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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Fort Bend County Judge KP George Host 9/11 Memorial Ceremony**

*Honors Ground Zero First Responder Sergeant Fabian R. Rojas, Jr*

**(FORT BEND, TX)** – Today, Fort Bend County Judge KP George hosted Fort Bend County's annual 9/11 memorial ceremony on the steps of the Historic Fort Bend County Courthouse. Joining Judge George were county and state officials, including State Representative Ron Reynolds, HD27, Fort Bend County Sheriff Eric Fagan, Fort Bend County Constable Precinct 2 Daryl Smith, and Fort Bend County Attorney Bridgette Smith-Lawson.

Judge George spoke about the last memory of 9/11 and the resiliency of America after that dark day.

"We come together to honor the victims, the survivors, the families who lost loved ones, and the members of the 9/11 community – including first responders, rescue, recovery, and relief workers, and the families of those who have died from 9/11 illnesses," said Fort Bend County Judge KP George. "On that fateful day, we learned that Americans were vulnerable, but we also learned the strength and resolve of the people of this country and that we can survive the worst that life can throw at us."

A proclamation headlined the remembrance ceremonies from Judge KP George to Fabian R. Rojas, Jr., a retired New York City Police Sergeant and Fort Bend County resident. On September 11, 2001, and days after, Sergeant Rojas served as a security, search, and rescue team member, helping to save citizens trapped in the rubble at Ground Zero following the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center's Twin Towers in Manhattan's Financial District.

"On 9/11, I go back and think about the men and women that gave the ultimate sacrifice," Fabian R. Rojas, Jr. said. "I'm honored to be here and represent all of the (police officers) of New York on 9/11. I'm honored and glad to be here to present them and represent all law enforcement."

The event's keynote speaker was Sergeant Rojas' son, New York Police Department Detective Second Grade Fabian Rojas, Jr., III.

"My father deserves this because he went down there (into ground zero) and was supervisor. He supervised the rescue and the recovery after 9/11 and many months later. "Many of these first responders are no longer here to tell their stories. They either passed away during or after the attack because of health problems. I thank the Lord that my father is still here to tell his story and for him to tell their story too, " stated Rojas, Jr.

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard lowered the flag at half-staff. Local ministers Reverend Frank Dotson of Brentwood Baptist Church, Pastor Will Starkweather of St. Martins Lutheran Church, and Reverend Dr. Thich Hang Dat gave their blessings over the ceremony.

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