

By: Menéndez

S.R. No. 118

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, In the 2000s, OLLU saw the establishment of its

1 first athletic programs, as well as renovations to its main
2 building and the adjacent Lake Elmendorf Park; the school was
3 designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber
4 Defense Education in 2017; and

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

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

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

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for OLLU as an expression of high regard by the Texas
22 Senate.