



League of United Latin American Citizens

TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE PUERTO RICO VETERANS COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE OF UNITED LATINAMERICAN CITIZENS DEMAND THAT PUERTO RICO BECOMES THE 51ST STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The citizens of Puerto Rico welcomed the United States of America in 1898 because they believed it, to be a symbol of liberty, democracy and justice. That belief turned into an unbreakable bond in 1917 when the Jones Bill became law and granted United States Citizenship to the natives of Puerto Rico. The bond created has been tested, and remained unbroken through the many vicissitudes that we have shared in the last 116 years. In response to the call made by the national leadership the United States Citizens of Puerto Rico defended that nation with same dedication, loyalty like our fellow citizens from the mainland. Today over 150,000 military veterans provide testimony of the price paid by the United States Citizens of Puerto Rico in the defense of the nation. Contrary to their counterparts in the mainland of the United States of America the military veterans living in Puerto Rico can FIGHT FOR OUR NATION'S FREEDOM BUT ARE DENIED THE RIGHT TO VOTE FOR THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP. To end this unequal treatment a group of veterans from Puerto Rico have organized themselves and begun a campaign to appeal directly to the national leadership the end of the current political status of the island and demand that Puerto Rico becomes the 51st State of the United States of America.

The LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS is proud of the soldiers and military veterans from Puerto Rico and their willingness to fight side by side without fellow citizens from the mainland in the defense of the nation. Also recognize the right of the Veterans of Puerto Rico to demand that Puerto Rico becomes the 51st State of the United States of America.

WHEREAS, Since 1899 men and women from the island of Puerto Rico have served voluntarily and involuntarily in the armed forces of the United States of America, and

WHEREAS, Puerto Ricans are Citizens of the United States since 1917, and

WHEREAS, Over 152,000 military veterans of Puerto Rico have contributed with blood, sweat, and tears to the security of the nation in equal terms without fellow citizens in the mainland but don't enjoy equal rights under the U.S. Constitution, and

WHEREAS, Today approximately 14,000 National Guard and Reserve Soldiers from Puerto Rico continue to serve the nation. Providing a force larger than 25 States. At the same time over 40,000 other Puerto Ricans serve in Active Duty, and

WHEREAS, Nine (9) Puerto Rican soldiers had made the ultimate sacrifice and earned the Medal of Honor, and

WHEREAS: The political relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States establishes a discriminatory arrangement where the United States Citizens of Puerto Rico do not enjoy all the rights and benefits in equal terms with the US Citizens that live in the mainland, and

WHEREAS: The military veterans and United States Citizens from Puerto Rico have organized themselves to appeal for the end of the current political status of Puerto Rico and demand that Puerto Rico becomes the 51st state of the United States of America, and

WHEREAS, In November 6, 2012, 54% of .registered voters in Puerto Rico voted to end the current territorial status. When asked their preference to replace the territorial status 61.6% voted in favor of making Puerto Rico a state of the Union. These results represent the will of the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico, and

WHEREAS, The United States Citizens of Puerto Rico via democratic vote .removed the consent of the governed to the current political relationship between the United States of America and Puerto Rico.

THEREFORE BE RESOLVED, That the LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS supports the demands made by the Citizens of the United States of America that are veterans of the USA Armed Forces, and live in Puerto Rico to become the 51st state of THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Approved this 11th day of July 2015

Roger C. Rocha, Jr.
LULAC National President