



League of United Latin American Citizens

RESOLUTION TO SUPPLEMENT AND CORRECT UNITED STATES HISTORY BY INCLUDING MAJOR HISTORIC HISPANIC/LATINO CONTRIBUTIONS

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, August 28, 1565, Spanish Admiral Pedro Menéndez de Avilés landed in a Florida harbor. His convoy of eleven ships carried settlers, troops, priests and supplies from Spain. September 8, 1565 St. Augustine was established as Spanish territory.

WHEREAS, St. Augustine became the first *European city to maintain a continual* presence in the *United States*. St. Augustine is concrete proof of the early contributions of the Spanish to the United States of America. The oldest continuously inhabited European settlement in the continental United States. Franciscan Priests were the first order to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Americas.

WHEREAS, under the directions of now Governor Menéndez de Avilés, the city of St. Augustine was built following the design of the *Indies* and the *Spanish Constitution*. Under Governor Menéndez de Avilés, Fort Augustine was built to protect the harbor and settlers from the British.

WHEREAS, the Spanish brought horses with them, they were able to explore the entire continent, mountains, valleys, deserts.

WHEREAS, a common practice for the Spanish soldiers was to build their encampments next to indigenous encampments.

WHEREAS, Spanish priests encouraged single men to marry among the natives and settle in the

New World

WHEREAS, the Spanish brought farm animals with them, donkeys, cows, goats, sheep, pigs, chickens. The Spanish also brought wheat, rice, and some vegetables. They taught their indigenous neighbors farming and animal care skills.

WHEREAS, Spanish businessmen, merchants, tradesmen, farmers, ranchers, soldiers, sailors brought their wives and children with the intent to settle and inhabit the continent.

WHEREAS, Spanish General Bernardo de Galvez and his troops were made up of both Spanish citizens living in the United States and Spanish soldiers who came with General Galvez. They fought with the American colonists for America's independence from the British.

WHEREAS, many historians believe that the United States would have lost, without the military support and supplies provided by the Spanish and Mexico. Cannons, munitions, food, cattle, clothing, blankets, and even money were donated by Spain and Mexico.

WHEREAS, the history of the contributions of Spain, Mexico and the Mestizos who fought in all the wars in which the United States was engaged, has not been told. Latinos should know. Their ancestors helped build this country. Their ancestors fought to keep it free.

WHEREAS, Latinos are the largest minority in the United States, growing, they need to know historically that they belong. Our ancestors paid for that privilege... **THEIR STORIES SHOULD BE TOLD**, and

WHEREAS, there are many resources available to engage in Latino and Spanish language research, such as Church, Civil, U.S. Census, Military, Properties, Wills and Estates, Immigration, Archives, Newspapers, Ellis Island Ship records, graves, and family records. The largest collection of world Family History data/information is located in Utah. www.familysearch.org FREE Online-help available 24/7/365. FREE in-person guidance is available at any one of over 5,000 family history centers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT... THE LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS, A NATIONAL HISTORIC ORGANIZATION AND ITS MEMBER. WILL USE EVERY MEANS POSSIBLE TO CORRECT THE HISTORIC PURPOSEFUL NEGLECT OF THE HISTORIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF SPANISH/LATINOS IN THE DEVELOPMENT, EXPANSION, PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AND ITS MEMBERS WILL ENGAGE IN AND SHARE THEIR PERSONAL FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH, AS EVIDENCE AND MEANINGFUL PROOF OF THE HISPANIC/LATINO PRESENCE SINCE BEFORE WE WERE A NATION.

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

Domingo Garcia
LULAC National President