



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 16-1009

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Salazar, Arndt, Becker K., Buckner, Coram, Court, Danielson, Duran, Esgar, Fields, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Hamner, Kagan, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Lebsock, Lee, Lontine, McCann, Melton, Mitsch Bush, Moreno, Navarro, Pabon, Pettersen, Primavera, Priola, Rankin, Rosenthal, Roupe, Ryden, Singer, Tyler, Vigil, Williams, Winter, Wist, Young, Hullinghorst; also SENATOR(S) Ulibarri, Aguilar, Baumgardner, Carroll, Cooke, Crowder, Donovan, Garcia, Grantham, Guzman, Heath, Hill, Hodge, Holbert, Jahn, Jones, Kefalas, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Neville T., Newell, Roberts, Scheffel, Scott, Sonnenberg, Steadman, Tate, Todd, Woods, Cadman.

CONCERNING DECLARING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2-8, 2016, AS CHICANO HISTORY WEEK IN COLORADO.

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

WHEREAS, People of Indigenous and Mexican origin and descent have greatly contributed to the economy, development, and growth of this state 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 were stripped of their land, homes, and property; and

WHEREAS, The early Mexican-Americans faced seemingly insurmountable hardships; their basic rights were denied, their language and culture were suppressed, and their opportunities for employment, education, and political representation were thwarted; and

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

WHEREAS, The illusory superiority of the supposed conquerors of the Mexican-American people resulted in the promotion of a disparaging image of those of Mexican descent; and

WHEREAS, Chicanos recognize that they are the result of a unique confluence of histories, cultures, languages, and traditions; and

WHEREAS, The State of Colorado served as a pivotal battleground for Chicano rights starting in the 1960s that still continues today; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's very own Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales, a world-renowned boxer, poet, and political activist, founded the Crusade for Justice and convened the first-ever national Chicano Youth Leadership Conference in March 1969; and

WHEREAS, From the Conference came El Plan Espiritual de Aztlán, a manifesto demanding self-determination for Chicanos; and

WHEREAS, Gonzales also released the internationally and critically acclaimed poem "Yo Soy Joaquín", which still speaks to the Chicano struggle to achieve economic and social justice in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Gonzales recognized that the political establishment has always been adverse to the Chicano community, particularly in education, so he and his wife, Geraldine Gonzales, along with several families, founded Escuela Tlatelolco in 1970 to lay a foundation of academic excellence, cultural pride, confidence, and leadership for all children; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's contribution to the Chicano Movement also served as a catalyst in the founding of incredible organizations in the San Luis Valley, Pueblo, Denver, and on college campuses statewide, many of which exist today; and

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

WHEREAS, The people of this state must recognize that the cultural and intellectual development of the proud Chicano community includes not only American accomplishments but also accomplishments that predate the first English settlements in the United States by centuries; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventieth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

That we, the members of the General Assembly of the state of Colorado, hereby proclaim the week commencing February 2, 2016, as Chicano History Week in Colorado, in recognition of the multitude of Chicanos and Chicanas throughout the great state of Colorado, and their Indigenous and Mexican ancestors, who had the courage and determination to stand up, face, and improve the economic, educational, political, and social lives of Chicanos and Chicanas locally and nationally.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the family of Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales; the Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy, and Research Organization; Servicios de la Raza; the Colorado Latino Forum; the Executive Director of the Colorado History Museum; the Executive Director of the Denver Public Library; the Superintendents of all Colorado school districts; the mayors of all

Colorado municipalities; all Colorado county commissioners; all Colorado public university college presidents; and Colorado's Congressional delegation.

Dickey Lee Hullinghorst
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Bill L. Cadman
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Effie Ameen
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE