

Introduced by Senators Haynes and Oller

January 16, 2002

Senate Resolution No. 24—Relative to the Anniversary of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

1 WHEREAS, In April 1846, Mexican troops under the
2 command of General Mariano Arista crossed the Rio Grande and
3 invaded the United States. On April 25, 1846, approximately
4 2,000 men under command of Mexican General Torrejon
5 ambushed a group of U.S. soldiers led by Captain Seth Thornton,
6 killing 16 and taking the remainder as prisoners. On May 13, 1846,
7 President James K. Polk signed a Congressional Declaration of
8 War against Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, On June 16, 1846, residents of Alta California
10 revolted against Mexican rule and captured the Mexican garrison
11 at Sonoma, and proclaimed the independence of the settlements.
12 The uprising is known today as the “Bear Flag Revolt,” as the
13 rebels raised a homemade flag that carried the figure of a grizzly
14 bear, as well as a star and the words “California Republic”; and

15 WHEREAS, On July 7, 1846, Commodore John D. Sloat,
16 commander of U.S. naval forces along the Pacific coast, ordered
17 the United States flag raised at Monterey and formally claimed
18 California for the United States, promising greater political
19 freedom and more efficient government. Over the following
20 months, U.S. troops under the command of Commodore Robert F.
21 Stockton, aided by John Charles Fremont’s “California Battalion
22 of Mounted Riflemen,” captured San Francisco, San Diego, and
23 Los Angeles without bloodshed; and

1 WHEREAS, In September 1846, Mexican troops led by
2 Captain José Maria Flores attacked the new republic and gained
3 control over much of California south of San Luis Obispo. On
4 January 8 and 9, 1847, American forces under Commodore
5 Stockton and Brigadier General Stephen W. Kearny participated
6 in the Battles of Rio San Gabriel and La Mesa. The U.S. forces
7 included a company of native California lancers, led by Captain
8 Santiago E. Arguello; and

9 WHEREAS, On January 10, 1847, U.S. troops recaptured Los
10 Angeles. On January 13, 1847, Lieutenant Colonel Fremont
11 signed the Treaty of Cahuenga with the defeated insurgents, thus
12 ending the uprising in California. On September 14, 1847,
13 following the Battle for Mexico City, U.S. troops under the
14 command of General Winfield Scott marched into the Main Plaza,
15 where a force of U.S. Marines raised the American flag over the
16 National Palace, the “Halls of Montezuma”; and

17 WHEREAS, On February 2, 1848, representatives of the United
18 States and Mexican governments signed a peace agreement, the
19 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the war and settled
20 claims between the two countries. Under the treaty, the Mexican
21 government agreed to set the southern boundary of Texas and to
22 cede its largely unoccupied northern territories, in which less than
23 1 percent of its population resided. In return, the United States
24 agreed to pay \$15 million and assume \$3,250,000 in claims for
25 damages that U.S. citizens had against Mexico; and

26 WHEREAS, The United States further agreed to protect the
27 property and civil rights of Mexican citizens living within the new
28 border, to police its side of the border, and to submit any future
29 disputes between the two countries to compulsory arbitration. The
30 treaty was ratified by the United States Senate on March 10, 1848,
31 and by the government of Mexico on May 19, 1848. On July 4,
32 1848, President Polk formally proclaimed the treaty to the people
33 of the United States; and

34 WHEREAS, The Mexican War cost the United States
35 approximately \$97,500,000 and involved soldiers from California
36 and every state in the Union. More than 12,500 U.S. soldiers lost
37 their lives, including deaths caused by war-related accidents and
38 disease. In all, U.S. forces suffered a mortality rate of 153.5 per
39 1,000, much higher than the 98 per 1,000 suffered by Union forces
40 in the subsequent American Civil War; and



1 WHEREAS, The Mexican War was also notable as the United
2 States' first foreign war, the first war anywhere to be
3 photographed, the first war in which steamboats played an
4 important role, the first large-scale amphibious operation in
5 United States history, and the first war in which graduates of the
6 United States Military Academy at West Point participated.
7 Among these were many officers who would later face each other
8 across the battlefields of the American Civil War; and

9 WHEREAS, Brigadier General Zachary Taylor, who
10 successfully repulsed Mexican assaults at the Battle of Buena Vista
11 despite being outnumbered three to one, was elected as the 12th
12 President of the United States in 1848, and the land ceded under
13 the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo to the United States would later
14 comprise the States of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and
15 Texas, and parts of Colorado, Nevada, and Utah; and

16 WHEREAS, As a result of the signing and ratification of the
17 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, a state of peace has existed between
18 the United States and Mexico for the past 154 years, and California
19 was admitted as the 31st state into the Union on September 9, 1850,
20 as a free state, without ever having been a territory; and

21 WHEREAS, Now, more than 150 years after its organization
22 and admission to the Union, California has grown into the front
23 ranks of global commonwealths as an international force in trade
24 and commerce, higher education, scientific research,
25 entertainment, technology, and virtually every other aspect of
26 human creativity, and the relationship between California and
27 Mexico has grown to the extent that Mexico is now California's
28 leading trading partner. In May 1999, the then-President of
29 Mexico, Ernesto Zedillo, visited Sacramento, and in December
30 2000, Governor Gray Davis traveled to Mexico City for the
31 inauguration of President Vicente Fox; now, therefore, be it

32 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California,* That the
33 Senate hereby calls on all the people of California to join in
34 celebrating the anniversary of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo,
35 which ended the Mexican-American War, allowed California to
36 join the Union, and resulted in 154 years of peaceful relations
37 between the United States and Mexico; and be it further



- 1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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