

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 84

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, March 21, 2017, marks the 211th anniversary of the  
2 birth of the influential Mexican lawyer and politician Benito  
3 Juarez; 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 worked as a servant; tutored privately at first, he  
7 graduated from the Franciscan seminary in Oaxaca in 1827 and went on  
8 to receive a law degree from the Institute of Science and Art; and

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

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

21           WHEREAS, After serving again as governor of Oaxaca, this  
22 rising national leader became minister of the interior in November  
23 1857 and the next month took office as president of the supreme  
24 court; when a military coup deposed the government, he became

1 president, in accordance with the constitutional line of  
2 succession, and led the victorious resistance to the usurpers in  
3 the Reform War of 1858-1861; and

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

9 WHEREAS, Known for his commitment to the indigenous people of  
10 Mexico and for his support for equal rights and economic reform,  
11 President Juarez died while working at his desk in the National  
12 Palace on July 18, 1872; in 1888, the city of El Paso del Norte was  
13 renamed Ciudad Juarez in his honor; and

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

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
21 Legislature hereby pay special tribute to the life of Mexican hero  
22 and president Benito Juarez on March 21, 2017, the 211th  
23 anniversary of his birth.