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**Cinco de Mayo
Fiesta Committee**

Press Release

17th Year of Cinco de Mayo Celebration!

Special Events scheduled for Thursday

Celebrate 5/5/05 on the 5th day of the week!

Toledo, May 5, 2005: Cinco de Mayo celebrations have reached over a decade and a half of success in Toledo. Izzy's 17th Annual Cinco de Mayo Fiesta will be held at Secor Lanes located on Secor Road just south of Alexis Rd. Festivities will be all day and evening, including Mariachi music, *Puro Tejano* music with Bob Rios, Mexican food and contests. As tradition demands, the Jalapeño Eating Contest will require the winner to have consumed the most peppers in the one minute allowed. Other contests include Grito (*Oyiyaya!*), and the new favorite Yogi contest. Festivities will be presided over by Grand Marshal Anita Lopez, Lucas County Recorder. Information about the event is also available at www.mootsville.com. This year's event will include an Honor Salute in support of our Troops and their families, as well as a Memorial Tribute to the Honorable Joseph Flores.

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

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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.