

By: Cole

H.R. No. 208

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

22           WHEREAS, Deeply committed to school desegregation, LULAC was  
23 engaged in such pivotal court cases as *Delgado v. Bastrop ISD*, which  
24 ended segregation in public schools; from its early years, the

1 organization promoted education by awarding scholarships, and in  
2 1974, it created a national scholarship fund, as well as the LULAC  
3 National Educational Service Centers; members also participated in  
4 a 1990 case seeking the allocation of a greater share of state funds  
5 to South Texas colleges; along the way, LULAC played a role in the  
6 formation of a number of important organizations, among them the  
7 Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund; and

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

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

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