NALEO Mourns Loss of Texas Pioneer and Agricultural Champion
U.S. Rep. Eligio “Kika” de la Garza II

Washington, D.C. – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) issued the following statement on the passing of Former U.S. Representative Eligio “Kika” de la Garza II:

“NALEO joins the nation and the Rio Grande Valley in mourning the passing of former U.S. Representative Eligio “Kika” de la Garza II. U.S. Rep. De la Garza’s unwavering commitment to American agriculture and our nation’s Latino community will continue to affect and inspire generations to come.

“Born Eligio de la Garza II on September 22, 1927 in Mercedes, Texas, U.S. Rep. De La Garza was part of the generations who settled in South Texas in the first part of the 18th century. After high school, U.S. Rep. De la Garza served in the U.S. Navy and Army, fighting in the Korean War as second lieutenant in the 37th Division Artillery. He went on to earn a law degree and years later received an honorary Doctor of Law degree from St. Mary’s University in San Antonio.


“NALEO will always be deeply grateful to U.S. Rep. De la Garza for paving the way for Latinos serving in public service today and in the years to come. Our hearts and thoughts are with his family, friends and colleagues at this difficult time.”

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About NALEO
The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials is the non-partisan leadership organization of the nation’s more than 6,100 Latino elected and appointed officials.