

# DEFINING *Moments* 250 YEARS

## Extraordinary Events that Shaped the History of the San Diego Region (1769-2019)

Congress of History of San Diego & Imperial Counties  
54<sup>th</sup> Annual History Conference \* Friday, March 29, & Saturday, March 30, 2019  
Conference Location: Portuguese Hall, Point Loma, San Diego, CA  
[www.CongressOfHistory.org](http://www.CongressOfHistory.org)

## Final Request for Speakers

Thank you to all the historians who have responded. This is our last Call for Speakers. Have an idea for a talk? Contact conference co-chair Louise Torio at [HistoricSanDiego@aol.com](mailto:HistoricSanDiego@aol.com) ASAP or 619-233-8833 to see if your “defining moment” fits in with the 2019 conference theme.

---

**Our region has an interesting past. A lot has happened in 250 years.** While claimed by Spain in 1542 with Cabrillo’s exploration of the Pacific coast (*Joao Rodrigues Cabrillo* in Portuguese, *Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo* in Spanish), it wasn’t until the 1769 Portola expedition that Spanish/European exploration and settlement began in what would become San Diego in the State of California. For good or bad, nothing would be the same. Since that defining moment 250 years ago, events and people (some famous, some little known) have dramatically influenced the course of the region. This conference explores the impacts, intended or not, of decisions that have brought us to where we are today.

**Historians, researchers, writers, and storytellers:** Each year the Congress of History presents a history conference on topics that reflect our region. We’ve done conferences on big themes (like the impact of world wars on the region). This year we seek talks about a defining moment within the past 250 years. This defining moment might be an event, movement, activity, uprising, or change in thinking that could have been impactful to the entire two-county region or to a specific town or area. What defining moments do you want to bring to our attention? What defining moments are important to you from the Founding Era (roughly 1769-1850), the Middle Era (roughly 1850-1950), and the Modern Era (roughly 1950-2000\*)? [\*Our cut off for this history conference is the year 2000.] And you don’t have to be a professional speaker, writer, or historian. Great presentations come from those who care! Are you an author? Bring your books for sale!

- Your topic may be something not widely known that had a big impact on a place.
- Or It may be about a person who did something of great impact in the region.
- Or it could be about an incident that changed the course of events.

**If it was a defining moment, we want to hear your take on it!**



---

**Geographic Area:** COH organization members range from southern Orange County to northern Baja California. Please use this region as your guide for proposing your historic talk.

**Conference Format:** 16-18 speakers over two days, each giving a 20-minute talk with 10 minutes for Q&A. Speakers must have a PowerPoint presentation (with lots of photos please, not so heavy on text).



Congress of History 54<sup>th</sup> Annual History Conference  
Friday, March 29 & Saturday, March 30, 2019  
**Presenter Abstract & Biography Form**  
Email to [HistoricSanDiego@aol.com](mailto:HistoricSanDiego@aol.com) ASAP to see if your topic fits with the conference theme. Submit no later than 11/28/18.

Name of Presenter: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number / best time to call: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization representing, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Draft Title of Your Talk: \_\_\_\_\_

1) This topic is a “defining moment” in the history of the region because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(How does your topic fit the conference theme?)

2) Please describe in a paragraph or two your proposed presentation.

(What happened? When? Why is it interesting?)

3) **Speaker’s Brief Biography** (Tell us about yourself. Have you written on your topic? Book for sale?).

---

**Submitting a proposal does not guarantee being chosen to present.**

Order of presentations: Because these are “defining moments,” we’d like to arrange the chosen topics to be presented in chronological order. We hope speakers can be flexible on the date and time they speak.

- If I am chosen as a speaker, I can present on either Friday or Saturday \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
- If chosen, I am NOT available on this day \_\_\_ Friday \_\_\_ Saturday

---

The Congress of History is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. No speakers are paid.  
Conference speakers may attend the entire conference at no cost, and are given a one-year complimentary membership in the Congress of History for volunteering to share their knowledge.

---

For COH Conference Committee Use: Acknowledged \_\_\_\_\_ Evaluation \_\_\_\_\_

Suitability \_\_\_\_\_ Comments \_\_\_\_\_ Edits \_\_\_\_\_ [Possible Day \_\_\_\_\_ Possible Time \_\_\_\_\_]

---

Email form to Louise Torio at [HistoricSanDiego@aol.com](mailto:HistoricSanDiego@aol.com). (OK to just answer all questions from the form.)