



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York's greatest strength is its diversity and we appreciate the culture and history of our various communities of people, all of whom add to the greatness of this state, and we are therefore pleased to join with the Mexican American population in celebrating "Cinco de Mayo" which commemorates an event of historical significance and profound meaning to its people, both in the United States and in the homeland of Mexico; and

Whereas, the "Fifth of May" celebration commemorates the defeat of the French army by the Mexicans at the Battle of Puebla in 1862 – a conflict that grew out of France's efforts, led by Napoleon III, to invade Mexico and to create a new Mexican empire headed by Maximilian and his wife Carolota in the beleaguered country; and

Whereas, a powerful French army left the port of Veracruz to attack Mexico City, its members mistaken in their belief that the Mexican people would give up without fighting and, under the command of General Zaragoza and Colonel Porfirio Diaz, later to be Mexico's President, the poorly-equipped yet spiritually robust Mexican army met and defeated the overconfident French troops; and

Whereas, this victory came to symbolize the determination of the people of Mexico to remain free and independent and, today, its anniversary provides an opportunity to honor the noteworthy history of the country of Mexico and to recognize the perseverance and strength of its citizenry; and

Whereas, each year, "Cinco de Mayo" recalls the indomitable spirit of the Mexican people who continue to make significant contributions to our state and nation, and also serves to enhance appreciation, among us all, for precious freedom and its value in our daily lives; and

Whereas, this event marked by festivities that illustrate the pride of the Mexican community is a fitting means by which to commemorate a defining moment in Mexican history, and it is furthermore appropriate that New Yorkers of all cultural backgrounds join with our Mexican-American friends in celebrating the two ideals of friendship and liberty which Mexicans and Americans have fought to protect, ever since the 5th of May, 1862;

Now, Therefore, I David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2008 as

CINCO DE MAYO

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-fifth day of April in the year two thousand eight.

David A. Paterson

Governor

[Signature]

Secretary to the Governor