



League of United Latin American Citizens

TITLE: STOP THE ILLEGAL AND INHUMANE DEPORTATION OF US VETERANS

WHEREAS, thousands of immigrants—most from Mexico and the Philippines—serve in the US armed forces.

WHEREAS, none of the foreign-born veterans are promised citizenship in exchange for their service.

WHEREAS, none of the foreign-born veterans are promised citizenship in exchange for their service.

WHEREAS, when the government is done with the foreign-born veterans, they are subjected to the same risk of deportation as new arrivals coming across the border.

WHEREAS, if foreign-born veterans break a U.S. law, ICE agents can deport them across abruptly without any consideration of their military service to the country.

WHEREAS, in some cases, an immigrant can be deported for “an aggravated felony” even if the sentence is less than one year

WHEREAS, this is the result of a 1996 law that calls for the deportation of immigrants convicted of crimes that meet the definition of an aggravated felony and serve at least a year in prison.

WHEREAS, in 1988, when the term *aggravated felonies* was first established, it referred to murder and drug and firearms trafficking

WHEREAS, since then, the definition has broadened to include less severe crimes, such as theft and failure to report a change of address—offenses that now can lead to deportation for these vets

WHEREAS, today, almost any offense that results in a sentence of more than a year in prison—regardless of how minor the crime—can lead to deportation for these vets

WHEREAS, the 1996 act does not permit a judge to consider defendants’ military service or any other aspects of their life other than that they committed such a crime

WHEREAS, deported veterans have all served prison sentences and are deported after their release, thus being punished twice for the same crime

WHEREAS, their military service was not taken into consideration at sentencing

WHEREAS, they took an oath to defend the US Constitution, served in the US uniform and fought under the US flag.

WHEREAS, when the uniform comes off, they are considered undocumented when, while in uniform, they were considered American soldiers.

WHEREAS, they risked their lives for the U.S. just like any other US citizen.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the League of United Latin American Citizens National Board, on behalf of its members, urge members Members of Congress to

- denounce the illegal and inhumane deportation of US Veterans
- urge the courts take their military service into consideration upon sentencing
- promote that their military service should entitle them to a second chance
- not excuse the crimes committed by foreign-born US Veterans, but in holding them accountable they should not be made to suffer twice
- acknowledge that the enlistment of all US Veterans makes them one of us thus earning them the right to citizenship

Submitted by M. Guadalupe Espinoza Anaheim Council #2848 on April 3, 2019

Voted & approved by the National Assembly of the 2019 LULAC National Convention on July 13, 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Domingo Garcia". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'D'.

Domingo Garcia
LULAC National President