A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE FEBRUARY 2-8, 2014, AS CHICANO HISTORY WEEK IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

WHEREAS, The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, February 2, 1848, is commonly regarded as the birth date of Chicanos; and
WHEREAS, Mindful that history reveals a host of contradictions regarding the nationality of people whose lands were ceded to other countries by treaty, it is a privilege and a pleasure to declare February 2-8, 2014, Chicanos History Week in Michigan. We extend accolades of tribute, high praise, appreciation, and appropriate recognition to these North Americans and their descendants whose citizenship, under the terms of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, literally changed overnight from Mexico to the United States of America. They have contributed to the economy, development, and growth of the state of Michigan and the nation, serving the arts, business, media, industry, agriculture, education, and society in myriad ways; and
WHEREAS, Despite being promised the rights of citizenship by treaty, the early Mexican-Americans found themselves subjected to losing their land, homes, and property. Basic rights were denied, language and culture suppressed, and opportunities for employment, education, and political representation thwarted. As with many national boundary changes resulting from war treaties, historical documentation was destroyed and constitutional rights were abrogated, leaving them stripped of their identity, unique culture, and recorded contributions to society. The presumed superiority of their conquerors resulted in promoting a disparaging image of those of Mexican descent; and
WHEREAS, Historian Rodolfo Alvarez has divided the development of this segment of our population into four categories: the creation generation which is pre-1900, the migrant generation which is allied with Mexico by culture, language, and loyalty, the Mexican-American generation which regarded themselves as American citizens of Mexican descent, and the Chicano generation of today, which is a combination of, but distinctly separate from the previous three. Chicanos recognize that they are the result of a unique confluence of histories, cultures, languages, and traditions—the mezcla, which is La Raza. During the Chicano Movement of the 1960’s and 1970’s, valiant Chicanos and Chicanas adamantly decried capricious attempts by the dominant Anglo culture to mold them into a monocultural, monolingual image; and
WHEREAS, in a complex and diversified cultural society, we must understand, accept, and appreciate all traditions and life-styles in order to eliminate prejudice and other effects of stereotyping which have plagued our nation for centuries. It is truly appropriate to declare February 2-8, 2014, as Chicano History Week in Michigan and to accord recognition to the cultural and intellectual development of a people with a proud past, inclusive of not only American accomplishments but also those of Spanish origin which predated the first English settlement in the United States by over half a century; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That the members of this legislative body declare February 2-8, 2014, as Chicano History Week in the state of Michigan. We commemorate the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1848, and recognize the contributions of Chicanos across the nation and in the state of Michigan; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to appropriate officials of high standing in the state and to representatives of the coalition of Chicano and Latino organizations in support of this resolution as enduring testimony of the high esteem in which the ancestors and descendants of Chicanos and Chicanas are held by the Michigan Legislature.

Adopted by the House of Representatives, January 29, 2014.

 CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
RESOURCES FOR TEACHING ABOUT CHICANOS AND CHICANAS

Examples of Resources that Teachers and their Students Can Use:
(This list is intended to be exemplary and not exhaustive, and it is assumed all activities for the classroom will be appropriate for the grade level and/or the ability of the students.)

For High School Seniors: Reading, examination, discussion, and writings on Chapter 6 (pertaining to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo) from the book called Chicano Manifesto by Armando Rendon.

The web sites below are available through YOU-TUBE:

ZOOT SUIT RIOTS:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwlINn5DEL1c

CHICANO! QUEST FOR HOMELAND:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHQ4XS-DrgM

CHICANO! STRUGGLE IN THE FIELDS:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1ql1al5AVpY
(This series consists of a series of three films connected to the title "Chicano!")

MEXICAN AMERICAN WAR:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6nE3srC_3c4

FROM THE FIELDS TO ACADEMIA:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yV6zoxOmgEc
Chicano Latino Studies Program at MSU

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Additional inquiry into the availability to films about Chicanos and Chicanas is available from:

WKAR Documentary Films Information (RE: Chicanos and Chicanas)

Phone: 517 884-4700 Fax: 517 432-3858

Mailing Address
404 Wilson Road Room 212
Communication Arts & Sciences Bldg.
Michigan State University
East Lansing MI 48824-1212

Consult CAROLopedia!
with your questions about WKAR Programs and Reception
Carol has a full encyclopedia of WKAR help and information at her fingertips. Send your questions about WKAR programming, or how to receive it, to
CAROLopedia@wkar.org
or call 517 884-6990
Additional Hollywood films that come to mind are:

Zoot Suit

La Bamba

Bless Me Ultima (The book by the same title written by Rodolfo Anaya is also available.)

Additional Topics Which Could be Researched on the Internet by students are:

Famous Mexican American Inventors
http://inventors.about.com/od/famousinventors/tp/mexican.htm

Famous Mexican American Medal of Honor Winners

Famous Chicano Authors and Poets

Famous Chicano Football Players

Famous Chicano Baseball Players

Famous Chicano Boxers

Famous Chicano Golfers

Famous Chicanos in Other Sports

Famous Chicano Directors and/or Film Makers

Famous Chicano Musicians and Music Groups

Famous Chicano Political Figures
Ideas for Celebrating Chicano History Week

❖ Have high school libraries display Chicano History Week reading options for students.

❖ Have the cafeterias serve Mexican food and make a big "Happy Chicano History Week" sign on that day for all the students to see.

❖ Have all the teachers in all of the social studies classes encourage students to come to class with a "factoid" about famous Mexican Americans (not Mexican, Puerto Rican, Central American, South American nor from Spain).

❖ Challenge all grades of high school students in English classes to tell a "factoid" about a famous Chicano or Chicana (Mexican American) writer, author, poet, etc.

❖ Challenge all grades of high school students to name famous Chicanos or Chicanas (Mexican American) who have English names (such as Vickie Carr, Linda Ronstadt, Jimmy Smits, Anthony Quinn, John Gavin, Ritchie Valens, etc., etc.).

❖ Have students name all of the states in the United States of America which had or have Spanish names.

Submitted by

Margarito J. Garcia III, Ph. D.