What is Cinco de Mayo?

El Cinco de Mayo is celebrated in Mexico and the United States. It is the Fifth of May that commemorates President Benito Juarez and the Mexican army's defeat of Austrian Archduke Maximillian and Napolean's forces in 1862 in Puebla, Mexico. It proved to be a very decisive victory for both the United States of Mexico and the United States of America.

Ironically, there is much in common in that era of history for both countries and presidents. Benito Juarez is often referred to as the "Abe Lincoln of Mexico" because of his legendary honesty and his deep devotion to the common people. Born in the State of Ozxaca in 1806, Juarez was a full-blooded Indian. Orphaned at the age of three, he rose from working as a houseboy and through self study was able to become a law student. Juarez went on to hold various government posts as did Lincoln. In 1861 he became President of Mexico. Also like Lincoln, he was known for wearing a simple black suit and cape with a black stovepipe hat.

Early in 1862, Juarez learned that Napolean was sending Maximillian of Austria with an elite French army to establish rule in Mexico, and then perhaps move on to the USA. Since the United States was engaged in a Civil War, virtually most of the country was vulnerable to outside invasion from the French and Austrian armies. Juarez alerted Lincoln and indicated that he would be surprising the French on the night of May 4th. Victory was gained on the morning of the Fifth of May. The battle ended with Mexican General Zaragoza and French General Lorencz dueling with swords, whereupon General Lorencz met his Waterloo.

I am delighted in providing this history so as to share with you the meaning of such an important event for both countries.





Joe Moussaed's

presents

Izzy's 19th Annual Cinco de Mayo Fiesta

May 5, 2007

2 p.m.

Bien Venidos Amigos! Izzy's 19th Annual Cinco de Mayo Program May 5, 2007

Welcome Emcee John Tye

Music by Speedy Juan "The Jerk"

American National Anthem

Invocation Don Cannon, Ret. G/Sgt. USMC

Remarks Lisa Canales Grand Marshal

Ballet Folklorico Imagenes Mexicanas

Continuous Music by

D.J. and Radio Host Freddy Gutierrez

Jalapeno Eating Contest
Sponsored by Hiedelberg Distributing

The Tony Orlando Review

Best Sombrero or Derby Hat Contest
Sponsored by The Claddagh Irish Pub

Tribute to Cornelio Reyna y Los Relampagos by Homero Ortiz

Grito Contest Sponsored by Mancy's Italian Grill

Luna's *Los Renegades*



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