

By: Lozano

H.R. No. 1013

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Louis J. Agnese, Jr., is celebrating the 25th
2 anniversary of his inauguration as president of the University of
3 the Incarnate Word on March 25, 2011; and

4 WHEREAS, Now the longest-serving president of a
5 comprehensive, four-year university in Texas, Dr. Agnese was 34
6 years old when he assumed the helm of UIW in 1985; under his
7 guidance, the university has been transformed into a dynamic,
8 innovative institution that is preparing its students for success
9 in an increasingly interconnected global environment; and

10 WHEREAS, The impact that Dr. Agnese has had on UIW cannot be
11 overstated; since his arrival, enrollment has surged from about
12 1,300 to more than 7,700, making the school the fourth-largest
13 private university in Texas; at the same time, annual student aid
14 has risen from \$500,000 to more than \$100 million, the endowment has
15 increased from \$3 million to over \$80 million, and the operating
16 budget has grown from \$7 million to more than \$160 million; and

17 WHEREAS, Similar expansion is evident in the school's
18 academic programs; Dr. Agnese has overseen an increase in the
19 number of majors offered, from 56 to nearly 80, along with the
20 opening of the Feik School of Pharmacy and the Rosenberg School of
21 Optometry; in addition, UIW now awards a Ph.D. in education, and it
22 has won approval to begin conferring doctoral degrees in nursing
23 practice and physical therapy; and

24 WHEREAS, Dr. Agnese has also promoted initiatives to make a

1 UIW education more widely accessible; the school has launched a
2 virtual university, which offers a number of degrees through online
3 instruction, as well as a program that enables working adults in the
4 San Antonio and Corpus Christi areas to complete a degree through
5 accelerated study; moreover, UIW has opened academic sites in
6 Mexico City and Guangzhou, China, where students can earn
7 undergraduate degrees without leaving their country; and

8 WHEREAS, In keeping with the original focus of the
9 university's founders on serving the people of South Texas,
10 Dr. Agnese has promoted outreach efforts that have led to the
11 school's demographic profile more closely mirroring that of the
12 surrounding region; with Hispanic students now composing about half
13 of its student body, UIW today enrolls the most Latinos of any
14 private school in Texas, and it has been ranked as one of the top 100
15 universities serving Hispanics in the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, The great diversity of the student body is
17 additionally reflected in the students' economic and religious
18 backgrounds and in the fact that approximately 13 percent of the
19 students come from foreign countries; so serious is Dr. Agnese
20 about the importance of the international dimension that the
21 university offers more than 70 study abroad programs and presents
22 information on its website in Spanish, Portuguese, Turkish,
23 Chinese, Japanese, and Korean; and

24 WHEREAS, While greatly expanding the educational reach of
25 UIW, Dr. Agnese has sought equally to honor the school's mission as
26 a values-based, Catholic institution of higher learning; whatever
27 students' religious affiliation might be, he believes it is vital

1 that they grow in their faith through their academic experience;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan currently serves on the boards
4 of Adelante!--U.S. Education Leadership Fund and an online think
5 tank, MATT.org--Mexicans and Americans Thinking Together, as well
6 as on the executive committee of the World Affairs Council of San
7 Antonio; he is the recipient of numerous professional and civic
8 honors, including most recently a Best and Brightest award from the
9 University Roundtable of San Antonio and designation as an
10 Outstanding Leader in Catholic Education by the Archdiocese of San
11 Antonio; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Agnese holds a bachelor's degree from St. Mary
13 of the Plains College, a master's degree and education specialist
14 degree from Gannon University, and a doctorate in counselor
15 education from the University of Pittsburgh; and

16 WHEREAS, The skillful, visionary leadership, deep
17 experience, and tireless commitment that Dr. Louis Agnese has
18 brought to his office as president of UIW have contributed
19 immeasurably to the university's growing stature and to the
20 transformative experience it provides to thousands of future
21 leaders of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
23 Legislature hereby honor Dr. Louis J. Agnese, Jr., on the 25th
24 anniversary of his inauguration as president of the University of
25 the Incarnate Word and extend to him sincere best wishes for
26 continued success in all his endeavors; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for Dr. Agnese as an expression of high regard by the Texas
2 House of Representatives.