



League of United Latin American Citizens

RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF JOAQUIN G. AVILA (JUNE 23, 1948-MARCH 9, 2018)

WHEREAS, LULAC is our Nation's oldest, largest, and most respected Hispano/Latino civil rights organization, established in 1929. Our mission is to seek the advancement of Hispanic Americans in the areas of education, employment, and civil rights; and

WHEREAS, the nation has lost a giant in the passing of Joaquin G. Avila who was regarded as one of the greatest civil rights activists in the Latino community; and

WHEREAS, he was second to none when it came to the political empowerment of the community and its representation, winning multiple cases, many of them precedent and landmark; and

WHEREAS, his legal expertise showed everywhere, even in the United States Supreme Court, in representation of our Latino communities and assuring equal representation; and

WHEREAS, from humble beginnings where he grew up in Compton, CA., the impoverished and tough neighborhood populated mainly by Latinos and African-Americans, where he learned the importance of education by becoming the class valedictorian of the 1966 graduating class from Centennial High School; and

WHEREAS, he then went on to become one of the first Latinos to graduate from Yale University in 1970 and from Harvard University in 1973; and

WHEREAS, he joined the Mexican-American Legal Defense Fund (MALDEF) in 1974, where he took notice of voting rights litigation, challenged all discriminatory voting systems in the Southwest, won multiple landmark cases, and became the president of MALDEF in 1982; and

WHEREAS, he joined LULAC Councils in the Central Coast in challenging city council at large elections where he won the initial Watsonville groundbreaking landmark case that led to other cities, including Salinas and Hollister; and

WHEREAS, Joaquin was the driving force and architect of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 and has left an enduring impact on voting rights.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Benito County League of United Latin American Citizens Council #2890 mourns the loss of member Joaquin G. Avila who passed away on March 9, 2018 in Shoreline, Washington, and is hereby joined by the California LULAC District #12 board and membership in honoring his legacy that will continue to change the lives of many who were previously silenced in our electoral democracy.

Voted & approved by the National Assembly of the 2018 LULAC National Convention on July 21, 2018.

Domingo Garcia
LULAC National President