

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 49

Adopted in Assembly May 10, 1999

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Adopted in Senate May 6, 1999

Secretary of the Senate

This resolution was received by the Secretary of
State this _____ day of _____, 1999,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Deputy Secretary of State



RESOLUTION CHAPTER _____

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 49—Relative to Cinco de Mayo.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 49, Correa. Cinco de Mayo.

This measure would call on the people of California to join in celebrating Cinco de Mayo, the historic date of May 5, 1862, as a day to honor the valiant spirit of the brave Mexicanos who defended the town of Puebla and the Mexican Americans of today who have fought and died for the freedom of the United States of America and would declare the week of May 2 through May 8 as Cinco de Mayo Week.

WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo, or the Fifth of May, is a date of great importance to the vast communities of Mexicans and Mexican Americans in California and across the United States; and

WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo has been recognized as a significant day in the history of Mexico and California by the recent introduction of the Cinco de Mayo stamp; and

WHEREAS, On May 5, 1862, French troops by the order of Napoleon III and under the command of General Latrille, launched an invasion in the Mexican town of Puebla; and

WHEREAS, Mexican forces, determined to protect hearth and home, decided to make their stand defending the strategic town of Puebla against a hostile foreign invasion; and

WHEREAS, A spirited and courageous garrison of Mestizo and Zapotec Indians, outgunned and outnumbered over two to one, commanded by General Ignacio Zaragoza, successfully withstood a French offensive of battle-ready troops; and

WHEREAS, The French general, overconfident in his highly polished troops and underestimating the heart and desire of a handful of Mexican soldiers to do battle,



expected minor opposition from the Mexican army. Unbeknownst to the French general, the ill-equipped, untrained, poor, and hungry Mexican forces possessed much more spirit and courage than his French troops that were ranked among the finest in Europe. For the Mexican battalion, its stand against the French invasion forces involved not only a struggle against a foreign aggressor but a struggle for self-determination; and

WHEREAS, The “Batalla de Puebla” resulted in the routing of the once handsome French army by the determined, valiant, and highly spirited Mexican troops. The courageous and heroic spirit that General Zaragoza and his men displayed during this historic battle should never be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo is not only the commemoration of the defeat of the French at the town of Puebla in Mexico, but also a celebration of the virtues of courage and patriotism of all Mexicans and Mexican Americans who have fought for freedom and independence against foreign aggressors; and

WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo reminds us that the foundation of our nation is built by people from many nations and diverse cultures who share a readiness to shed blood, sweat, and tears in the pursuit of freedom and liberty; and

WHEREAS, In a broader sense, Cinco de Mayo symbolizes the right of a free people to self-determination just as Benito Juarez, the President of Mexico, said, “El respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz.” (The respect of other people’s rights is peace.); now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California hereby calls on the people of California to join in celebrating Cinco de Mayo as a day to honor the valiant spirit of the brave Mexicanos who defended the town of Puebla with corazón (heart) and might and the Mexican Americans of today who have fought and died for the freedom of the United States of America; and be it further



Resolved, That the Legislature hereby recognizes not only May 5 as Cinco de Mayo day but also the week of May 2 through May 8 as Cinco de Mayo Week; and be it further

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



Attest:

Secretary of State

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