
THIRD READING

Bill No: SR 79
Author: Durazo (D), et al.
Introduced: 3/28/22
Vote: Majority

SUBJECT: Cinco de Mayo Week

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution declares May 1, 2022, through May 7, 2022, as Cinco de Mayo Week.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Cinco de Mayo, or the fifth of May, is memorialized as a significant date in the history of California and Mexico in recognition of the courage of the Mexican people, who defeated a better trained and equipped army at the “Batalla de Puebla.”
- 2) Since the beginning of the American Civil War, Latinos in California have shown their support for the institutions of freedom and democracy by joining the forces of the United States Army, Cavalry, and Navy, risking their lives to defend free institutions.
- 3) The American Civil War, making it impossible for the United States to enforce the Monroe Doctrine, provided an opportunity for the Emperor of France, Napoléon III, to establish a monarchy in Mexico, thereby attempting to destroy democratic institutions that derive their power from the consent of the governed.
- 4) Latinos, including Californians, also offered their support and risked their lives in Mexico to defend freedom and democracy in that country by joining the armed forces of that sister republic.
- 5) Those who were unable to travel to Mexico to physically defend free institutions freely offered their support to President Benito Juárez by organizing over 122 Juntas Patrióticas Mexicanas within California to raise funds that were

sent every month from California to Mexico to defray the costs of war in that country.

- 6) Cinco de Mayo offers an opportunity to reflect on the courage and achievements not only of the Mexican forces at Puebla, but also on the courage and achievements of Latinos here in California.
- 7) Latino resilience ensured the eventual triumph of Union forces, and were it not for Mexico's triumph at the Batalla de Puebla, the deterrence of possible French support for Confederate troops may not have occurred and the outcome of the Civil War may have been dramatically altered.
- 8) In 2001, the Latino Caucus saw a need to recognize and honor distinguished Latinos for their contributions and dedication to the economy and cultural life of California and the United States with the annual Latino Spirit Awards. These recipients are outstanding individuals who have greatly contributed to the wonderful music, poetry, literature, journalism, and entertainment of California, the United States, and the world.

This resolution:

- 1) Urges all Californians to join in celebrating Cinco de Mayo, the historic day when the Mexican people defeated the French army at the Batalla de Puebla, and to recognize the Latino noncombatants in California who freely gave their votes and resources to defend free institutions, and the Latinos of California who fought to defend the freedom of the United States in every armed conflict from the Spanish American War to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- 2) Declares May 1, 2022, through May 7, 2022, as Cinco de Mayo Week.

Related/Prior Legislation

SR 23 (Durazo, 2021) declared May 2, 2021, through May 8, 2021, as Cinco de Mayo Week. The resolution was adopted by the Senate.

HR 36 (Robert Rivas, 2021) declared May 2, 2021, through May 8, 2021, as Cinco de Mayo Week. The resolution was adopted by the Assembly.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/5/22)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/5/22)

None received

Prepared by: Karen Chow / SFA / (916) 651-1520
4/6/22 14:13:42

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