

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 455

Recognizing the cultural and historic significance of the Cinco de Mayo holiday.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 28, 2016

Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. REID, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the cultural and historic significance of the
Cinco de Mayo holiday.

Whereas May 5, or “Cinco de Mayo” in Spanish, is celebrated each year as a date of importance by Mexican and Mexican-American communities;

Whereas the Cinco de Mayo holiday commemorates May 5, 1862, the date on which Mexicans defeated the French at the Battle of Puebla, 1 of the many battles that the Mexican people won in their long and brave fight for independence, freedom, and democracy;

Whereas the victory of Mexico over France at the Battle of Puebla represented a historic triumph for the Mexican

government during the Franco-Mexican war of 1861–1867 and bolstered the resistance movement;

Whereas the success of Mexico at the Battle of Puebla reinvigorated the spirits of the Mexican people and provided a renewed sense of unity and strength;

Whereas the French army, which had not experienced defeat against any of the finest troops of Europe in more than half a century, sustained a disastrous loss at the hands of an outnumbered and ill-equipped, but highly spirited and courageous, Mexican army;

Whereas the courageous spirit that Mexican General Ignacio Zaragoza and his men displayed during that historic battle can never be forgotten;

Whereas in a larger sense, Cinco de Mayo symbolizes the right of a free people to self-determination, just as Benito Juarez, the president of Mexico during the Battle of Puebla, once said, “El respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz”, meaning “respect for the rights of others is peace”;

Whereas the sacrifice of Mexican fighters was instrumental in keeping Mexico from falling under European domination while, in the United States, the Union Army battled Confederate forces in the Civil War;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo serves as a reminder—

- (1) that the foundation of the United States was built by individuals from many countries and diverse cultures who were willing to fight and die for freedom; and
- (2) of the close ties between the people of Mexico and the people of the United States;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo encourages the celebration of a legacy of strong leaders and a sense of vibrancy in communities; and

Whereas Cinco de Mayo serves as a reminder to provide more opportunities for future generations: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes the historic struggle of the people
3 of Mexico for independence and freedom, which
4 Cinco de Mayo commemorates; and

5 (2) encourages the people of the United States
6 to observe Cinco de Mayo with appropriate cere-
7 monies and activities.

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