

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 72

Supporting the goals and ideals of Dominican Heritage Month.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 30, 2017

Mr. ESPAILLAT submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of Dominican Heritage
Month.

Whereas the House of Representatives is proud to recognize
and commemorate Dominican Heritage Month, an ob-
servance that celebrates the contributions of Dominican-
Americans;

Whereas, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, we rec-
ognize and pay tribute to those who foster cultural pride
and enhance the profile of diverse communities across the
United States;

Whereas since the initial wave of Dominican migration in the
1960s to the most recent arrivals of today, Dominicans
have worked hard to contribute to the national identity
of the United States, educating people on their customs
and enriching the quality of the Nation's shared future;

Whereas the Dominican Republic enjoys a well-built relationship with the United States on trade and investment that has expanded since the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA–DR) entered into force on March 1, 2007;

Whereas contributions from Dominican-Americans can be found in every facet of United States life, including fashion designer Oscar de la Renta, Pulitzer Prize winner Junot Diaz, Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez, and baseball giant David Ortiz, known as “Big Papi”;

Whereas many of the hemisphere’s first institutions were established on the shores of the Dominican Republic, including the first cathedral and the oldest university;

Whereas Dominicans are freedom loving people who first began their campaign for their independence in 1831 under the leadership of Juan Pablo Duarte, who formed a secret political military organization named La Trinitaria (The Trinity) that led to the end of the Haitian occupation and transformed the Dominican Republic into an independent, self-sufficient nation;

Whereas, after the long and hard fought campaign for freedom from Haiti, a ceremonial musket shot fired on February 27, 1844, marked the Dominican Republic’s first official Independence Day;

Whereas it is appropriate that the United States reserve the period between January 21 to February 27 to celebrate and honor Dominican heritage;

Whereas it would be befitting to celebrate Dominican heritage beginning on January 21, The Day of the Procession of Altagracia, the Dominican Republic’s most important religious celebration;

Whereas it would also be befitting to end the period of Dominican heritage on February 27, the Dominican Republic's Independence Day;

Whereas it would give the Nation the opportunity to acknowledge and applaud the economic, cultural, and social contributions Dominican-Americans have made to the United States; and

Whereas it would also give the Nation an opportunity to consider the many Dominican achievements, on the island and in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the goals and ideals of Dominican
3 Heritage Month;

4 (2) supports the establishment of a national
5 month of Recognition for Dominican-Americans to
6 honor the Dominican people and their contributions;
7 and

8 (3) urges the people of the United States to ob-
9 serve a national month of recognition for Domini-
10 can-Americans with appropriate ceremonies, pro-
11 grams, and activities.

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