater than his for his wife, Nohemi; and,*

***WHEREAS**, Wally faced the challenges of cancer with remarkable strength and courage, leaving behind a legacy of resilience and determination; and,*

***WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2023, despite his most valiant efforts and “We got this!” attitude, Wally’s life was cut way too short due to cancer, leaving a void for those who loved and admired him; and,*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that El Paso County officially enshrines his BA-20 Profit Manager in its historic artifact display, and dedicates the Wally Hardgrove Memorial Fishing Pier at Ascarate Park in memory of Wally for his outstanding contributions, leadership, and commitment to the betterment of El Paso County, and the memorial be unveiled on March 16, 2024, the first anniversary of his passing.*

***SIGNED**, this 11th day of March, 2024*

*_____
Commissioner Carlos Leon, Pct. 1*

*_____
Commissioner David C. Stout, Pct. 2*

*_____
Commissioner Iliana Holguin, Pct. 3*

*_____
Commissioner Sergio Coronado, Pct. 4*

*_____
Ricardo A. Samaniego, County Judge*