

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 79

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Benito Juarez, who was instrumental in bringing
2 sweeping changes to Mexican government and society during the
3 mid-19th century, was born on March 21, 1806; and

4 WHEREAS, A Zapotec Indian and native of Oaxaca, Benito Juarez
5 was a teenager when he gained the patronage of the family in whose
6 home his sister was working as a servant; tutored privately at
7 first, he graduated from the Franciscan seminary in Oaxaca in 1827
8 and received a law degree from the Institute of Science and Art in
9 1834; and

10 WHEREAS, Attracted to politics at an early age, he spent
11 virtually all of his adult life either in government or waging
12 opposition; he served as a city councilman for Oaxaca from 1831 to
13 1833, during which time he strongly supported Indian rights, and in
14 the 1840s he served as a civil judge and federal deputy; from 1847
15 to 1852 he held the governorship of Oaxaca; and

16 WHEREAS, Driven into exile when Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna
17 came to power in 1853, Sr. Juarez joined the successful
18 revolutionary movement against him; after Santa Anna himself was
19 forced into exile, Sr. Juarez became minister of justice, and while
20 in that post he was responsible for a law that limited the
21 jurisdiction of church courts to ecclesiastical cases; and

22 WHEREAS, After serving again as governor of Oaxaca, this
23 rising national leader became minister of the interior in November
24 1857 and the next month took office as chief justice of the supreme

1 court; when a military coup deposed the government, he became
2 president, in accordance with the constitutional line of
3 succession, and led the victorious resistance to the usurpers in
4 the Reform War of 1858-1861; and

5 WHEREAS, Benito Juarez was elected to the presidency in 1861;
6 soon, however, he found himself fighting the French, who captured
7 Mexico City in 1863; once again he and his troops prevailed, with
8 the United States clearly favoring their cause, and in 1867 he was
9 again elected president; and

10 WHEREAS, Known for his commitment to the indigenous people of
11 Mexico and for his support for equal rights and economic reform,
12 President Juarez died while working at his desk in the National
13 Palace on July 17, 1872; in 1888, the city of El Paso del Norte was
14 renamed Ciudad Juarez in his honor; and

15 WHEREAS, Benito Juarez is a towering figure in the history of
16 Mexico; he was instrumental in the transfer of political power from
17 creoles to mestizos, in asserting the authority of civil law, and in
18 preserving the nation's autonomy in the face of foreign invasion,
19 and it is a privilege to honor the memory of this national hero;
20 now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
22 Legislature hereby pay special tribute to the life of Mexican hero
23 and president Benito Juarez on March 21, 2014, the 208th
24 anniversary of his birth.