

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. SJ0007

Resolution declaring Chicano history week.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Esquibel, F.

A BILL

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION to declare February 2 through 8, 2015,
2 as Chicano History Week in the state of Wyoming.

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4 WHEREAS, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, February 2, 1848,
5 is commonly regarded as the birth date of Chicanos; and

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7 WHEREAS, mindful that history reveals a host of
8 contradictions regarding the nationality of people whose
9 lands were ceded to other countries by treaty, it is a
10 privilege and a pleasure to declare February 2 through 8,
11 2015, Chicano History Week in Wyoming. We extend accolades
12 of tribute, high praise, appreciation and appropriate
13 recognition to these North Americans and their descendants
14 whose citizenship, under the terms of the Treaty of
15 Guadalupe Hidalgo, literally changed overnight from Mexico
16 to the United States of America. They have contributed to

1 the economy, development and growth of the state of Wyoming
2 and the nation, serving the arts, business, media,
3 industry, agriculture, education and society in myriad
4 ways; and

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6 WHEREAS, despite being promised the rights of citizenship
7 by treaty, the early Mexican Americans found themselves
8 subjected to losing their land, homes and property. Basic
9 rights were denied, language and culture suppressed and
10 opportunities for employment, education and political
11 representation thwarted. As with many national boundary
12 changes resulting from war treaties, historical
13 documentation was destroyed and constitutional rights were
14 abrogated, leaving them stripped of their identity, unique
15 culture and recorded contributions to society. The presumed
16 superiority of their conquerors resulted in promoting a
17 disparaging image of those of Mexican descent; and

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19 WHEREAS, historian Rodolfo Alvarez has divided the
20 development of this segment of our population into four (4)
21 categories: the creation generation which is pre-1900; the
22 migrant generation which is allied with Mexico by culture,
23 language and loyalty; the Mexican-American generation which

1 regarded themselves as American citizens of Mexican
2 descent; and the Chicano generation of today, which is a
3 combination of, but distinctly separate from the previous
4 three (3). Chicanos recognize they are the result of a
5 unique confluence of histories, cultures, languages and
6 traditions—the mezcla, which is La Raza. During the Chicano
7 Movement of the 1960's and 1970's, valiant Chicanos and
8 Chicanas adamantly decried capricious attempts by the
9 dominant Anglo culture to mold them into a monocultural,
10 monolingual image; and

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12 WHEREAS, in a complex and diversified cultural society, we
13 must understand, accept and appreciate all traditions and
14 lifestyles in order to eliminate prejudice and other
15 effects of stereotyping which have plagued our nation for
16 centuries. It is truly appropriate to declare February 2
17 through 8, 2015, as Chicano History Week in Wyoming and to
18 accord recognition to the cultural and intellectual
19 development of a people with a proud past, inclusive of not
20 only American accomplishments but also those of Spanish
21 origin which predated the first English settlement in the
22 United States by over half a century.

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1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE
2 LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:

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4 **Section 1.** That the members of this legislative body
5 declare February 2 through 8, 2015, as Chicano History Week
6 in the state of Wyoming. We commemorate the signing of the
7 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1848, and
8 recognize the contributions of Chicanos across the nation
9 and in the state of Wyoming.

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11 **Section 2.** That the secretary of state of Wyoming
12 transmit copies of this resolution to appropriate officials
13 of high standing in the state and to representatives of the
14 coalition of Chicano and Latino organizations in support of
15 this resolution as enduring testimony of the high esteem in
16 which the ancestors and descendants of Chicanos and
17 Chicanas are held by the Wyoming Legislature.

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(END)