CF 7lr1952

By: Senator Madden	
Introduced and read first time: January 17, 1997	
Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs	
Committee Report: Favorable	
Senate action: Adopted	
Read second time: February 18, 1997	

RESOLUTION NO.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION ____

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 Participation of Hispanics in the American Revolution

- 3 FOR the purpose of acknowledging the participation of Hispanics in the American
- 4 Revolution; honoring Hispanic contributions to American independence; urging
- 5 historians to a deeper examination and dissemination of the role of Hispanics in the
- 6 accomplishment of American independence; and urging that study of these
- 7 contributions be made an integral part of the social studies and history courses
- 8 taught in the State of Maryland.
- 9 WHEREAS, The independence of the United States was achieved not only from
- 10 the efforts of American patriots, but also due to the assistance of foreign governments,
- 11 soldiers, and individuals who supported them; and
- 12 WHEREAS, In spite of being an important factor in the victory, the participation of
- 13 Hispanics in the War of Independence is rarely mentioned in the history textbooks of this
- 14 nation; and
- WHEREAS, Thousands of Hispanics fought the British and their allies during the
- 16 American Revolution in what today is the United States, winning crucial battles that
- 17 eased the pressure of the Crown's forces against the armies of General George
- 18 Washington; and
- 19 WHEREAS, Spanish Louisiana Governors Don Luis de Unzaga and Don Bernardo
- 20 de Galvez provided assistance to the revolutionary governments of Maryland,
- 21 Pennsylvania, and Virginia in the form of arms, war materiel, and funds to wage
- 22 campaigns and protect themselves against the British; and
- WHEREAS, This assistance allowed American General George Rogers Clark to
- 24 wage his successful campaigns west of those colonies and also was instrumental in
- 25 preventing the British from capturing Fort Pitt in Pennsylvania and Fort Henry in
- 26 Virginia, which guarded the last leg of the only remaining major patriot supply route at

- 1 the time, that which originated in Spanish New Orleans, traversed the Mississippi and
- 2 Ohio Rivers and ended overland in Philadelphia; and
- WHEREAS, Don Juan de Miralles, a wealthy Spanish merchant established in
- 4 Havana, Cuba, was appointed as the Royal Envoy of King Carlos III of Spain to the
- 5 United States in 1778, and while travelling with his secretary, Don Francisco Rendon, to
- 6 the revolutionary capital of Philadelphia, he initiated the direct shipment of supplies from
- 7 Cuba to Baltimore, Maryland; Charleston, South Carolina; and Philadelphia; aside from
- 8 making significant stopovers in Williamsburg, Virginia, and in North Carolina; and
- 9 WHEREAS, After Spain declared war on Britain in June, 1779, the victories of
- 10 General Don Bernardo de Galvez in the lower Mississippi and at Baton Rouge, Mobile,
- 11 and Pensacola dismantled British resupply of close to 10,000 Native-American warriors
- 12 who were a major concern for General Washington because of the raids they had been
- 13 carrying out in the western areas of the colonies; and
- 14 WHEREAS, The Maryland Loyalist Regiment, a force comprised of Marylanders
- 15 from the Eastern Shore, was also defeated and captured during the campaigns of General
- 16 Galvez; and
- 17 WHEREAS, The victories of General Galvez resulted, additionally, in the capture
- 18 of four other British regiments, including: the Pennsylvania Loyalists, the elite British
- 19 69th Foot, also known as the Royal Americans, the British 16th Foot, and the German
- 20 Waldeck Regiment; and
- 21 WHEREAS, Fighting under the command of General Galvez were men from Spain,
- 22 Cuba, Mexico, Santo Domingo, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Costa Rica, as well as from the
- 23 United States, France, Germany, Italy, and Native-American Nations such as the
- 24 Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Creek; and
- WHEREAS, The United States Senate has recognized that the actions of those men
- 26 and their brave commander were very important for the triumph of American efforts in
- 27 the Carolinas and Georgia, and also for the final victory against Lord Charles Cornwallis
- 28 in Yorktown, Virginia; and
- 29 WHEREAS, The success of the French and American armies at Yorktown would
- 30 have been difficult to achieve without the donation of 500,000 pounds tournois that were
- 31 collected in six hours by prominent citizens of Havana, Cuba, for the campaign, and
- 32 without an additional 1,000,000 pounds that were subsequently donated by King Carlos
- 33 III of Spain for the same purpose; and
- 34 WHEREAS, The Yorktown campaign not only consisted of a siege by land but also
- 35 by sea, undertaken by the French fleet under Admiral de Grasse, whose ships had been
- 36 readied and supplied with 100,000 pesos from the Spanish colonies of Santo Domingo and
- 37 Puerto Rico that were handed over by Spanish authorities to the French for said purpose;
- 38 and
- 39 WHEREAS, An important element in the French naval victory at the Battle of the
- 40 Virginia Capes, which sealed the fate of Lord Cornwallis' army at Yorktown, was the
- 41 numerical superiority enjoyed by Admiral de Grasse's fleet, which resulted from a
- 42 Spanish naval squadron taking over the protection of the French colonies in the

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- 1 Caribbean to allow the Admiral the benefit of maintaining his fleet intact, and thus obtain
- 2 the superiority in numbers deemed necessary to defeat the British; and
- 3 WHEREAS, Hardly any of these Hispanic contributions to American independence
- 4 are mentioned in the current history textbooks of this nation; now, therefore, be it
- 5 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
- 6 General Assembly acknowledges the pivotal role of Spain and Spanish America in the
- 7 triumph of the American Revolution, and also recognizes General Bernardo de Galvez
- 8 and his men for their significant contributions and achievements in this respect; and be it
- 9 further
- 10 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of Maryland hereby urges historians
- 11 nationwide to pursue a deeper examination and dissemination of the role played by
- 12 Hispanics in the accomplishment of American independence as well as in the
- 13 development and progress of the United States in general, and that study of these
- 14 contributions be made an integral part of the social studies and history courses taught in
- 15 the State; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
- 17 Legislative Reference to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland; the
- 18 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; the
- 19 Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates; and Nancy S.
- 20 Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools, 200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore,
- 21 Maryland 21201.