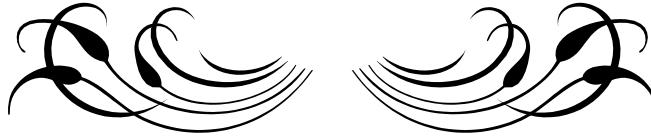


Office of the Mayor

Commerce City, Colorado

Proclamation



WHEREAS, Ben Martinez, Sr. was a long-time Commerce City resident and businessman; and

WHEREAS, he built the successful El Jardin Restaurant on 6460 East 73rd Avenue in his adopted hometown in 1982; and

WHEREAS, El Jardin is viewed as a landmark in our community, drawing visitors from the entire metro area and beyond; and

WHEREAS, he and his wife Velma Martinez had five children (Ben, Paul, Amy Lynn, and Ernie), 19 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, who he raised with his lifetime belief "... never a stranger, always a friend," and extended that treatment to every patron; and

WHEREAS, Ben Martinez, Sr. was committed to improving his community, as a founding member of the Derby Business Association, where he advocated for the city's attention to the historic Derby business district; and

WHEREAS, Ben Martinez, Sr. was also an advocate for the Little Red House, which supports alcoholics anonymous in Commerce City; and

WHEREAS, Ben Martinez, Sr. passed away on May 29, 2012 and the city desires to give tribute and recognize those endeavors that benefited the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, on behalf of City Council, I hereby proclaim special recognition to celebrate the numerous contributions of Ben Martinez, Sr., who helped make Commerce City a "Quality Community for a Lifetime."

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal to be affixed.

CITY OF COMMERCE CITY, COLORADO

Sean Ford, Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura J. Bauer, CMC, City Clerk

Date: _____