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Cinco de Mayo
Fiesta Committee

Press Release

Public Service Announcement

Special Events scheduled for Friday and Saturday

Toledo, May 4 & 5, 2001: Cinco de Mayo celebrations have reached over a decade of success in Toledo. Izzy's 13th Annual Cinco de Mayo Fiesta will be held at the BW3 Grill & Pub located at Laskey and Mellwood with a "Tailgate Ox Bar-B-Q" on Friday, May 4th and Continuous Live Entertainment on Saturday May 5th. Festivities will include a show by movie actor, comic, singer and impressionist Johnny Ginger. As tradition demands, the Jalapeño Eating Contest will require the winner to have consumed the most peppers in the one minute allowed. Musical performances include Mariachico Tropical, a Tribute to Cornelio Reyna and *La Familia*. Grand Marshal for the event is the Honorable Joseph Flores.

Judge Flores will be receiving an award for serving as Grand Marshal for this event for ten consecutive years. The award will be presented by the Honorable J. Ronald Bowman. Additional special Latino Community awards will be presented.

The 180th Fighter Wing of the Ohio Air National Guard will be demonstrating their continuous partnership with the Latino Community at this event.

Background Information – Cinco de Mayo

El Cinco de Mayo is celebrated in Mexico and the United States. It is the Fifth of May that commemorates President Benito Juarez and the Mexican army's defeat of Austrian Archduke Maximilian and Napoleon's forces in 1862 in Puebla, Mexico. It proved to be a very decisive victory for both the United States of Mexico and the United States of America.

Ironically, there is much in common in that era of history for both countries and presidents. Benito Juarez is often referred to as the "Abe Lincoln of Mexico" because of his legendary honesty and his deep devotion to the common people. Born in the State of Oaxaca in 1806, Juarez was a full-

blooded Indian. Orphaned at the age of three, he rose from working as a houseboy and through self study was able to become a law student. Juarez went on to hold various government posts as did Lincoln. In 1861 he became President of Mexico. Also like Lincoln, he was known for wearing a simple black suit and cape with a black stovepipe hat.

Early in 1862, Juarez learned that Napoleon was sending Maximilian of Austria with an elite French army to establish rule in Mexico, and then perhaps move on to the USA. Since the United States was engaged in a Civil War, virtually most of the country was vulnerable to outside invasion from the French and Austrian armies. Juarez alerted Lincoln and indicated that he would be surprising the French on the night of May 4th. Victory was gained on the morning of the Fifth of May. The battle ended with Mexican General Zaragoza and French General Lorencz dueling with swords, whereupon General Lorencz met his Waterloo.