GREEN CARD VETS is a LULAC council of veterans, veteran families, Gold Star families, and community allies who are active in empowering our local communities to systemically address the exile of veterans and their families.

The League of United Latin American Citizens is the largest and oldest Hispanic organization in the United States. LULAC advances the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs.

Hernandez v. Texas, 347 U.S. 475 (1954) LULAC lawyers became the first Mexican-Americans to appear before the US Supreme Court; successfully arguing that ALL nationality groups in the US had equal protection under the 14th Amendment.
Call To Service

In February 2017, a press conference was held at Lincoln United Methodist Church in support of Miguel Perez’s fight against his deportation. Several veterans were present to show support and were asked by Pastor Emma Lozano to speak in Washington D.C. the following week. Jose Torres, Mike Palaguachi and Carlos Luna, embarked on a road-trip to a hearing with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (right); the most attended meeting in the Caucus’ history. Topics covered included Deported Veterans and Families; represented by Pueblo Sin Fronteras, Ashley Memorial Project, Familia Latina Unida Family Reunification bring our Deported Home, LULAC of Illinois, and LULAC National. In March 2017, Green Card Veterans LULAC council #5310 officially formed.

Since then, GCV members have participated in various demonstrations on behalf of Miguel Perez, Jr., related issues (e.g. DACA, family separation policies, etc.).
Thursday March 22, 2018 Mr. Perez’ access to phone and technology in jail were abruptly interrupted. Early the next day he was extracted from his cell with all his belongings in a ripped potato sack (pictured below). He was to be quietly transferred to a flight headed for Brownsville, TX. Neither his family nor legal counsel would be aware of this until that afternoon after a journalist was able to confirm. Senator Tammy Duckworth publicly demanded Homeland Security produce his whereabouts – the veteran Senator’s authority was ignored.

Mr. Perez was exiled into Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico; a place where the US State Department has an ongoing travel ban issued due to crime. Vice President Joel Taboada arrived within 36 hours of confirming his location. His mission was to escort Mr. Perez to Tijuana, BC, Mexico where other deported veterans have created a community.

Over the course of 4 days, Mr. Taboada’s experiences validated previously expressed concerns regarding Mr. Perez’ deportation. Taboada recalls: “we were watched and followed immediately upon crossing the border, we had strangers come up to us and question us on behalf of criminal organizations, and Mexican officials confirm to us that we had been followed and that they didn’t have ‘the best of intentions’ in mind.”

A few days later, GCV president Carlos Luna relieved Mr. Taboada. During his five-day stay in Tijuana with Esperanza Perez, Emma Lozano and Sara Walker of Pueblo Sin Fronteras, and North of Now Films crew, Mr. Luna was able to help Mr. Perez begin to process and cope with what had just occurred to him and begin to find resources to help him adapt and survive to life in Mexico; where resources and support networks that exist in the US today for veterans, is non-existent. Necessities such as food and shelter remain insecure; often coming from private donations and fundraising efforts by GCV and other advocate groups.
GCV: 2019 GOALS

- Data collection to better understand the scope of this phenomenon and create reports and other materials for effective advocacy - for themselves or their families;
- Build a digital library of research on topics related to the deportation of veterans to raise awareness with education;
- Sponsor more Green Card Veteran Councils;
- Collaborate to successfully apply for clemency on behalf of Miguel Perez, Jr.; and,
- Raise money and resources for finding sustainable relief to deported veterans and their families.
- Execute *Operation Welcome Home at the border.*

Hector Barajas (left with Carlos Luna in Mexico City, World Forum on Migration 2018), a once deported veteran received news of his approval for US citizenship in 2018 after his criminal offense that resulted in exile was pardoned by CA Governor Jerry Brown. An Executive pardon for Miguel could mean the same great news!
Green Card Veterans council is a membership-based 501.c(4) organization; a local charter of LULAC National. Although GCV has gotten support from LULAC National for specific tasks, GCV does not receive funding from them. Green Card Veterans maintains a checking account with US Bank; connected to a PayPal account for donations to be accepted. Our council could not function without the volunteerism of our members and generous donations and guidance from community stakeholders such as:

- Mr. Marty Castro
- Mr. Ryan McQueeny; **Midway Dispensary**
- Mr. Felipe Colonel
- Janet & Craig Duschossois
- Cesar Romero, **Romero Family Foundation**
- Pastors Emma Lozano and Walter Coleman
- Andrew Renzi & Nick Boak, **North of Now Films**
- Mr. Hector Barajas, **The Bunker**
- Mr. Allen Lynch
- **Pueblo Sin Fronteras**
- **Familia Latina Unida**
- Mr. William Lanzarotta Sr., **Hot Rags**
- **American Legion Doorman Dunn Post #547**
- **Marine Corps League Chapultepec Det. #1408**
- **American Legion Tattler Post #973**
- Ms. Blanca Vargas, **LULAC of Cicero**
- **Core Juice Bar**
- Mr. Reggie Walker
- Sara Walker, **2040 Chicago**
- **Don Elote**
- 606 Coffee Roasters
- Frank Lanzarotta
- Dr. Kathy Grant
- **Restaurant Nuevo Leon**
- Carlos Sanchez, **Bloom Quintero Real Estate**
- Jose Rojas, **Cal City Bakery**
- **XOXO Micheladas & Los Cantaritos Restaurant**
- Sharon Aguilera, **MLS Law Group**
- Daniel Nunez, **Luisi Legal Group**
- **Four Star Fit Gym**
- YSVP's **Urban Warriors**
- Coalition of Veteran Organizations (CVO)
- Chicago Veterans
- Veterans for Peace
- Maribel Serrato
- Jose Carillo
- Mr. Kevin McIntyre
- Dive Master Andrea Wendlandt
- Abbie Holland Schmit
- Ms. Juline Girts

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