

Honoring Hispanic Americans: Essential To The Blueprint Of Our Nation

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The Surface Force joins the Navy and the Nation (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-proclamation-national-hispanic-heritage-month-2019/>) to observe National Hispanic Heritage Month. Each year from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15, we pay tribute to the contributions of generations of Hispanic Americans who have influenced, enriched, and strengthened of our Nation and our Navy.

This year's theme from the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) is "[Honoring Hispanic Americans: Essential To The Blueprint Of Our Nation](https://www.deomi.org/DownloadableFiles/aboutDeomi/documents/NREL-NHHM-20190725.pdf) (<https://www.deomi.org/DownloadableFiles/aboutDeomi/documents/NREL-NHHM-20190725.pdf>)."

Every day, Sailors (<https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/diversity/hispanic-americans-in-the-navy.html>) and Marines (<https://www.marines.mil/News/Messages/Messages-Display/Article/1947790/2019-national-hispanic-heritage-month>) of Hispanic American descent contribute to that blueprint as they support and defend the Constitution of the United States. They build on a legacy of previous patriots of Hispanic heritage, some of whom have had ships named in their honor, such as USS Garcia (DE 1040) (<https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/g/garcia.html>), USS Gonzalez (DDG 66) (<https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/g/Gonzalez.html>), USS Farragut V (DDG 99) (<https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/f/farragut-v-ddg-99.html>), and USS Rafael Peralta (DDG 115) (<https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/r/rafael-peralta-ddg-115.html>).

From Heritage Week to Heritage Month

The tradition of observing Hispanic heritage began in 1968, when then-President Lyndon B. Johnson designated a week in mid-September as National Hispanic Heritage Week. Proclaimed by Public Law 100-402 in 1988, National Hispanic Heritage Month begins Sept. 15, which is the anniversary of independence for five Latin American Countries – Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico declared its independence on Sept. 16, and Chile on Sept. 18.

National Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to celebrate a culture that is deeply rooted in our Nation. During the observance, all are encouraged to recognize and remember the invaluable service and selfless contributions that Hispanic Americans – active duty, reserve, and civilian – provide to our country. We operate as one unit, but we are strengthened by the diversity of our Sailors.

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