



League of United Latin American Citizens

Resolution to Recognize that the Citizens of the United States of America that are Veterans of the USA Armed Forces, and Live in Puerto Rico Demand that Puerto Rico Become the 51st State of the United States of America

Whereas, 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 of America the military veterans living in Puerto Rico can FIGHT FOR OUR NATION 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 and current political status of the island and demand that Puerto Rico becomes the 51st State of the United States of America; and

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 with our 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 greater than 25 States. At the same time over 40,000 other Puerto Ricans serve in Active Duty; and

Whereas, nine (9) Puerto Rican soldiers have made the ultimate sacrifice and earned the Medal of Honor; and

Whereas, the political relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States establish 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 the 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 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 it resolved, that LULAC 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.

Voted and approved at the 2016 National LULAC Convention - July 16, 2016.

Roger C. Rocha, Jr.
LULAC National President