***Independence Day of Mexico in Harrisburg, PA***

***September 6th, 2022***

**Buenas tardes a todos,**

**Good afternoon, everyone,**

**On behalf of the Government of Mexico and of everyone at the Mexican Consulate in Philadelphia I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Governor Tom Wolf for his leadership and unwavering support to the Mexican and Mexican-American people of Pennsylvania.**

**A vibrant and growing community of over 200,000 hard-working people who make significant contributions to the economy, the culture and the development of this great Commonwealth.**

**I would also like to thank Deputy Secretary David Briel, Chief Diversity Officer Norman Bristol Colon, Luz Colon, Commissioner at the Governor’s Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs and everyone at the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development for hosting us and making this event possible.**

**Furthermore, I extend my gratitude to Peter Longstreth, President of the Consular Corps Association of Philadelphia, who has been instrumental in the success of our National Day celebrations at this beautiful building and has continuously shown his unwavering support and friendship for Mexico and its community abroad.**

**To the students of Vida Charter School and its Executive Director, Christine Miller, who came all the way from Gettysburg to join us, thank you very much.**

**I also need to express my gratitude to everyone at the Mexican Culture Center for their efforts in organizing today’s event and for sponsoring the music of “Pedro Villaseñor y su mariachi”, as well as to the restaurant “El Verdadero Sabor de México” for the delicious food that we will also have the opportunity to savor after enjoying the beautiful Mariachi melodies.**

**Last but not least I would like to recognize the presence of:**

* **Carmen Medina, Executive Director of Pennsylvania Migrant Education;**
* **Amelia Contreras of Manos Unidas;**
* **Thais Carrero and Earvin Gonzalez from CASA PA;**
* **Rodrigo Ortiz from MILPA;**
* **and all the partners and allies with whom the Consulate of Mexico works hand-in-hand to have successful activities and programs benefitting the Mexican and Mexican-American communities.**

**Compatriots and dear friends of Mexico, we are extremely honored with your presence here today as we celebrate the 212th Anniversary of the Independence of Mexico from Spain with the war that started on September 16th, 1810 and concluded 11 years later with the foundation of our Mexican nation.**

**A strong, generous and good-hearted nation, that is proud of its great history and culture, as well of its dynamic present and bright future. One that is inexorably linked to that of the United States, and to Pennsylvania in particular, where Mexico has had an uninterrupted presence for the past 196 years.**

**Consider as well, our commercial relationship. Mexico is Pennsylvania's 2nd largest export buyer and 3rd largest trading partner. With auto parts, chemicals and electronics as the main traded products, this relationship is an example of productive integration in North America.**

**And when reflecting on our mutual security concerns, the close cooperation between Mexico and the United States has been essential to achieve a safer North American region.**

**It is, hence, clear that the only way forward for both Mexico and the United States is to work together and keep making out of our biggest challenges, our greatest opportunities.**

**As we get ready to celebrate the bicentennial of the relationship between Mexico and the United States, the unity around our shared past, common ideals and promising future is as important as ever.**

**We truly value the friendship of all of you here, as well as your ongoing solidarity with Mexico, and more specifically with the Mexican and Mexican-American people who are proud to call Pennsylvania home.**

**I would like to proceed now to give a brief message in Spanish, in recognition of the Mexican nationals here present.**

**Paisanas y paisanos,**

**Es para mí un gran honor celebrar con ustedes el 212 aniversario del inicio de la lucha por la Independencia de México en este hermoso recinto.**

**Como ya mencioné y como ustedes bien saben, el 16 de septiembre es un día solemne cuando conmemoramos el inicio de la lucha que, 11 años después, concluiría con el establecimiento de un México independiente.**

**Pero también es un día para celebrar los logros de las y los mexicanos que han ayudado a hacer de México, un país con un legado histórico y cultural del cual hemos de sentirnos siempre orgullosos.**

**De manera muy importante, la celebración por el Día de la Independencia es un motivo más para elogiarles fielmente por sus aportaciones diarias al desarrollo de sus familias y de sus comunidades, tanto aquí como en México. Su dedicación y esfuerzo son dignos de reconocimiento como héroes y heroínas de nuestro país en el exterior.**

**Recordemos siempre que las mexicanas y mexicanos que residimos en este bello estado, y a lo largo y ancho de todo Estados Unidos, formamos un pilar esencial que contribuye de manera significativa a su economía, cultura y sociedad en general.**

**En tiempos donde frecuentemente las malinterpretaciones o los mitos opacan las buenas noticias o generan una imagen distorsionada de nuestra comunidad, es importante unirnos y alzar en conjunto nuestra demostrando la grandeza de México y su gente. Sentirnos en efecto extremadamente orgullosos de nuestros logros, de nuestras aportaciones, de nuestra identidad mexicana.**

**Es así que les invito a que, así como hoy, durante todo el año continuemos festejando con acciones que pongan el nombre de México en alto, destacando su historia, su diversidad lingüística, su riqueza natural y artística, así como nuestras múltiples tradiciones.**

**Celebremos a cada una y uno de ustedes, los esfuerzos que día a día realizan a favor de la colectividad y, aunque nos encontremos lejos de nuestra tierra, continuemos fortaleciendo esos lazos que existen con nuestros pueblos y ciudades de origen.**

**Muchas gracias y Viva México.**