

## Casa de España 4th of July Celebration

In his address to the Joint meeting of the House and the Senate held at the House of Representatives on June 2, 1976, Juan Carlos I, King of Spain, declared: “In this year of the Bicentennial, it is with pleasure that I recall the role that Spaniards, and Spain, with her diplomatic, political, financial, naval and military resources, played in the global struggle whose victory received the recognition of the Independence of the United States”. In 2010 the National Society chartered a SAR Society in Spain.



A young Colonel named Bernardo de Gálvez became the Governor of Louisiana in 1777. The new Governor quickly prohibited the British navy from operating in the Mississippi waters and opened the port of New Orleans to trade with the rebel colonists. While the Spanish army and the navy played an important role in the struggle for the Independence of the United States from its bases in Louisiana and Cuba, Fray Junípero Serra, the father and founder of California sent a dispatch dated June 15, 1780, to the Spanish Missions in California asking the friars to pray for the victory of Spain and her allies over the British, and later Soldados in the Presidios contributed two pesos each, and every Native American contributed one peso. The amount collected was delivered to the Viceroy of Mexico, who, in turn, sent it to support Spain’s armies in the Caribbean.



During a 2005 California SAR Society meeting, a plaque honoring the financial contribution of the Spanish Soldados and Native Americans was placed within Presidio Park. The plaque dedication program led to joint celebrations of the 4th of July in Balboa by Casa de España (House of Spain) and the San Diego SAR Chapter.

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