

By: Meza

H.R. No. 416

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The League of United Latin American Citizens is  
2 marking the 90th anniversary of its founding in 2019; and

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

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

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

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

7       WHEREAS, Today, under the leadership of national president  
8 Domingo Garcia, LULAC continues its efforts to protect the civil  
9 rights of Latinos while expanding opportunities in education,  
10 employment, economic advancement, and political influence; its  
11 comprehensive suite of nationwide programs support such worthy  
12 causes as affordable housing, health care access, citizenship, and  
13 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 commemorate LULAC's 90th anniversary and extend  
20 to the members of the organization sincere best wishes for the  
21 future.