

Texas Representative Roberto R. Alonzo's



Capitol Report



**2016 Texas Independence Day**

Last Wednesday, March 2, 2016, marked the 180th year that Texas has celebrated its independence from Mexico back in 1836. The holiday commemorates the date that the Texas Declaration of Independence was adopted after the Texas Revolution. It was signed the next day and Texans were finally able to claim the state as their own. The Republic of Texas remained sovereign for almost exactly ten years, after which Texas joined the United States. Texas is the only state to enter the nation by treaty, rather than annexation.

Texas Independence Day is recognized as an official holiday and is celebrated across the state in a variety of ways. This year festivities ensued at the Texas State Cemetery where a memorial ceremony for the veterans of the Texas Revolution took place. Reenactors brought history to life and were dressed in historically accurate clothing. A musket was fired during the memorial ceremony to honor the men and women who led Texas to independence. Celebrations are held statewide and often include festivals, band music, and chili cook-offs.

**" We, as Texans, possess a great deal of pride for our state and its rich culture and history. I encourage parents to talk to your children about the importance of Texas Independence Day, and teachers please emphasize the significance of this state holiday, "** urged Rep. Roberto Alonzo.

This holiday also happens to coincide with Sam Houston Day, which recognizes the birthday of soldier and politician Sam Houston. Houston is remembered for rallying Texas troops to victory over Mexico at the Battle of San Jacinto, among many other accomplishments.



**Tejanos Role in the Winning of Texas**

Although Tejanos were a crucial faction in the fight for Texas independence, their sacrifices and heroism is often forgotten or down played. The story of the great Texas rebellion is most notably told as a battle between Anglo settlers and the Mexican government. However, the roots of the rebellion lie deep within the Tejano community and include influential figures such as Jose Antonio Navarro and Lorenzo de Zavala, who risked death with the other signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence.

Many Tejanos made the difficult decision to cast their lots with the mostly American-immigrant volunteers who made up the Texan army. Tejanos had been in the Valley, in San Antonio and South Texas, in Nacogdoches and East Texas for generations. They were moved to join in the fight in hopes of holding onto their land and businesses, and keeping their families secure. Tejanos played a key role in the winning of Texas independence.

**"We cannot genuinely grasp the importance of Texas Independence Day without fully appreciating the Tejanos involved in the struggle. The history of the Texas rebellion is incomplete without recognizing heroes such as Seguin, Navarro and De Zavala,"** stated Rep. Alonzo.

While the full extent of Tejano participation is not known, historical research indicates that Tejanos and Anglo colonists participated equally in the fight for Texas Independence.



**Rep. Alonzo visits with NAACP members at the Freedom Fund Awards Scholarship Gala**