

Bernardo de Gálvez

Bernardo de Galvez, son of Matias de Galvez and Josefa Gallardo Madrid, was born in Malaga, Spain, in 1746. He participated in the Portugese War as a lieutenant of infantry. Sent to Mexico, he fought on the frontier against the Apache and was wounded several times. Back in Spain in 1772, he fought under Alejandro O'Reilly in the Argel Expedition. For over a year Galvez was a professor in the military school at Avila. He became a colonel in 1776 and in 1777 was made ad interim governor of Louisiana, serving until 1783. He was conspicuous for his aid to the Americans during the American Revolution, recognizing the Independence of the United States, and capturing Florida, Jamaica, and the Bahamas from the British. The king of Spain made him field marshal, lieutenant general, and captain general of Florida, Louisiana, and Cuba; granted him the title of Conde de Galvez; and gave him the coat of arms of arms of a brigantine, with the motto, "yo Solo."

During his governorship in Louisiana, Galvez married Felicitas de Saint Maxent. He ordered a survey of the Texas coast , during which Galveston Bay was named in his honor. He sympathized with the efforts of Athanase de Mezieres to extend Spanish influence in the North Texas Area, and De Mezieres named the Taovaya village on the north bank of Red River San Bernardo for him.

On June 17, 1785, Galvez was named viceroy to Mexico to succeed his father. He died in Mexico on November 30, 1786.



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1	1	Article by C.R. Churchill	
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