

Cuba to Baltimore, Maryland; Charleston, South Carolina; and Philadelphia; aside from making significant stopovers in Williamsburg, Virginia, and in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, After Spain declared war on Britain in June, 1779, the victories of General Don Bernardo de Galvez in the lower Mississippi and at Baton Rouge, Mobile, and Pensacola dismantled British resupply of close to 10,000 Native-American warriors who were a major concern for General Washington because of the raids they had been carrying out in the western areas of the colonies; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland Loyalist Regiment, a force comprised of Marylanders from the Eastern Shore, was also defeated and captured during the campaigns of General Galvez; and

WHEREAS, The victories of General Galvez resulted, additionally, in the capture of four other British regiments, including: the Pennsylvania Loyalists, the elite British 69th Foot, also known as the Royal Americans, the British 16th Foot, and the German Waldeck Regiment; and

WHEREAS, Fighting under the command of General Galvez were men from Spain, Cuba, Mexico, Santo Domingo, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Costa Rica, as well as from the United States, France, Germany, Italy, and Native-American Nations such as the Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Creek; and

WHEREAS, The United States Senate has recognized that the actions of those men and their brave commander were very important for the triumph of American efforts in the Carolinas and Georgia, and also for the final victory against Lord Charles Cornwallis in Yorktown, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, The success of the French and American armies at Yorktown would have been difficult to achieve without the donation of 500,000 pounds tournois that were collected in six hours by prominent citizens of Havana, Cuba, for the campaign, and without an additional 1,000,000 pounds that were subsequently donated by King Carlos III of Spain for the same purpose; and

WHEREAS, The Yorktown campaign not only consisted of a siege by land but also by sea, undertaken by the French fleet under Admiral de Grasse, whose ships had been readied and supplied with 100,000 pesos from the Spanish colonies of Santo Domingo and Puerto Rico that were handed over by Spanish authorities to the French for said purpose; and

WHEREAS, An important element in the French naval victory at the Battle of the Virginia Capes, which sealed the fate of Lord Cornwallis' army at Yorktown, was the numerical superiority enjoyed by Admiral de Grasse's fleet, which resulted from a Spanish naval squadron taking over the protection of the French colonies in the Caribbean to allow the Admiral the benefit of maintaining his fleet intact, and thus obtain the superiority in numbers deemed necessary to defeat the British; and

WHEREAS, Hardly any of these Hispanic contributions to American independence are mentioned in the current history textbooks of this nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General Assembly acknowledges the pivotal role of Spain and Spanish America in the