

Resolution

ENROLLED HOUSE

RESOLUTION NO. 1016

By: Stone, Babinec, Baker, Bennett
(Forrest), Bennett (John), Biggs,
Blancett, Bush, Caldwell, Calvey,
Cannaday, Casey, Cleveland, Cockroft,
Condit, Coody, Derby, Dollens,
Downing, Dunlap, Dunnington, Echols,
Enns, Faught, Fetgatter, Ford,
Fourkiller, Frix, Gann, Goodwin,
Griffith, Hall, Hardin, Henke,
Hilbert, Hoskin, Humphrey, Inman,
Jordan, Kannady, Kerbs, Kouplen,
Lawson, Lepak, Loring, Lowe, Martin,
Martinez, McBride, McCall, McDaniel,
McDugle, McEachin, McEntire, Meredith,
Montgomery, Moore, Mulready, Munson,
Murdock, Murphey, Newton, Nichols,
Nollan, O'Donnell, Ortega, Osborn
(Leslie), Osburn (Mike), Ownbey, Park,
Perryman, Pfeiffer, Proctor, Renegar,
Ritze, Roberts (Dustin), Roberts
(Sean), Rogers, Russ, Sanders, Sears,
Strohm, Tadlock, Teague, Thomsen,
Vaughan, Virgin, Walke, Wallace,
Watson, West (Josh), West (Kevin),
West (Rick), West (Tammy), Williams,
Worthen, Wright and Young

A Resolution declaring May 1, 2017, to be Hispanic Cultural Day in Oklahoma in recognition of the heritage and culture of Hispanics and the immense contributions of Hispanics to the State of Oklahoma.

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma celebrates Hispanic Cultural Day on May 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Hispanics or Latinos are those people who identify their origin as heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Hispanic countries are Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain, Uruguay, and Venezuela; and

WHEREAS, Hispanics in Oklahoma in the twenty-first century trace their roots to all nineteen Spanish-speaking Latin American nations and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Until the 1960s Hispanics in Oklahoma were almost exclusively of Mexican descent; and

WHEREAS, beginning in the 1960s the non-Mexican Hispanic population of Oklahoma also significantly grew. Puerto Ricans, who comprise the second largest Hispanic group in Oklahoma, usually come to the state as members of the armed forces or civilian employees at such places as Fort Sill, Altus Air Force Base, Tinker Air Force Base and Vance Air Force Base and have remained after completing their enlistment period or upon retirement; and

WHEREAS, Oklahomans of Cuban ancestry have comprised the third largest Hispanic group in the state, but their number remains relatively small. In 2000 Oklahomans of Cuban descent totaled approximately 1700, or 1 percent of the Hispanic population, and they typically hold managerial, professional, military, or business positions; and

WHEREAS, people who trace their ancestry to the Spanish-speaking nations of Central and South America are a rapidly growing segment of Oklahoma's Hispanic population. Guatemalans, Hondurans, Salvadorans, Colombians, Peruvians, and Venezuelans constitute the largest contingents of Central and South American newcomers and live predominantly in the Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and Lawton areas; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as Oklahoma City's Latino Development Agency and Legal Aid of Western Oklahoma facilitated the adjustment of Hispanic immigrants. Civic associations such as the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), American G.I. Forum, Oklahoma Association of Hispanic Professionals and Hispanic Chamber of Commerce all voice Hispanic concerns. Spanish-language newspapers in major urban areas discuss community affairs and enable businesses and public agencies to reach more effectively a growing

Spanish-speaking clientele. Spanish-language radio stations across the state offer news programs, public announcements, and popular music; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance of ethnic identity and promotion of cultural pride is important to Oklahoma Hispanics. For more than a century Mexicans have commemorated national patriotic events such as the Cinco de Mayo and 16 de September (Mexico's Independence Day). In 1991 Oklahoma officially established September 15 to October 15 as "Hispanic Month". Many Hispanics continue to mark the "Dia de la Raza" (Columbus Day), and Colombians, Peruvians, Panamanians, and others celebrate their mother country's achievement of independence; and

WHEREAS, groups such as the Hispanic Heritage Association in Oklahoma City and the Hispanic American Foundation of Tulsa are devoted to the maintenance of traditional customs, dances, and music; and

WHEREAS, from 2010 to 2015, the number of Hispanics living in the state doubled to 400,000. Hispanics made up ten percent of Oklahoma's 3.9 million people. Recent demographic trends suggest that they will play an increasingly important role in Oklahoma's future; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 10,000 Hispanic-owned businesses in Oklahoma. The buying power of Oklahoma Hispanics has reached \$7.8 billion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 56TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT all Oklahomans celebrate the heritage and culture of Hispanics in Oklahoma and recognize the immense contributions of Hispanics to this state.

THAT May 1, 2017, is hereby declared to be Hispanic Cultural Day in Oklahoma.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 1st day of May,
2017.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____
day of _____, 20 _____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.
By: _____