



## *League of United Latin American Citizens*

### **RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE PLIGHT OF U.S. DEPORTED VETERANS**

**WHEREAS**, the issue of veterans of the United States military has been brought to the attention of the public in numerous national news articles, with a large number living in Mexico.

**WHEREAS**, many deported veterans who have served in conflicts in all parts of the world from Vietnam to Afghanistan are now gathering in a refuge "The Bunker" also known as the Deported Veterans Support House in Tijuana, Mexico, which was started by former Army paratrooper Hector Barajas who was also deported.

**WHEREAS**, there are additional hundreds of deported military veterans living in at least twenty countries, in similar circumstances.

**WHEREAS**, serving in the United States military does not automatically confer United States citizenship, though it can help pave the way - but only if the process is completed in a certain timeframe.

**WHEREAS**, while veteran deportees maintain a legal right to veteran benefits, no such services or satellite offices are available in a foreign country to assist veterans.

**WHEREAS**, the only way most of the deported veterans will currently be able to return to the United States is by dying. By law, all military veterans (except those who have been dishonorably discharged) are entitled to burial in a national cemetery, and immigration laws don't apply to the deceased.

**WHEREAS**, several members of Congress have introduced legislation in April 2016 that would help deported veterans to reunite with their families in the United States and also prevent the removal of service members and veterans in the future.

***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*** That National LULAC and its councils will work for the passage of congressional legislation to assist our deported veterans and to end the deportations of our veterans, repatriate the ones who have already been deported, and offer support until they all come home.

**BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED** LULAC honors our deported veterans through its committed efforts to allow a just and honorable homecoming to be reunited with families and also provide them any benefits they are eligible for and due them.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that attention should also be provided to assist those deported veterans who may have a record of any non-serious judicial convictions.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that LULAC shall continue to assist those deported in whatever means at the organization's disposal within the framework of the Veterans Administration and all other branches of government.

Voted & approved by the National Assembly of the 2017 LULAC National Convention on July 8, 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger C. Rocha, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Roger C. Rocha, Jr.  
LULAC National President