

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 WHEREAS, the decisive victory at the battle of Yorktown, Virginia, was made
29 possible by funds raised for Spanish authorities by Francisco de Saavedra and Hispanic
30 people from Havana, Puerto Rico, and Mexico; these funds accounted for a month of wages

1 for the Continental Army and funded additional French reinforcements that joined the
2 campaign; and

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

6 WHEREAS, Spain conducted military operations with Hispanic militiamen under
7 the command of Matias de Gálvez in the coasts of Nicaragua and Guatemala from 1780 to
8 1782, expelling British forces in the area and preventing them from using these locations as
9 military bases for fighting in North America; Spanish troops from Havana transported
10 aboard U.S. ships captured the islands of the Bahamas from the British in 1782.

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

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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2026 Regular Session

Bayham

Commends the pivotal contributions made by Bernardo de Gálvez and other Hispanic people during the American Revolution.