

By: Romero

H.R. No. 615

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, March 21, 2025, marks the 219th anniversary of the
2 birth of Benito Juárez, a revered statesman and national hero of
3 Mexico; and

4 WHEREAS, Benito Juárez rose from humble beginnings to become
5 the first Indigenous president of Mexico and served five terms,
6 spanning two civil wars; born in 1806 to Zapotec Indian parents, he
7 graduated from the Franciscan seminary in Oaxaca and earned a law
8 degree from the Institute of Sciences and Arts; he supported
9 Indigenous rights from the very beginning of his career in
10 government, as a member of the Oaxaca city council; and

11 WHEREAS, After winning election to the national Chamber of
12 Deputies, Mr. Juárez helped draft the transformational
13 Constitution of 1857, which abolished slavery and granted complete
14 equality under the law; it protected individual Mexicans with a
15 bill of rights, including freedom of speech, assembly, and the
16 press; one provision of that charter, known as the Ley Juárez,
17 drastically limited the power and privilege of the Catholic Church
18 and the military; and

19 WHEREAS, Conservatives rebelled against democratization, but
20 President Juárez led liberal forces to victory in the War of the
21 Reform; he then triumphed over foreign occupation in a second war,
22 known as the French Intervention, securing the future of the
23 Republic; his leadership ushered in a period known as La Reforma,
24 the Reform, a political and social revolution that brought about

1 the expropriation of church lands, the subordination of the army to
2 civilian control, and the separation of church and state in public
3 affairs; President Juárez died in office in 1872, and 16 years
4 later, the city of El Paso del Norte was renamed Ciudad Juárez in
5 his honor; and

6 WHEREAS, Benito Juárez is justly revered as one of Mexico's
7 greatest heroes, and every March, a national holiday reminds
8 citizens of the vital role he played in the history of the Americas;
9 his famous words, "*El respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz*," or
10 "Respect for the rights of others is peace," continue to inspire
11 individuals across the globe to promote the principles of diplomacy
12 and coexistence; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
14 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life and legacy of Benito
15 Juárez and commemorate the 219th anniversary of his birth.