



League of United Latin American Citizens

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR MANUELA NELLIE (CAUDILLO) KANISKI

JUNE 28, 1932-APRIL 1, 2018 (AGE 85)

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, LULAC recognizes a faithful servant of God, who was a member for many years, passed away on Easter Sunday. She was a member of Anaheim LULAC Council #2848; and

WHEREAS, Nellie was born in San Bernadino, CA. She grew up in La Colonia Independencia in Anaheim, CA (one of the Mexican barrios of Orange County) where she lived with her seven brothers and sisters. She was raised during the heart of the 1930's U.S. Depression years of our country. Deep poverty, and little opportunity for many Americans, but not exactly so for her parents, grandparents, and extended family. Because these folks were hardened, near professional farm workers, their labor was always in demand, and they easily found fieldwork in the cotton and fruit fields of California. No "Grapes of Wrath" experiences for these folks; and

WHEREAS, she attended Anaheim High School, and Washington Union High in Fresno, CA. After graduating from high school, she attended and completed the Nursing program at Fresno City College. She worked as a community nurse in the rural San Joaquin Valley for several years. In 1952, Nellie enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, during the Korean War. While she was stationed in Beaufort, South Carolina, she met her husband, the late Robert Paul Kaniski, while they both served there. They were both proud Marine Corps Veterans. They were married in 1955 in Robert's home state of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, upon returning to Orange County Nellie continued her education and earned a Master's Degree in Educational Counseling. She worked with the Rancho Santiago Community College District, at Santa Ana College, under the EOPS Department. Nellie devoted over 30 years of her life to mentoring the at-risk youth population in Orange County. Much of her work focused on helping students achieve their academic dreams. Thousands of these students have moved into highly successful careers in service to others. Nellie retired from Santa Ana College after 28 years of dedicated service. Nellie was the Executive Director of MANA (Mexican American Women's National Association), a 44 year old non-profit organizations, dedicated in community service, educational leadership and advocacy in Orange County. As a community leader, Nellie founded and directed the Adelante Young Women's Educational & Leadership Conference, whose goal is to motivate and inspire young Latinas to pursue a path towards higher education. This program also collaborated with Anaheim LULAC council #2848; and

WHEREAS, she also supported many organizations such as The Eddie Nash Foundations; UMAVA (United Mexican American Veterans Association); NOW (National Organizations of Women); Somos

Primos; GEAR UP (Santa Ana College); AAUW and many other organizations. She also did a monthly online newsletter called “community of Caring” and announced events happening in the Latino community; and

WHEREAS, Nellie received many awards: 2014 Santa Ana LULAC “Woman of the Year”; 2013 Seniors Making a Difference; 2011 Soroptimist Ruby Award “Women Helping Women”; 2010 Senator Lou Correa “Women Making a Difference”; 2006 MANA Betty BACA Founders Award; 2005 LULAC Orange County Citizen of the Year; 2004 MANA Orange County Women of Service Award; and 2001 Las Primeras Military Service Award; and

WHEREAS, Nellie and Robert were married for 59 years when Robert passed away. Her children, Mary Jean Lueras and her husband Richard, Patricia Ann Sullivan and her husband Kevin, and David Andrew Kaniski and his wife Christine survived her. She had 13 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that during the 89th Annual LULAC Convention in Phoenix, AZ, the nationwide membership hereby honors the memory of a great leader and faithful servant to God and Country.

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

Domingo Garcia
LULAC National President