

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 118**

**WHEREAS,** The students, faculty, and staff of Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio are celebrating the school's 130th anniversary on February 22, 2025; and

**WHEREAS,** Founded by the Sisters of the Congregation of Divine Providence, OLLU was built on a parcel of land gifted to the order by Mayor Henry Elmendorf; construction on its main building broke ground on August 14, 1895, and it opened a year later as Our Lady of the Lake Academy, an all-girls high school; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1911, the school transitioned into Our Lady of the Lake College, a two-year program for women; it awarded its first bachelor's degree in 1912, and by 1919, it had expanded into a four-year program and earned membership in the Texas Association of Colleges; over the course of the ensuing decade, it became the first San Antonio institution of higher education to receive regional accreditation and the third Texas school to be approved by the American Association of Universities; and

**WHEREAS,** The college's programs were made fully coeducational in 1969, and it was renamed Our Lady of the Lake University of San Antonio in 1975; the school introduced its weekend college program that same decade, becoming the first in the region to offer adult students the option to complete a degree while maintaining full-time employment; the program was later expanded to the university's Houston and Rio Grande Valley campuses; and

**WHEREAS,** In the 2000s, OLLU saw the establishment of its first athletic programs, as well as renovations to its main building and the adjacent Lake Elmendorf Park; the school was

designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education in 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, Today, Our Lady of the Lake serves nearly 2,000 students and offers more than 70 undergraduate, 15 graduate, and 4 doctoral programs across its three campuses; it benefits from the leadership of President Abel A. Chávez, and since his appointment in 2022, the school has raised more than \$31 million, launched new programs, and created additional scholarships; and

**WHEREAS**, For well over a century, Our Lady of the Lake University has provided its students with an education that has enriched them both academically and personally, and in so doing, it has made important contributions to Texas and the world beyond; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 89th Legislature, hereby commemorate the 130th anniversary of Our Lady of the Lake University and extend to all those associated with the institution sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for OLLU as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Menéndez

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 20, 2025.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate