Bernardo de Gálvez, Honorary US Citizen



Bernardo de Gálvez, by Mariano Salvador Maella, 1784. (Cortesía de la familia De Haya-Gálvez. Asociación Bernardo de Gálvez. Málaga.)

España jugó un papel crucial en la Guerra de Independencia de los Estados Unidos y contribuyó de forma decisiva al nacimiento de la nueva nación. En 2014, el Senado y la Cámara de Representantes de los Estados Unidos de América, en sesión conjunta, concedieron la ciudadanía honoraria a Bernardo de Gálvez, cuyas victorias contra el ejército británico en Pensacola, Florida, y Mobile, Alabama, constituyeron una ayuda fundamental al Ejército Continental. Es el reconocimiento más elevado que los Estados Unidos pueden conceder a una persona de otro país. Los Estados Unidos habían concedido la ciudadanía honoraria únicamente en siete ocasiones durante su historia. Gálvez fue "un héroe de la Guerra de Independencia que arriesgó su vida por la libertad del pueblo de los Estados Unidos y suministró provisiones, inteligencia militar y un gran apovo al esfuerzo bélico".

One Hundred Thirteenth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Friday, the third day of January, two thousand and fourteen

Joint Resolution

Conferring honorary citizenship of the United States on Bernardo de Gálvez y Madrid. Viscount of Galveston and Count of Gálvez.

Whereas the United States has conferred honorary citizenship on 7 other occasions during its history, and honorary citizenship is and should remain an extraordinary honor not lightly conferred nor frequently granted;

Whereas Bernardo de Gálvez y Madrid, Viscount of Galveston and Count of Gálvez, was a hero of the Revolutionary War who risked his life for the freedom of the United States people and provided supplies, intelligence, and strong military support to the war effort;

Whereas Bernardo de Gálvez recruited an army of 7,500 men made up of Spanish, French, African-American, Mexican, Cuban, and Anglo-American forces and led the effort of Spain to aid the United States' colonists against Great Britain;

Whereas during the Revolutionary War, Bernardo de Gálvez and his troops seized the Port of New Orleans and successfully defeated the British a battles in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Natchez, Mississippi, and Mobile, Alabama;

Whereas Bernardo de Gálvez led the successful 2-month Siege of Pensacola, Florida, where his troops captured the capital of British West Florida and left the British with no naval bases in the Gulf of Mexico.

Whereas Bernardo de Gálvez was wounded during the Siege of Pensacola, demonstrating bravery that forever endeared him to the United States soldiers;

Whereas Bernardo de Gálvez's victories against the British were recognized by George Washington as a deciding factor in the outcome of the Revolutionary War;

Whereas Bernardo de Gálvez helped draft the terms of treaty that ended the Revolutionary War;

Whereas the United States Continental Congress declared, on October 31, 1778, their gratitude and favorable sentiments to Bernardo de Gálvez for his conduct towards the United States;

Whereas after the war, Bernardo de Gálvez served as viceroy of New Spain and led the effort to chart the Gulf of Mexico, including Galveston Bay, the largest bay on the Texas coast;

Whereas several geographic locations, including Galveston Bay, Galveston, Texas, Galveston County, Texas, Galvez, Louisiana, and St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, are named after Bernardo de Gálvez;

Whereas the State of Florida has honored Bernardo de Gálvez with the designation of Great Floridian; and

Whereas Bernardo de Gálvez played an integral role in the Revolutionary War and helped secure the independence of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Bernard de Gálvez y Madrid, Viscount of Galveston and Count of Gálvez, is proclaimed posthumously to be an honorary citizen of the United

Joint Resolution conferring honorary citizenship of the United States on Bernardo de Gálvez y Madrid, 2014. (Public Law 113-229, 113th Congress, congress.gov)

Spain played an integral role in the Revolutionary War and helped secure the independence of the United States. In 2014, the US Senate and House of Representatives conferred honorary citizenship on Bernardo de Gálvez, whose victories against the British in Pensacola, Florida, and Mobile, Alabama, provided crucial support to the Continental Army. It is the highest honor that the United States can confer upon a person who is a citizen of another country. The US had previously granted honorary citizenship on only seven other occasions. As stated in the congressional resolution, Gálvez "was a hero of the Revolutionary War who risked his life for the freedom of the United States people and provided supplies, intelligence, and strong military support to the war effort."













