

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 7

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

A RESOLUTION

To commend the pivotal contributions made by Bernardo de Gálvez and other Hispanic people to the success of the American Revolution.

WHEREAS, the United States achieved independence not only through the efforts of American Revolutionaries but also because of the contributions and commitment of allied foreign powers like Spain; Spain entered the war as a French ally in 1779 and provided support to revolutionaries by means of funds and supplies and by land and sea military operations; and

WHEREAS, the first foreign weapons for the Revolution came from Spain in early 1775 as a result of a petition from the Congress of Massachusetts; these supply lines were achieved using the long-established commercial relations between coastal merchants and Spanish traders such as Diego de Gardoqui from Bilbao; and

WHEREAS, Spain appointed Juan de Miralles as representative to the Continental Congress of Philadelphia in 1779 and had several meetings about strategy and funding matters with George Washington in his Sommerville and Morristown headquarters in New Jersey; he passed away in May 1780 due to illness contracted during his mission; and

WHEREAS, Spain opened its ports to the Continental Navy ships and United States privateers; Spain also sent a huge combat force of eleven thousand soldiers and twelve thousand sailors aboard a hundred ships to Havana in 1780 to fight in America; and

WHEREAS, Bernardo de Gálvez was a military commander and governor of Spanish Louisiana who, like his predecessor Luis de Unzaga, continued to send supplies to the American rebels up the Mississippi river during the Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, de Gálvez had an army of Spanish, French, African American, Mexican, Cuban, Native American, and Anglo-American troops and led the effort of Spain against British possessions along the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico, which both came under threat during a crucial point in the war; and

WHEREAS, de Gálvez and his troops defeated the British at battles in Baton Rouge; Natchez, Mississippi; and Mobile, Alabama; in 1781, he led the longest siege conducted in America during the revolution, which lasted for two months in Pensacola, Florida, and his troops captured the capital of British West Florida; although wounded, he demonstrated bravery that forever endeared him to the United States soldiers; and

WHEREAS, on December 9, 2014, a portrait of de Gálvez was hung in the Capitol of the United States, and seven days later, the Congress of the United States approved a joint resolution to grant him honorary posthumous United States citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Spanish troops were commanded by Fernando de Leyva during the defense of St. Louis, Missouri; the Spanish presence in the upper Missouri and the capture of Fort Saint Joseph, Illinois, prevented Great Britain from seizing the Western territories and launching operations against the Continental Army; and

WHEREAS, other Hispanic individuals fought in the Revolutionary War, including Jorge Farragut and Miguel Yznardy in North Carolina and South Carolina, along with others who joined the ranks of the Continental Army and Navy; Spain sent military supplies and funds to the Continental Congress throughout the Revolutionary War and tasked de Gardoqui with the management of these resources; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of Hispanics who were captured and taken as prisoners suffered and died aboard British prison ships, many of which were stationed in Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, the decisive victory at the battle of Yorktown, Virginia, was made possible by funds raised for Spanish authorities by Francisco de Saavedra and Hispanic people from Havana, Puerto Rico, and Mexico; these funds accounted for a month of wages for the Continental Army and funded additional French reinforcements that joined the campaign; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Hispanic soldiers and sailors fought on land and sea from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic, to the Caribbean and to Central America; these soldiers were of decisive strategic importance for American independence; and

WHEREAS, Spain conducted military operations with Hispanic militiamen under the command of Matias de Gálvez in the coasts of Nicaragua and Guatemala from 1780 to 1782, expelling British forces in the area and preventing them from using these locations as military bases for fighting in North America; Spanish troops from Havana transported aboard U.S. ships captured the islands of the Bahamas from the British in 1782.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the pivotal contributions made by Bernardo de Gálvez and many other Hispanic people during the American Revolution; does hereby acknowledge the pivotal role of Spain and Hispanic America in the triumph of the American Revolution; and does hereby urge that their role in American history be taught in schools, printed in publications, shown in museums, and honored accordingly.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES