

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1867

A RESOLUTION recognizing May 5 as Cinco de Mayo and encouraging the celebration of Mexican and Hispanic culture and history in Kansas.

WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo celebrates the triumph of a small Mexican army over the French army that outnumbered them by more than two-to-one at the “Battalla de Puebla” on May 5, 1862, in the Mexican town of Puebla; and

WHEREAS, The Mexican victory at Puebla became a symbol of Mexican unity and patriotism and inspired the Mexican people to fight with renewed determination; and

WHEREAS, May 5, or Cinco de Mayo, is a date of great importance for the Mexican and Mexican-American communities; and

WHEREAS, The battle commemorated by Cinco de Mayo is important to Mexico and Latin America for many reasons, especially because it filled the Mexican people with great pride and enthusiasm for their country, demonstrated that some of the best troops in Europe could be defeated by a small but determined group and symbolized the people’s right to self-determination and national sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, The United States sent forces to Mexico to help drive out the French and Mexico became one of the staunchest and most loyal allies of the United States, joining the United States in fighting many wars including World War II and the Persian Gulf War; and

WHEREAS, Mexicans never forget who their friends are, and neither do Americans, which is why Cinco de Mayo is a celebration of freedom and liberty, two ideals that Mexicans and Americans have fought shoulder-to-shoulder to protect ever since the 5th of May, 1862; and

WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo is a national holiday in Mexico celebrated with speeches and parades and is also celebrated in many cities in the United States where it has become an opportunity to celebrate Hispanic culture; and

WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo is celebrated in Kansas towns, especially in Kansas City, Wichita and Garden City, where festivities include Hispanic musical groups, Mexican food, children’s dance troupes performing traditional Spanish dances and Hispanic artisans displaying their wares; and

WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo has become a celebration for both Hispanics and non-Hispanics alike, educating people about Mexican history and celebrating Hispanic culture: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we recognize May 5 as Cinco de Mayo, commemorate the battle of Puebla and encourage the celebration of Mexican and Hispanic culture and history in Kansas; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Legislature of the State of Kansas hereby calls on all the people of Kansas to join in celebrating Cinco de Mayo as a day to honor the valiant spirit of the brave Mexicans who defended the town of Puebla and the Mexican-Americans of today who fought and died for the freedom of the United States of America.

Senate Resolution No. 1867 was sponsored by Senator Donald Betts, Jr.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*