

REFERENCE TITLE: Chicano history week

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-second Legislature
Second Regular Session
2016

HCR 2034

Introduced by
Representatives Mendez, Andrade, Bolding, Cardenas, Espinoza, Fernandez,
Gabaldón, Larkin, Plumlee, Rios: Alston, Clark, Gonzales, Hale, McCune
Davis, Wheeler

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 2 THROUGH FEBRUARY 8, 2016 AS CHICANO HISTORY WEEK IN ARIZONA.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, the date that the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed,
2 February 2, 1848, is commonly regarded as the birth date of Chicanos; and

3 Whereas, people of Mexican origin and descent have greatly contributed
4 to the economy, development and growth of this state and the nation, serving
5 the arts, business, media, industry, agriculture, education and society in
6 myriad ways; and

7 Whereas, despite being promised the rights of citizenship by treaty,
8 the early Mexican-Americans were stripped of their land, homes and property;
9 and

10 Whereas, the early Mexican-Americans faced seemingly insurmountable
11 hardships; their basic rights were denied, their language and culture were
12 suppressed and their opportunities for employment, education and political
13 representation were thwarted; and

14 Whereas, as with many national boundary changes resulting from war
15 treaties, the historical documentation of the early Mexican-Americans was
16 destroyed and their constitutional rights were abrogated, leaving them
17 stripped of their dignity, unique culture and recorded contributions to
18 society; and

19 Whereas, the presumed superiority of the conquerors of the
20 Mexican-American people resulted in the promotion of a disparaging image of
21 those of Mexican descent; and

22 Whereas, historian Rodolfo Alvarez has divided the development of the
23 Mexican-American segment of our population into four categories: the pre-1900
24 creation generation, the migrant generation, which is allied with Mexico by
25 culture, language and loyalty, the Mexican-American generation, consisting of
26 individuals who regard themselves as American citizens of Mexican descent,
27 and the Chicano generation of today, which is a combination of, but
28 distinctly separate from, the previous three; and

29 Whereas, Chicanos recognize that they are the result of a unique
30 confluence of histories, cultures, languages and traditions: the mezcla,
31 which is La Raza; and

32 Whereas, during the Chicano Movement of the 1960s and the 1970s,
33 valiant Chicanos and Chicanas adamantly decried capricious attempts by the
34 dominant Anglo culture to mold them into a monocultural, monolingual image;
35 and

36 Whereas, in a complex and diversified cultural society, it is essential
37 to understand, accept and appreciate all traditions and lifestyles in order
38 to eliminate prejudice and the other effects of stereotyping that have
39 plagued our nation for centuries; and

40 Whereas, the people of this state must recognize that the cultural and
41 intellectual development of the proud Mexican-American people includes not
42 only American accomplishments but also those of Spanish origin, which
43 predated the first English settlement in the United States by over half a
44 century.

1 Therefore

2 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the
3 Senate concurring:

4 1. That the Members of the Legislature proclaim February 2 through
5 February 8, 2016 as Chicano History Week in Arizona to commemorate the
6 signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1848.

7 2. That the Members of the Legislature extend accolades of tribute,
8 high praise, appreciation and appropriate recognition to these North
9 Americans and their descendants whose citizenship, under the terms of the
10 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, literally changed overnight from Mexican to
11 American.