

Introduced By: Latin/Hispanic Caucus
Sponsored By: Vice Chair Vasquez,
Chair Patel
Chair Vorn
Senator Lacasse
Chair Hameed
Chair Temple
Contact: sglatinxcaucus@ucf.edu
First Reading: Adopted in Committee;
October 19, 2023
Committee Action: Passed 8-0-2
Second Reading: October 19, 2023
Final Vote: Passed 31-0-1



**University of Central Florida
Fifty-Fifth Student Body Senate
Proclamation 55-07**

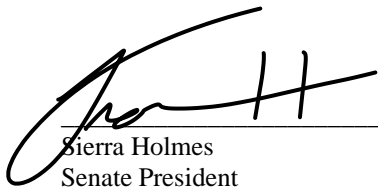
[Proclamation Recognizing the Days of November 1st and 2nd of 2023 as Día de los Muertos]

WHEREAS, Senate Rule 2.04(G)(1) states that the Student Body Advocacy (SBA) Committee shall pass measures advocating on behalf of the student body regarding student and university affairs at the University of Central Florida (UCF);
WHEREAS, Senate Rule 5.01(D)(1) states that Proclamations are defined as measures recognizing, celebrating, or condemning extraordinary events, organizations, or individuals on behalf of all Student Government Agents;
WHEREAS, Día de los Muertos is a holiday traditionally celebrated on November 1st and 2nd, though other days, such as October 31 or November 6, may be included depending on the locality;
WHEREAS, The multi-day holiday involves family and friends gathering to pay respects and to remember friends and family members who have died;
WHEREAS, These celebrations can take a humorous tone, as celebrants remember funny events and anecdotes about the departed;
WHEREAS, It is widely observed in Mexico, where it largely developed, and is also observed in other places, especially by people of Mexican heritage;
WHEREAS, Other countries that celebrate Día de los Muertos are;
WHEREAS, Ecuador, El Día de los Difuntos, Day of the Deceased, and operates under similar premises to Mexico;
WHEREAS, Guatemala, Festival de Barriletes Gigantes, it is celebrated on the same day of November 1. Here it is called the Festival de Barriletes Gigantes which is called the Festival of Giant Kites. The Guatemalans celebrate with huge kites that they will fly into the heavens to honor their passed loved ones. Kites are used as the original Indigenous population of Guatemala believed, and still do, that kites are a way to talk to dead people. Their kites today on their Festival of Giant Kites are made to honor the special memories, favorite things, and lives of those that have passed as a hope their loved one will see it and know they are thinking of them;
WHEREAS, Philippines, Undás, this celebration is very much like Mexico's, where parades and feasts are created. People will travel from all over the world to join their loved ones during Undás in the Philippines. This is a two-day celebration where candles have a special significance;
WHEREAS, Haiti, Fèt Gede, Haiti's Day of the Dead, is typically celebrated during the first few days of November replete with altars, veves (ground drawings made to attract the gede), special food and drink offerings, and, most importantly, sacred dances and polyrhythmic drumming. This celebration draws on the Voodoo religion which plays the most predominant role in this day. Here, Voodoo spirits are called upon to celebrate both the dead and fertility issues to bring new life into the families of Haitians;
WHEREAS, El Salvador, El Dia de la Calabiuza or El día de los Defuntos. El Dia de la Calabiuza celebration that takes place every year on November 1st in Tonacatepeque. The festival is a time to remember lost loved ones and to honor El Salvadoran history and culture During the festival, the residents of Tonacatepeque dress like the most scary character of a legend or myth. For example, el padre sin cabeza (The Headless Father) and La llorona (the crying woman). El Día de Los Defuntos operates under similar premises to Mexico;
WHEREAS, In many U.S. communities with Mexican residents, Day of the Dead celebrations are very similar to those held in Mexico. In some of these communities, in states such as Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, the celebrations tend to be mostly traditional;
WHEREAS, There are 692,000 people in Florida who are of Mexican origin. This makes up about 3.5% of the state's population. Florida has 4.8 million Hispanics, which is about 9% of the nation's Hispanic population. The Mexican population makes up 14.42% of Florida's Hispanic population;
WHEREAS, In 2008, the tradition was inscribed in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO; and
WHEREAS, In 2021, the Biden-Harris administration celebrated the Día de Muertos.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Fifty-Fifth Student Senate of the University of Central Florida Recognizing the Day of November 1st and 2nd of 2023 as Día de los Muertos and support any event celebrating it; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Proclamation be sent to Vice President for Student Success and Well-Being Adrienne Frame, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Andrea Guzmán, President of The Latino Faculty and Staff Association Josefina Rosario, Senior Director of HSI Initiatives Cyndia Muñiz, Mexican Student Association, Ecuadorian Student Association, Guatemalan Student Association, Filipino Student Association, Club Kreyol, Student Director of the Multicultural Student Center Xander Loliyong, Brazilian Student Association, Latin American Student Association, Peruvian Student Association, Chilean Student Association, Colombian Student Association, Venezuelan Student Association, Cuban-American Student Association, Dominican Student Association, and Puerto Rican Student Association.

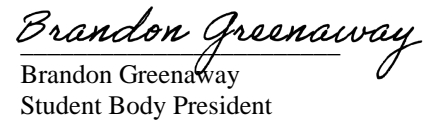
AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES



Sierra Holmes
Senate President

11/06/2023

Date



Brandon Greenaway
Student Body President

11/9/2023

Date