Washington, DC - Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20) issued the following statement commemorating Cinco de Mayo, a holiday that celebrates the victory of the Mexicans over the French at the Battle of Puebla in 1862:

"Cinco de Mayo is a special date which reminds us that all peoples strive for freedom, liberty, and respect. I'm proud to celebrate this date that symbolizes unity and patriotism in Mexico but also recognizes here at home the great contributions Mexican Americans have made to our country."

"From serving our country abroad in uniform to the rich cultural heritage Mexican Americans have brought to the United States, the Hispanic community has played a significant role in shaping the America that we live in today. I'm honored to recognizing these contributions and call on all Americans to join me today in doing the same in celebrating Cinco de Mayo."

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