

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 1014

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Texans and many other Americans will join with our
2 neighbors south of the Rio Grande on May 5, 2003, in celebrating
3 Cinco de Mayo, a holiday commemorating the legendary Mexican
4 victory over the French at the Battle of Puebla, for the spirit and
5 sentiment of this holiday echo many time-honored principles that
6 Americans hold dear; and

7 WHEREAS, After chafing under Spanish colonization for
8 several centuries, Mexico threw off the chains of colonial
9 oppression and declared herself a free and independent nation in
10 1821, but the transition to democracy was a painstaking process,
11 and the mid-19th century saw the young nation saddled with debt and
12 struggling to maintain a stable representative government; and

13 WHEREAS, Meanwhile, the imperial powers of Europe sought to
14 recover some of the rich territory they had lost during
15 independence movements of the late 18th and early 19th centuries;
16 when President Benito Juarez declared a two-year moratorium on
17 Mexico's European debts in 1861, Spain, France, and England joined
18 forces to invade Mexico and force repayment of the debt; and

19 WHEREAS, By 1862, England and Spain had withdrawn their
20 forces, but the remaining French army had begun the march inland
21 toward Mexico City; Ignacio Seguin Zaragoza, a native of Presidio
22 La Bahia near present-day Goliad, Texas, strategically deployed his
23 men in the hills above Puebla, a town southeast of the capital,
24 while he in turn led a vanguard of troops to harass the advancing

1 French forces; and

2 WHEREAS, Once they reached Puebla, the invaders encountered
3 fierce and expertly coordinated resistance from Zaragoza's
4 soldiers; during long hours of pitched battle, the French lost
5 hundreds of men and finally fell back in retreat; and

6 WHEREAS, The victory at Puebla on May 5, 1862, was a defining
7 moment for the Republic of Mexico, for by conquering one of the
8 world's finest armies, the courageous Mexican forces struck a
9 valiant blow against imperialism and made a lasting contribution to
10 the struggle for democracy; and

11 WHEREAS, Today, the anniversary of that famous battle is
12 celebrated in many U.S. cities as well as Mexico, but Cinco de Mayo
13 celebrations in Texas are unique because they pay tribute to our
14 shared heritage with Mexico; Ignacio Zaragoza, born in Texas while
15 it was still part of the Mexican state of Coahuila, holds a
16 distinctive place in history as a true Tejano, a son of both Texas
17 and Mexico, and his determination to honor and defend "la patria,"
18 the homeland, is as inspiring today as it was more than a century
19 ago; and

20 WHEREAS, Traditionally observed with festive music, dancing,
21 games, festivals, school assemblies, colorful arts and crafts, and
22 a wide array of culinary treats, Cinco de Mayo celebrations have
23 truly become part of the rich cultural fabric of the Lone Star State
24 and thus are deserving of special legislative recognition; now,
25 therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
27 Legislature hereby commemorate the observance of 2003 Cinco de Mayo

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1 festivities around the state.