

## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Pima County Board of Supervisors Chairman Richard Elías was immensely proud of his personal heritage as a fifth-generation Tucsonan, and his Southern Arizona historical lineage going back seven generations, all of which contributed to his roles as a loving husband, caring father, obedient son, affectionate brother, faithful public servant, dedicated community advocate, admirable mentor and loyal friend; and

**WHEREAS**, Chairman Elías, a tireless advocate and champion of courageous causes, was best known for expressing his Latino heritage and pride by responding to the attendance roll call at each Board of Supervisors meeting with “Presente,” which became his signature expression and will be sorely missed; and

**WHEREAS**, Chairman Elías represented District 5 since February 2002 when he was appointed to fill the seat vacated by now-Congressman Raúl Grijalva, was victorious in five elections, and had filed to run again in 2020. He proudly served the City of South Tucson, Chicanos Por La Causa and Pima County prior to joining the Board of Supervisors; and

**WHEREAS**, Supervisor Elías served as Chairman of the Pima County Board of Supervisors at the time of his untimely passing on March 28, 2020, a leadership position he was appointed to by his colleagues in 2018, he also proudly served as Chairman from 2006 through 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, Chairman Elías was also known for his sense of style, whether it was his preference of an open collar or the use of a bolo tie. His time-honored mantra of “Resist and Much Love” truly reflected his passion as a music aficionado and fervent fan of the Grateful Dead, Los Lobos, The Clash, and Bob Marley; and

**WHEREAS**, Chairman Elías represented his District with distinction and is known as being a people’s champion for many social justice causes, including advocating for working families, marginalized communities and rank-and-file employees. He was committed to issues relating to neighborhood reinvestment, affordable housing, the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, quality health care, and employment and training, which reflected his desire of making Pima County a much better place to live, work and play.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that a very grateful Pima County and his colleagues on the Board of Supervisors do hereby convey our most heartfelt condolences to his wife, Emily, his daughter Luz, his brother Albert (Sarah), his sister Ana, his nieces and nephews Elena, Adriana, Matt and Ben, as well as his entire family on this very deep and personal loss. Each of you can remain proud that Richard’s life was like radiant light that shone on so many in their time of greatest need.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Pima County Board of Supervisors wishes to honor the legacy of our dear friend, brother and colleague by proclaiming the month of April 2020, to be:

**“A MEMORIAL HONOR AND TRIBUTE TO CHAIRMAN RICHARD ELÍAS”**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Pima County Board of Supervisors directs all county administrators and departments to establish and recommend to this body an appropriate memorial honoring Chairman Elías to be celebrated at a time and place appropriate for such a gathering of remembrance and reflection.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 7th day of April 2020.

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The Honorable Ramón Valadez, Vice Chairman  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

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Julie Castañeda, Clerk  
Pima County Board of Supervisors