



EL PASO COUNTY
STATE OF TEXAS

RESOLUTION



***WHEREAS,** Pete Melendez, born 1933, grew up in Segundo Barrio as the youngest of six children. Before he became known as El Paso’s “King of Boxing” he spent his days shining shoes to help support his mother. At age 13 he took up boxing as a means of rehabilitation after breaking both arms in an accident. Six years later, he would win the 1953 Texas and national Golden Gloves championships; and,*

***WHEREAS,** In 1953 Pete Melendez won the Chicago Golden Gloves Tournament of Champions vs. Manny Moreno of Denver, Colorado. Becoming El Paso’s first Golden Gloves national champion; and,*

***WHEREAS,** In 1956 he won the Chicago Golden Gloves Tournament of Champions vs. Jerry Morales of Kansas City, Missouri; and represented Chicago and won the Intercity Golden Gloves championship at flyweight vs. Jose Regores. This earned Mr. Melendez his second Golden Gloves championship; and,*

***WHEREAS,** Tom McKay, an El Paso boxing historian, described him as the best boxer the city has ever had. "He had fast hands, balance, punching power -- you couldn't touch him in the ring," McKay said. "He was what everybody wants to be when you say the word 'boxer.' "; and,*

***WHEREAS,** After four matches as a professional fighter, Pete Melendez retired from the sport and opened up a barbershop in El Paso, which remained in business for 38 years. He stayed involved with the sport for several years, though, as a referee, a trainer and a promoter. He was a strong Golden Gloves advocate; and,*

***WHEREAS,** In 1977, Pete Melendez was inducted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. In 2000, he was named the greatest boxer of the century by the El Paso Boxing and Martial Arts Hall of Fame. "He wanted to make a mark in life," said McKay, remembering his friend's determination. "And he certainly did." Peter Melendez is and will always be “**The Pride of the South Side**”.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the El Paso County Judge and Commissioner’s Court declare December 16th, 2024, as:*

“Peter Melendez Day”

***SIGNED,** this 16th day of December 2024*

Commissioner Carlos Leon, Pct. 1

Commissioner David C. Stout, Pct. 2

Commissioner Iliana Holguin, Pct. 3

Commissioner Sergio Coronado, Pct. 4

County Judge Ricardo A. Samaniego