



League of United Latin American Citizens

AGIF Resolution 2023-10 - Rio Grande Valley VA Hospital/Medical Center

WHEREAS, the American GI Forum of the United States (AGIF-US) whole-heartedly support our military, veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS; the Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that more than 100,000 veterans reside in Deep South Texas, which have always been among the first to answer our country's call. In time of war; and **WHEREAS**, the nearest VA Medical Center is approximately 250 miles from the Rio Grande Valley of Texas located in San Antonio, Texas; and

WHEREAS, the current and future health care needs of veterans residing in the deep South Texas area are not being completely met by the Veterans Administration; and

WHEREAS, because of the efforts of all veterans' organizations united and the support of elected officials at all levels of government of the Rio Grande Valley, veterans now have the "Valley-Costal Bend Health Care System," independent of the San Antonio HealthCare System; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the great State of Texas voted in favor of proposition 8, that provides money and/or land to the Veterans' Administration to construct a Veterans Hospital in the Rio Grande Valley; and,

WHEREAS, VA Secretary McDonough said in a December 17, 2021 article in Stars and Stripes that there are also serious discussions about building a new VA hospital south of San Antonio in what's known as the Rio Grande Valley.

"We're having, believe me, intensive, top-to-bottom discussions about where we need facilities, where our facilities need to be updated, and where facilities may be overweighted," he said. "We've talked about our infrastructure needs in every market in the country."; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Administration could establish as partnership with the new University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine and other hospitals in the area

BE IT RESOLVED, the AGIF-US requests the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committee introduce, support, and vote on a bill authorizing a new Veterans Hospital/Medical Center in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas area

Voted & approved by the National Assembly of the 2023 LULAC National Convention on August 5, 2023.

Domingo Garcia
LULAC National President