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By:  Cole H.R. No. 208

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The League of United Latin American Citizens is celebrating the 90th anniversary of its founding from February 17 to 23, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Established in Corpus Christi in 1929, LULAC drew strength from the rise of the Texas-Mexican middle class and the growing resistance to discrimination; it became the first nationwide Mexican American civil rights organization, striving to end political disenfranchisement, racial segregation, lack of political representation, and jury exclusion; a multi-issue organization from its inception, it also sought to address the roots of poverty and promote economic progress; and

WHEREAS, LULAC organized poll tax drives and fought to abolish these antidemocratic taxes; in the 1930s, it investigated charges of discrimination by the Works Progress Administration, and it later worked with the Federal Employment Practices Commission to open up jobs for Mexican Americans in the defense industry; members were engaged in *Hernandez v. State of Texas*, which secured for Mexican Americans the right to serve on juries; moreover, they fought for the appointment of Mexican Americans to important federal and state positions and supported candidates for public office; and

WHEREAS, Deeply committed to school desegregation, LULAC was engaged in such pivotal court cases as *Delgado v. Bastrop ISD*, which ended segregation in public schools; from its early years, the organization promoted education by awarding scholarships, and in 1974, it created a national scholarship fund, as well as the LULAC National Educational Service Centers; members also participated in a 1990 case seeking the allocation of a greater share of state funds to South Texas colleges; along the way, LULAC played a role in the formation of a number of important organizations, among them the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, LULAC has continued its efforts to protect the civil rights of Latinos while expanding opportunities in education, employment, economic advancement, and political influence; its comprehensive suite of nationwide programs support such worthy causes as affordable housing, health care access, citizenship, and humanitarian relief; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of nine decades, LULAC has helped to build a more just, equitable, and vibrant society, and its contributions have improved the lives of countless Americans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize February 17 to 23, 2019, as National LULAC Week and extend to the members of the organization sincere best wishes for the future.