

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 27, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**House Resolution**

**No. 16**

---

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Santiago**

April 15, 2015

---

---

House Resolution No. 16—Relative to Cinco de Mayo Week.

1 WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo, or the fifth of May, is  
2 memorialized as a significant date in the history of California and  
3 Mexico in recognition of the ~~Latinos of California who offered~~  
4 ~~their support and risked their lives to defend freedom and~~  
5 ~~democracy in both the United States and Mexico; and~~ *courage of*  
6 *the Mexican people, who defeated a better trained and equipped*  
7 *army at the “Batalla de Puebla”;* and

8 WHEREAS, Since the beginning of the American Civil War,  
9 Latinos in California have shown their support for the institutions  
10 of freedom and democracy by joining the forces of the United  
11 States Army, Cavalry, and Navy, risking their lives to defend free  
12 institutions; and

13 WHEREAS, Those who were unable to join the Armed Forces  
14 of the Union freely offered their support for President Abraham  
15 Lincoln; and

16 WHEREAS, The American Civil War, making it impossible  
17 for the United States to enforce the Monroe Doctrine, provided an  
18 opportunity for the Emperor of France, Napoléon III, to establish  
19 a monarchy in Mexico, thereby attempting to destroy democratic  
20 institutions that derive their power from the consent of the  
21 governed; and

1 WHEREAS, Latinos, including Californians, also offered their  
2 support and risked their lives in Mexico to defend freedom and  
3 democracy in that country by joining the armed forces of that sister  
4 republic; and

5 WHEREAS, Those who were unable to travel to Mexico to  
6 physically defend free institutions freely offered their support to  
7 President Benito Juárez by organizing over 122 Juntas Patrióticas  
8 Mexicanas within California to raise funds that were sent every  
9 month from California to Mexico to defray the costs of war in that  
10 country; and

11 WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo serves to remind us that the  
12 foundation of any nation and our state is its people, in their spirit  
13 and courage in the face of adversity, in the strength of their drive  
14 to achieve self-determination, and in their willingness to sacrifice  
15 even life itself in the pursuit of freedom and liberty; and

16 WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo offers an opportunity to reflect on  
17 the courage and achievements not only of the Mexican forces at  
18 Puebla, but also on the courage and achievements of Latinos here  
19 in California; and

20 WHEREAS, Achievements by Latinos in America and  
21 California include contributions to all facets of our community;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Latino voters continue to go to the polls in record  
24 numbers and influence the entrance of newly elected Latino public  
25 officials in both the Democratic and Republican parties and  
26 influence issues that encompass providing affordable housing,  
27 investing in our children, ensuring that higher education is  
28 affordable and accessible, creating good paying jobs for working  
29 families, and improving the overall quality of life for all  
30 Californians; and

31 WHEREAS, California's Latinos have contributed to the state's  
32 culture and society through their many achievements in music,  
33 food, dance, poetry, literature, architecture, entertainment, sports,  
34 and a broad spectrum of artistic expression; and

35 WHEREAS, Latinos in California have challenged the frontiers  
36 of social and economic justice, thereby improving the working  
37 conditions and lives of countless Californians; and

38 WHEREAS, Latino entrepreneurs in the United States are the  
39 fastest growing group of business owners in our economy; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2001, the Latino Caucus saw a need to recognize  
2 and honor distinguished Latinos for their contributions and  
3 dedication to California and the United States' economy and  
4 cultural life with the annual Latino Spirit Awards. These recipients  
5 are outstanding individuals who have greatly contributed to the  
6 wonderful music, poetry, literature, journalism, and entertainment  
7 of California, the United States, and the world; now, therefore, be  
8 it

9 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, That the*  
10 *Assembly urges all Californians to join in celebrating Cinco de*  
11 *Mayo, the historic day to honor the brave spirit of Latinos from*  
12 ~~*California who defended freedom and democracy in the United*~~  
13 ~~*States during the Civil War and in Mexico during the French*~~  
14 ~~*Intervention, and when the Mexican people defeated the French*~~  
15 ~~*army at the Batalla de Puebla, and to recognize the Latino*~~  
16 ~~*noncombatants in California who freely gave their votes and*~~  
17 ~~*resources to defend free institutions, and the Latinos of California*~~  
18 ~~*who fought to defend the freedom of the United States in every*~~  
19 ~~*armed conflict from the Spanish American War to the current*~~  
20 ~~*conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan; and be it further*~~

21 *Resolved, That the Assembly declares May 4 through May 8,*  
22 *2015, as Cinco de Mayo Week; and be it further*

23 *Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies*  
24 *of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.*