



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CELEBRATE FIESTAS PATRIAS AT OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO STATE HISTORIC PARK

-- Experience a Traditional Mexican Independence Celebration --

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park is hosting Mexican Independence Day with traditional activities from the 1800s when San Diego was still part of Mexico—including lively dancing, music, food and drink. This free festival commemorates one of the most important days in Mexico's history -- independence from Spain in 1810. The event is Saturday , Sept. 17, from noon to 4 p.m.

The cannon firing salute kicks off the historical activities including the "Changing of the Flag" ceremony, an "El Grito" contest, parade, games, crafts and more.

Attendees can march in the short parade around the plaza along with horses, dancers, and people in historical costumes. The parade is scheduled to follow the "Changing of the Flag" ceremony at noon.

Following the parade, there will be games, contests and demonstrations that represent the activities enjoyed by the early settlers of San Diego. Park guests can relax and picnic in the grassy area in front of the stage that will be filled with free entertainment such as historical dancing and music. A special theatrical production "The Bells of Dona Josefa" will be performed free of charge at 12:45 p.m. on the Fiesta de Reyes stage and 2:45 p.m. on the plaza stage.

Other stage entertainment includes Ballet Folklorico Real de San Diego, Los Bailadores Dance Group and Los Diegos music group.

This celebration is an independence celebration like no other in Alta and Baja California. The event is sponsored by Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, Boosters of Old Town and Fiesta de Reyes.

The park is located on San Diego Avenue and Twiggs Street, and is conveniently next to the Old Town Transit Center, with Coaster, trolley, and MTS bus service. Free parking is available in the Caltrans parking lot on Taylor Street in Old Town after 3 p.m. on weekdays and all day on weekends. For more information go to www.parks.ca.gov/oldtownsandiego or call 619-220-5422.