

# Proclamation



STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF HIDALGO  
CITY OF MCALLEN

**WHEREAS**, the Lipan Apache Tribe has had strong direct historical relationships with governments of Texas and the Tribe's role in the State's development is worthy of special praise and recognition; and

**WHEREAS**, over 120 years ago, the Soto Family of the Lipan Apache Poca Ropa Band and other Lipan Apache families settled in the Rio Grande Valley and called it home and continued to practice their culture and traditional customs; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1980 the Soto Family did make their sacred family gathering open to the community to help preserve and share their culture and educate the community on the Lipan Apache Tribe; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2006, agents of the Department of Interior, making use of regulations that according to them nullified the sacredness of the gathering, violated the sacred circle at the McAllen Nde Daa Pow Wow by confiscating 50 eagle feathers, which are traditionally sacred to the Lipan Apache, and in the process dishonored the feathers and brought fear to a sacred family gathering; and

**WHEREAS**, Robert Soto, Pastor of the McAllen Grace Brethren Church and other Native ministries and a leader of the Lipan Apache Tribe, was facing severe federal charges for having eagle feathers; and

**WHEREAS**, Pastor Robert Soto, after seeking the Creator's guidance, decided to challenge the federal laws that subjugated the religious freedoms of the non-status American Indians and that superseded the Constitutional rights and religious freedoms given him by the Creator and the supreme law of this land and resulted in the violation of his civil and religious rights; and

**WHEREAS**, a suit was filed against the Department of Interior in the United States District Court Southern District of Texas McAllen Division by Pastor Robert Soto and the membership of McAllen Grace Brethren Church, its separate ministries, and another organization; and

**WHEREAS**, after a decade-long legal battle, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans did rule against the Department of the Interior and the case was settled in the District Court whereby the Department of the Interior did relent and bestow on the plaintiffs the same religious rights to use eagle feathers and sacred objects as federally acknowledged Native American Indians; and

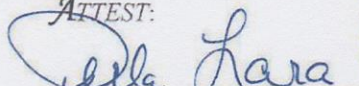
**WHEREAS**, the settlement was signed by Pastor Robert Soto on June 13, 2016, and the eagle feathers re-entered the Annual Nde Daa Pow Wow Circle after an eleven-year absence on March 11, 2017;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Joaquin Zamora, City Commissioner of the City of McAllen, Texas, by virtue of the authority vested in me and on behalf of the Mayor and the City Commission, do hereby proclaim March 10, 2018, as:

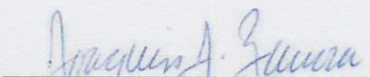
## "Lipan Apache Tribe Victory Day"

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of McAllen to be affixed on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 2018

ATTEST:

  
Perla Lara, TRMC/CMC, CPM  
City Secretary



  
Joaquin Zamora, City Commissioner