

RESOLUTION

IN THE SPIRIT OF EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG

WHEREAS, the untimely death of Associate Justice Joan Ruth Bader Ginsburg on September 18, 2020 due to complications from metastatic pancreatic cancer sent shockwaves through our nation; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Antonio recognizes her trailblazing role with respect to her advocacy of gender equality, and women's rights, health, and wellness; and

WHEREAS, she received her B.A. in Government from Cornell University in 1954, and shortly thereafter in 1955, she and her husband Martin 'Marty' Ginsburg welcomed their first child. She successfully juggled marriage, new parenthood, law school, and her role as a Harvard Law review editor when she began her legal education at Harvard Law School in 1956; and

WHEREAS, she transferred to Columbia Law School in 1958, received her LL.B in 1959, served as Columbia Law Review's editor, and graduated first in her class; and

WHEREAS, despite her unparalleled performance in law school, Ruth Ginsburg faced rampant discrimination on the basis of her gender and struggled to find work at a law firm after graduation; and

WHEREAS, she served as a law clerk to Judge Edmund L. Palmieri of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York from 1959 to 1961; and

WHEREAS, she then became the associate director of a comparative law project sponsored by Columbia University which required her to study the Swedish legal system; her work in Sweden profoundly influenced her views on gender equality; and

WHEREAS, she joined the faculty of Rutgers Law School in Newark, New Jersey, and taught there from 1963 to 1972; she then joined the faculty of Columbia Law School in New York City, New York as its first female full professor, and taught there from 1972 to 1980; and

WHEREAS, she advocated as a volunteer attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), co-founded the ACLU's Women's Rights Project and was a member of its board of directors and one of its general counsel in the 1970s; and

WHEREAS, she was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in 1980, where she served for 13 years; and

WHEREAS, she was nominated to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court on June 15, 1993 and the U.S. Senate confirmed Ginsburg's appointment in a 96-3 vote on August 3, 1993; and

WHEREAS, Justice Ginsburg was the first Jewish woman and the second woman to serve on the Court, after Justice Sandra Day O'Connor; and

WHEREAS, Justice Ginsburg embraced the Jewish values of *tikkun olam* ("repairing the world") in her legal career by being a champion for gender equality, women's health, voting rights, immigration rights, social justice, and LGBTQ+ rights; and

WHEREAS, during her 27-year tenure on the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice Ginsberg impressively authored 213 majority opinions and 147 dissenting opinions; and

WHEREAS, Justice Ginsburg passed away from complications from metastatic pancreatic cancer on September 18, 2020 and following Justice Ginsburg’s death, fellow Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor said of her friend: “Ruth Bader Ginsburg was an American hero. She spent her life fighting for the equality of all people, and she was a pathbreaking champion of women’s rights. She served our Court and country with consummate dedication, tirelessness, and passion for justice. She has left a legacy few would rival.”; and

WHEREAS, on August 18, 2020, just one month before her death, the United States celebrated 100 years of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which reads, “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.” The 19th amendment gave women the right the vote after a many-years long and hard-fought effort; and

WHEREAS, at the local level, and consistent with Justice Ginsburg work and legacy, the City of San Antonio and its residents continue to champion increased gender equity through a host of initiatives and programs, including but not limited to the Women’s Leadership Mentoring Program, the Girls Empowerment Summit, citywide programming for Women’s History Month in March, the election of a majority female city council, and on November 15, 2018, adopted a Resolution in support of Women’s Safety, Health, and Economic Opportunity in the City of San Antonio; and

WHEREAS, our Nation and City are forever indebted to the work and legacy of Ruth Bader Ginsburg;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

SECTION 1. The San Antonio City Council on behalf of the City as a whole:

- a) expresses heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of late Supreme Court Justice Joan Ruth Bader Ginsburg;
- b) honors her lifetime of noble service to the United States legal system as a maverick attorney, distinguished professor, and prestigious jurist;
- c) recognizes and celebrates her 27-year tenure on the Supreme Court of the United States; and
- d) upholds Justice Ginsburg’s American legacy as a profound guardian and defender of the Constitution and champion of civil liberties.

SECTION 2. This Resolution is effective immediately upon the receipt of eight affirmative votes; otherwise it is effective ten days after its passage.

***PASSED AND APPROVED** this 12th day of November 2020.*

M A Y O R
Ron Nirenberg

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Tina J. Flores, City Clerk

Andrew Segovia, City Attorney