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H.R. No. 60

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, 2017, 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 rule for several
6 centuries, Mexico declared itself a free and independent nation in
7 1821, but the transition from colonialism was a difficult one, and
8 the mid-19th century saw the young nation struggling to maintain a
9 stable government; in the winter of 1861-1862, with the central
10 government in Mexico severely weakened, France, Britain, and Spain
11 jointly occupied the port of Veracruz for the avowed purpose of
12 securing the payment of debt owed by Mexico to European creditors;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, When it became evident that France actually intended
15 to conquer Mexico, Britain and Spain began withdrawing their troops
16 on April 11, 1862; some two weeks later, the French army began to
17 march on Mexico City; its advance, however, was dramatically
18 checked at the town of Puebla, where the Mexican general Ignacio
19 Zaragoza Seguin, leading a small, poorly armed, and greatly
20 outnumbered force, defeated the French on May 5, 1862; and

21 WHEREAS, That victory at Puebla was an important event in the
22 history of the Republic of Mexico, for by repelling one of the
23 world's finest military forces, the courageous Mexican soldiers not
24 only struck a blow against foreign domination but also fired a

1 powerful sense of national pride; and

2 WHEREAS, Today, the anniversary of the Battle of Puebla is
3 observed in many U.S. cities as well as in Mexico; Cinco de Mayo
4 celebrations in Texas enjoy a particular resonance because General
5 Zaragoza was a Tejano, born in Presidio La Bahia, near present-day
6 Goliad; the determination of this able officer and his men to defend
7 "la patria," the homeland, is as inspiring now as it was more than
8 150 years ago; and

9 WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo festivities pay homage to one of the
10 notable events in Mexico's past while highlighting that country's
11 music, food, art, and cherished traditions, and the annual
12 celebration has become a special part of the rich cultural fabric of
13 the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
15 Legislature hereby commemorate Cinco de Mayo, 2017, and encourage
16 its observance around the state.