

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2-8, 2016, "CHICANO-HISPANO  
3 HISTORY WEEK" AT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

4  
5 WHEREAS, the conclusion of the Mexican-American War on  
6 February 2, 1848 saw the formal relinquishment of Mexican  
7 claims to its former territory in Texas and the transfer of  
8 five hundred twenty-five thousand square miles of additional  
9 land from Mexico to the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, former Mexican lands now comprise all or part  
11 of eight states in the American west, including Arizona,  
12 California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming and  
13 Texas, which became part of the United States following the  
14 war; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1848, tens of thousands of people, who had  
16 been Mexican citizens and who were then termed "Mexican  
17 Americans", lived in and comprised large portions of the  
18 populace in each of the new American territories and states;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, these new American citizens lived in  
21 communities established as Spanish settlements and colonies  
22 hundreds of years earlier; spoke Spanish not English; and had  
23 developed a unique and rich culture built on Spanish and  
24 Mexican origins and influenced by neighboring American Indian  
25 communities; and

1           WHEREAS, most Mexican American communities in the 1800s  
2 were farming and ranching communities, and a key element of  
3 their economy was communal use of community lands, a legal  
4 construct that had almost vanished in the rest of the United  
5 States; and

6           WHEREAS, after the end of the Mexican-American War in  
7 1848, the single largest governmental, social and cultural  
8 challenge faced by New Mexico and much of the American west  
9 was how to accommodate the wave of migration from the  
10 midwestern and eastern states while maintaining the  
11 established economy and culture; and

12           WHEREAS, the generations following the Mexican-American  
13 War were marked by various systematic failures to meet this  
14 challenge. In many cases, the existing culture was displaced  
15 and the established residents were dispossessed of their  
16 lands; and

17           WHEREAS, New Mexico is unique in the American west in  
18 that although there was broad economic disruption of Mexican  
19 American communities following the war, it was not nearly as  
20 extensive in New Mexico as in other states. Further, not  
21 only were many of the pre-war cultural traditions retained by  
22 New Mexico's community land grants, acequias, moradas and  
23 barrios, but those traditions continue to be revitalized by  
24 each new generation; and

25           WHEREAS, in the mid-1900s, the descendants of "Mexican

1 Americans" began to refer to themselves more and more as  
2 "Chicanos", a term allowing for cultural identity but also  
3 distinctly American; and

4 WHEREAS, the decades following World War II witnessed  
5 the emergence of dynamic Chicano influences on the national  
6 American culture, politics and economics; and

7 WHEREAS, poets, novelists and movie writers such as  
8 Josephina Niggli, Rudolfo Anaya, Sandra Cisneros and Luis  
9 Valdez have created a cultural dialogue that has expanded the  
10 meaning of "American"; and

11 WHEREAS, American jazz, pop and rock and roll have been  
12 heavily influenced by musicians and bands such as Eduardo  
13 "Lalo" Guerrero, Al Hurricane, Don Tostí, Carlos Santana, Los  
14 Lobos, Linda Ronstadt and Ozomatli; and

15 WHEREAS, the structure of America's politics and economy  
16 has changed, and Chicanos have gained a stronger footing  
17 within American society, in part through the activism of  
18 Edward Ross "Ed" Roybal and the community service  
19 organization; Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, who founded  
20 the united farm workers; and Pedro "Pete" Tijerina, Jr., and  
21 the Mexican American legal defense and education fund; and

22 WHEREAS, today, Chicano children sometimes dream of  
23 being astronauts and might not even realize they would be  
24 following in the footsteps of former space shuttle crew  
25 members Ellen Ochoa and José M. Hernandez; and

1           WHEREAS, more recently, many Chicanos and other  
2 Americans of Spanish cultural heritage have adopted the term  
3 "Hispano" as a more acceptable and applicable term for  
4 cultural identity in New Mexico;

5           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
6 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the week of  
7 February 2-8, 2016, be declared "Chicano-Hispano History  
8 Week" at the house of representatives; and

9           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
10 transmitted to the secretary of cultural affairs.

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