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R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Texans and many other Americans are joining with our
2 neighbors south of the Rio Grande on May 5, 2016, to celebrate Cinco
3 de Mayo, a holiday honoring the legendary Mexican victory over the
4 French at the Battle of Puebla in 1862; and

5 WHEREAS, After chafing under Spanish colonization for
6 several centuries, Mexico declared itself a free and independent
7 nation in 1821, but the transition from colonialism was a difficult
8 one, and the mid-19th century saw the young nation struggling to
9 maintain a stable government; imperial powers in Europe seeking to
10 take advantage of Mexico's troubles and recover some of the rich
11 territory they had lost during recent independence movements joined
12 forces to invade the country in 1861; and

13 WHEREAS, Although England and Spain eventually withdrew, the
14 French army continued its invasion and by 1862 had begun the march
15 inland toward Mexico City; led by the young general Ignacio
16 Zaragoza Seguin, a small, poorly armed Mexican militia countered
17 the well-outfitted French soldiers at Puebla, a town southeast of
18 the capital, and, despite being vastly outnumbered, prevailed and
19 soundly defeated the French army; and

20 WHEREAS, That victory at Puebla on May 5, 1862, was an
21 important event in the history of the Republic of Mexico, for by
22 conquering one of the world's finest military forces the courageous
23 Mexican soldiers struck a blow against imperialism and foreign
24 domination and marked an extraordinary triumph for Mexican

1 independence and pride; and

2 WHEREAS, Today, the anniversary of that famous battle is
3 observed in many U.S. cities as well as in Mexico, but Cinco de Mayo
4 celebrations in Texas are unique because they pay tribute to our
5 shared heritage with Mexico; General Zaragoza, born in Presidio La
6 Bahia near present-day Goliad, Texas, holds a distinctive place in
7 history as a true Tejano, a son of both Texas and Mexico, and his
8 determination to honor and defend "la patria," the homeland, is as
9 inspiring now as it was more than 150 years ago; and

10 WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo pays homage to one of the notable
11 events in Mexico's past while celebrating its music, food, art, and
12 cherished traditions, and the annual event has truly become a
13 special part of the rich cultural fabric of the Lone Star State;
14 now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
16 Legislature hereby commemorate Cinco de Mayo, 2016, and encourage
17 its observance around the state.