

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 2439

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Laborers' International Union of North America  
2 is celebrating the 112th anniversary of its founding in 2015; and

3           WHEREAS, The union was established as the International Hod  
4 Carriers and Building Laborers' Union at a convention in  
5 Washington, D.C., on April 13, 1903; the founders included 25  
6 delegates from 23 local unions in 17 cities, representing more than  
7 8,000 construction workers; the union's original constitution was  
8 published in three languages, English, German, and Italian,  
9 representing the diversity of its membership; and

10           WHEREAS, By 1920, the union boasted more than 96,000 members  
11 in 548 locals, and under the leadership of its president, Domenic  
12 D'Alessandro of Boston, it supported the right of African American  
13 trade unionists to be accepted as equals; and

14           WHEREAS, During World War II, the organization suspended all  
15 dues and pledged its support to the national war effort; by 1942, it  
16 had grown to 430,000 members, and it continued to expand during the  
17 1950s, when it took in the 60,000 members of a postal carriers union  
18 and the 3,000 members of a stone cutters union; and

19           WHEREAS, The union was a leader in the struggle for civil  
20 rights, and in 1962, it was one of the few organizations to send an  
21 African American officer to President John F. Kennedy's conference  
22 on ending racial discrimination in unions; the following year,  
23 members proudly marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; and

24           WHEREAS, In 1965, the organization changed its name to the

1 Laborers' International Union of North America, and it worked to  
2 gain for its members important new benefits to improve their  
3 quality of life, including health care and pension coverage; in  
4 1973, one of its members, a laborer named Ray Mendoza, became the  
5 first president of the Labor Council for Latin American  
6 Advancement; and

7       WHEREAS, Over the ensuing years, the members of LIUNA have  
8 continued to distinguish themselves through their contributions to  
9 the nation; after the tragic events of September 11, 2001, LIUNA  
10 members were among the first on the scene at the World Trade Center  
11 to help in the rescue and recovery efforts, and they have since  
12 played a vital role in the construction of Freedom Tower on the same  
13 site; and

14       WHEREAS, Today, LIUNA represents more than half a million  
15 members in 425 locals, and under the guidance of General President  
16 Terry O'Sullivan and General Secretary-Treasurer Armand E.  
17 Sabitoni, the organization continues to lead the effort to  
18 strengthen the rights of laboring men and women across the  
19 continent; now, therefore, be it

20       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
21 Legislature hereby commemorate the 112th anniversary of the  
22 Laborers' International Union of North America and extend to its  
23 members sincere best wishes for continued success in their  
24 important work; and, be it further

25       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
26 prepared for LIUNA as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
27 House of Representatives.