

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 167

Recognizing the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 5, 2011

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. REID, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mr. BENNET) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

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## RESOLUTION

Recognizing the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo.

Whereas May 5, or “Cinco de Mayo” in Spanish, is celebrated each year as a date of great importance by the Mexican and Mexican-American communities;

Whereas the Cinco de Mayo holiday commemorates May 5, 1862, the date on which the Battle of Puebla was fought by Mexicans who were struggling for their independence and freedom;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo has become one of the most famous Mexican national holidays and is celebrated annually by nearly all Mexicans and Mexican-Americans, north and south of the United States-Mexico border;

Whereas the Battle of Puebla was but one of the many battles that the courageous Mexican people won in their long and brave struggle for independence and freedom;

Whereas the French, confident that their battle-seasoned troops were far superior to the almost amateurish Mexican forces, expected little or no opposition from the Mexican army;

Whereas the French army, which had not experienced defeat against any of the finest troops of Europe in more than half a century, sustained a disastrous loss at the hands of an outnumbered, ill-equipped, and ragged, but highly spirited and courageous, Mexican force;

Whereas after three bloody assaults on Puebla in which more than a thousand gallant Frenchmen lost their lives, the French troops were finally defeated and driven back by the outnumbered Mexican troops;

Whereas the courageous and heroic spirit that Mexican General Zaragoza and his men displayed during that historic battle can never be forgotten;

Whereas many brave Mexicans willingly gave their lives for the causes of justice and freedom in the Battle of Puebla on Cinco de Mayo;

Whereas the sacrifice of the Mexican fighters was instrumental in keeping Mexico from falling under European domination;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo serves as a reminder that the foundation of the United States is built by people from many nations and diverse cultures who are willing to fight and die for freedom;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo also serves as a reminder of the close ties between the people of Mexico and the people of the United States;

Whereas in a larger sense, Cinco de Mayo symbolizes the right of a free people to self-determination, just as Benito Juarez once said, “El respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz” (“The respect of other people’s rights is peace”); and

Whereas many people celebrate during the entire week in which Cinco de Mayo falls: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) recognizes the historical struggle for inde-  
3       pendence and freedom of the people of Mexico; and

4               (2) calls upon the people of the United States  
5       to observe Cinco de Mayo with appropriate cere-  
6       monies and activities.

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