

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 146

Introduced by Assembly Member Lara

April 23, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 146—Relative to Cinco de Mayo Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 146, as introduced, Lara. Cinco de Mayo Week.

This measure would proclaim May 1 through May 7, 2012, as Cinco de Mayo Week, and would urge all Californians to join in celebrating Cinco de Mayo.

Fiscal committee: no.

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

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

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

14 WHEREAS, The American Civil War, making it impossible
15 for the United States to enforce the Monroe Doctrine, provided an

1 opportunity for the Emperor of the French, Napoléon III, to
2 establish a monarchy in Mexico, thereby attempting to destroy
3 democratic institutions that derive their power from the consent
4 of the governed; and

5 WHEREAS, Latinos, including Californios, also offered their
6 support and risked their lives in Mexico to defend freedom and
7 democracy in that country by joining the armed forces of that sister
8 republic; and

9 WHEREAS, Those who were unable to travel to Mexico to
10 physically defend free institutions, freely offered their support to
11 President Benito Juarez by organizing over 122 Juntas Patrióticas
12 Mejicanas within California to raise funds that were sent every
13 month from California to Mexico to defray the costs of war in that
14 country; and

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

20 WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo offers an opportunity to reflect on
21 the courage and achievements not only of the Mexican forces at
22 Puebla, but also on the courage and achievements of Latinos here
23 in California; and

24 WHEREAS, Achievements by Latinos in America and
25 California include contributions to all facets of our community;
26 and

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

34 WHEREAS, California's Latinos have contributed to our culture
35 and society through their many achievements in music, food, dance,
36 poetry, literature, architecture, entertainment, sports, and across a
37 broad spectrum of artistic expression; and

38 WHEREAS, In 2001, the Latino Caucus saw a need to recognize
39 and honor distinguished Latinos for their contributions and
40 dedication to California and the United States' economy and

1 cultural life with the annual Latino Spirit Awards. These recipients
2 are outstanding individuals who have greatly contributed to the
3 wonderful music, poetry, literature, journalism, and entertainment
4 of California, the United States, and the world; and

5 WHEREAS, Latinos in California have challenged the frontiers
6 of social and economic justice, thereby improving the working
7 conditions and lives of countless Californians; and

8 WHEREAS, Latino entrepreneurs in the United States are the
9 fastest growing group of business owners in our economy; now,
10 therefore, be it

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

22 *Resolved*, That the Legislature declares May 1 through May 7,
23 2012, as Cinco de Mayo Week; and be it further

24 *Resolved*, That special mention be made that this year is the
25 150th anniversary of the Battle of Puebla; and be it further

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