

By: Anchía

H.R. No. 419

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Basque Country is located in the northeastern
2 corner of the Iberian Peninsula, along the present-day border of
3 France and Spain, and the presence of Basques in the United States
4 can be traced back to the mid-19th century; around 1,400 combatants
5 of Basque origin have been identified as serving in the U.S. armed
6 forces during World War II, and their military, social, personal,
7 and family histories help illuminate the process of Basque
8 emigration and settlement in the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, Immigrants in World War II: Basques in Texas honors
10 the 14 identified veterans of Basque heritage who were born in Texas
11 or enlisted in the state, and it acknowledges the myriad
12 contributions of these valiant service members:

13 ● U.S. Army Corporal Manuel Abascal, who served with the
14 45th Infantry Division in Europe and who passed away in 2000;

15 ● U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Manuel Amestoy, who served with
16 the Headquarters and Service Company, V Amphibious Tractor
17 Battalion, in the Pacific theater and who passed away in 1987;

18 ● U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Frank Buldain, who served
19 with the 36th Infantry Division in Europe and who passed away in
20 1997;

21 ● U.S. Army Air Force Lieutenant Louis Buldain, who
22 ultimately attained the rank of colonel during a three-decade
23 military career and who passed away in 2000;

24 ● U.S. Army Corporal George Buldain, who enlisted in 1943

1 and who passed away in 1996;

2 ● U.S. Army Tech 4 Eugenio "Eugene" Echaniz, who enlisted in
3 1942 and who passed away in 2006;

4 ● U.S. Army Sergeant Raul Echaniz, who served with the Third
5 Army under General George S. Patton and who passed away in 2011;

6 ● U.S. Army Private Antonio "Tony" Garibay, who enlisted in
7 1946 and who passed away in 2014;

8 ● U.S. Army Private Federico Bilbao, who enlisted in 1943
9 and served until 1946;

10 ● U.S. Army Air Force Sergeant Fernando Gil, who served with
11 the 802nd Bombardment Squadron in Mountain Home, Idaho, and who
12 passed away in 1967;

13 ● U.S. Army Corporal Valentin Elola, who enlisted in 1943
14 and who passed away in 1992;

15 ● U.S. Army Air Force Sergeant Alfonso Garde, who served
16 with the 724th Squadron, 451st Bomb Group, in Europe and who passed
17 away in 1992;

18 ● U.S. Army Corporal Calixto Ochotorena, who served with the
19 Transportation Corps and who passed away in 2007; and

20 ● U.S. Army Private First Class Tony Uharriet, who enlisted
21 in 1946 and who passed away in 1982; and

22 WHEREAS, Immigrants in World War II: Basques in Texas is a
23 special event taking place on March 2, 2023, hosted by the Sancho de
24 Beurko Association and the Voces Oral History Center at The
25 University of Texas at Austin in conjunction with Texas State
26 Representative Rafael Anchía; and

27 WHEREAS, This special presentation is a part of the

1 association's international research project Fighting Basques:
2 Memory of World War II, which is undertaken in collaboration with
3 North American Basque Organizations; the project studies the role
4 that Basques and Basque Americans played in the conflict; and

5 WHEREAS, Consisting of an academic panel, Immigrants in World
6 War II: Basques in Texas will focus on these individuals to
7 illustrate the contributions made by the migrant population of the
8 U.S. during the war; furthermore, the gathering celebrates these
9 Basque Texans, many of whom have received little public
10 recognition, as rightful members of the Greatest Generation; and

11 WHEREAS, Immigrants in World War II: Basques in Texas
12 provides a vital opportunity to pay tribute to a deserving group of
13 military veterans while furthering the worthwhile goal of
14 establishing a more comprehensive and inclusive understanding of
15 our nation's history; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
17 Legislature hereby commemorate the Immigrants in World War II:
18 Basques in Texas event and honor the World War II veterans of Basque
19 origin who so bravely served our country; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for the families of the Basque service members as well as
22 the Sancho de Beurko Association and the Voces Oral History Center
23 as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of
24 Representatives.