

NEWS RELEASE:

COUNTY OPERATIONS Contact: Elijah Natividad, 915-487-0270 <u>e.natividad@epcounty.com</u> Laura E. Gallegos, Ed.D. 915-283-9645 <u>l.gallegos@epcounty.com</u>

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Day of the Dead Altar Ceremony Celebration

EL PASO, TX— To celebrate our lost loved ones, El Paso County welcomes County employees and the public to the Day of the Dead Altar Ceremony this Friday, November 3rd. The ceremony will take place on the first floor of the Enrique Moreno County Courthouse, located at 500 E. San Antonio, El Paso, Texas 79901.

A digital display will accompany the altar and showcase photos of loved ones who have passed. Employees and the public are invited to send photos of their loved ones by emailing Executive Administrative Coordinator, Gabriela Fraga, at <u>G.Fraga@epcounty.com</u>, or by sending the photos to the QR code located on El Paso County's social media page and the displays near the altar. It is recommended to include a photo and the name of your loved one. Entrance is free for everyone.

Iliana Holguin, El Paso County Commissioner, said the altar stands as a meaningful ceremony for the community.

"Building an altar for Dia the los Muertos is a beautiful tradition that many families in El Paso still follow," Holguin said. "By building this altar at the County Courthouse in collaboration with the Mexican Consulate, we hope to make the altar accessible to more members of our community and also to help keep this beautiful tradition alive."

Day of the Dead is a Mexican tradition and holiday where families and friends gather to honor and remember their deceased loved ones. With its origins in Mexico, this rich cultural event blends indigenous rituals with Catholic customs. Families create colorful altars ('ofrendas') adorned with marigolds, favorite foods, and keepsakes of their loved ones.

