

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 92

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Chicano History Week commences on February 2, 2017,  
2 the 169th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe  
3 Hidalgo; and

4 WHEREAS, A crucial document in the annals of both the United  
5 States and Mexico, the 1848 treaty ended two years of war between  
6 those nations; Mexico recognized the annexation of Texas by the  
7 United States, accepted the Rio Grande as the state's southern  
8 border, and gave up about half of its territory, including  
9 modern-day California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and parts of  
10 Colorado, Nevada, and Utah, in exchange for \$15 million; and

11 WHEREAS, Approximately 80,000 Mexicans lived in the ceded  
12 area at the time, and the vast majority chose to become United  
13 States citizens; although the treaty granted protection of their  
14 property and civil rights, and although subsequent adjudication in  
15 Texas confirmed most of their claims, Mexican Texans in the area  
16 between the Rio Grande and the Nueces River faced mounting pressure  
17 and discrimination as the years passed and as more Anglos moved into  
18 the region; within decades, Mexican Texans owned almost no land at  
19 all; and

20 WHEREAS, Organized efforts to combat discrimination against  
21 Latinos in Texas date to the early 1900s; in the 1960s and 1970s,  
22 members of the Chicano movement joined the long struggle to win  
23 social justice for Mexican Americans; composed largely of younger  
24 Latinos, the movement focused attention on failed promises

1 contained in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo; at the same time, this  
2 movement insisted on the value of Mexican culture and traditions  
3 and gave impetus to the inclusion of the Mexican American  
4 experience in discussions of U.S. history; and

5 WHEREAS, The contributions of Mexican Americans are integral  
6 to the story of this nation, and by gaining a better understanding  
7 of Chicano history, we deepen our appreciation of the rich heritage  
8 that is shared by all Americans; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
10 Legislature hereby recognize February 2-8, 2017, as Chicano History  
11 Week and encourage all Texans to learn more about the important role  
12 that Chicanos have played in the saga of the Lone Star State.