

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 71

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 84th Texas  
22 Legislature hereby pay special tribute to the life of Mexican hero  
23 and president Benito Juarez on March 21, 2016, the 210th  
24 anniversary of his birth.