

Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15, the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico declared its independence on September 16, and Chile on September 18.

The term Hispanic, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, refers to Spanish-speaking people in the United States of any race. On the 2000 Census form, people of Spanish/Hispanic/Latino origin could identify themselves as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or "other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino." More than 35 million people identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino on the 2000 Census.

(excerpt from Proclamation 7591 G.W. Bush, National Hispanic Heritage Month)

"In 1968, the Congress authorized President Lyndon Johnson to proclaim National Hispanic Heritage Week, and this observance was expanded in 1988 to a month-long celebration to honor our Nation's Hispanic heritage. During this month, America celebrates the traditions, ancestry, and unique experiences of those who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico, the countries of Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

Throughout our history, Hispanic Americans have enriched the American way of life, and we recognize the millions of Hispanic Americans whose love of family, hard work, and community have helped unite us as a people and sustain us as a Nation. As entrepreneurs and public servants, scholars and artists, Hispanic Americans have provided wisdom, energy, and leadership to our communities, and to our country. During the Civil War, David Glasgow Farragut, son of Revolutionary War hero Jorge Farragut of Spain, won fame as a Union hero by blocking Southern ports. The Congress rewarded his valor by naming him the Navy's first four-star Admiral. Today, a statue honoring his many accomplishments stands in Farragut Square,

Washington, D.C. Nearly a century ago, Hispanic actresses Myrtle Gonzalez and Beatriz Michelena were popular stars in silent films. Many others followed as the industry expanded in the 20th Century, including Rita Hayworth, Fernando Lamas, and Anthony Quinn. In 1959, Dr. Severo Ochoa was a co-recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for the discovery of RNA (ribonucleic acid), one of the chemical building blocks of life. In the world of sports, athletes such as Roberto Clemente earned the admiration of countless Americans for his athletic skill and commitment to humanitarian efforts.

We also remember those Hispanics who established the vibrant and diverse American cities of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Santa Fe, San Antonio, and many others. We remember those who were instrumental in exploring and mapping our great hemisphere and we honor those proud Hispanic-American patriots who fought and died for our country in every war and conflict since our founding. During National Hispanic Heritage Month, I join with all Americans in celebrating this rich and diverse culture and encourage all citizens to recognize the important role of Hispanics in creating and building this great Nation.

To honor the achievements of Hispanic Americans, the Congress, by Public Law 100-402, has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating September 15 through October 15, as "National Hispanic Heritage Month."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 15 through October 15, 2002, as National Hispanic Heritage Month. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs."

September 13th, 2002

According to the 2006 census, 1,480,406 of the 5,951,612 California students were identified as English learners!

Hispanic Heritage Month

A Linguistic Fiesta “Food for Thought”

Renegade, mosquito, mustang, booby—English uses many words with Spanish origins. In fact, some scholars say Spanish has contributed 10,000 words to English.

Many adopted Spanish words are food terms, such as *tamale, taco, salsa, cilantro, guacamole, enchilada, oregano, and burrito*. They are usually used in their original Spanish forms. Others, such as *tuna*, which comes from the Spanish *atún*, are variations of the original.

Other food words are of American Indian origin, but came into English via Spanish. *Tomato*, for instance, is derived from the Spanish *tomate*, a corruption of the Nahuatl word *tomatl*. *Chocolate* comes from the Nahuatl word *xocolatl*. *Potato* comes from *papa*, meaning white potato in the Inca language, Quechua; and *batata*, sweet potato in the Taino Indian language of the Caribbean. *Banana*, on the other hand, entered Spanish from the West African languages of Wolof, Mandingo, and Fulani.

42.7 million is the estimated Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2005, making people of Hispanic origin the nation’s largest ethnic or race minority. Hispanics constituted 14% of the nation’s total population.

Famous Firsts by Hispanic Americans

Government

- **Member of U.S. Congress:** Joseph Marion Hernández, 1822, delegate from the Florida territory.
- **U.S. Representative:** Romualdo Pacheco, a representative from California, was elected in 1876 by a one-vote margin. He served for four months before his opponent succeeded in contesting the results. In 1879 he was again elected to Congress, where he served for two terms.
- **U.S. Senator:** Octaviano Larrazolo was elected in 1928 to finish the term of New Mexico senator Andieus Jones, who had died in office. He served for six months before falling ill and stepping down; he died in 1930. The first Hispanic senator to serve an entire term (and then some) was Dennis Chávez, of New Mexico, who served from 1935 through 1962.
- **U.S. Treasurer:** Romana Acosta Bañuelos, 1971–1974.
- **U.S. Cabinet member:** Lauro F. Cavazos, 1988–1990, Secretary of Education.
- **U.S. Surgeon General:** Antonia Coello Novello, 1990–1993. She was also the first woman ever to hold the position.

Hispanic Heritage Month

- **U.S. Secretary of Transportation:** Federico Peña, 1993.
- **U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development**
- **Development:** Henry Cisneros, 1993.
- **U.S. Attorney General:** Alberto Gonzales, 2005. **Urban**

Science & Medicine

- **Astronaut:** Franklin Chang-Díaz, 1986. He flew on a total of seven space-shuttle missions.
- The first female Hispanic astronaut was Ellen Ochoa, whose first of four shuttle missions was in 1991.
- **Nobel Prize in Physics:** Luiz Walter Alvarez, 1968, for discoveries about subatomic particles. Later, he and his son proposed the now-accepted theory that the mass dinosaur extinction was caused by a meteor impact.
- **Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine:** Severo Ochoa, 1959, for the synthesis of ribonucleic acid (RNA).

Sports

- **Grand Slam Champion** Richard “Pancho” González, 1948.
- **LPGA Hall of Fame inductee:** Nancy López, 1987. In 1978, she became the first player to have won the the Rookie of the Year Award, Player of

the Year Award, and Vare Trophy in the same season.

- **Heavyweight boxing champ:** John Ruiz, 2001, defeating Evander Holyfield.
- **NHL 1st-round draft pick:** Scott Gomez, 1998.
- **NFL player:** Ignacio “Lou” Molinet, 1927.
- **NFL draft pick:** Joe Aguirre, 1941.
- **Starting NFL quarterback:** Tom Flores, 1960.
- **#1 NFL draft pick:** Jim Plunkett, 1971.
- **Football Hall of Fame inductee:** Tom Fears, 1970. He also became the first Hispanic American head coach in 1967.
- **Baseball: Hall of Fame inductee:** Roberto Clemente, 1973. He was also the first Hispanic player to serve on the Players Association Board and to reach 3,000 hits.
- **Team owner:** Arturo “Arte” Moreno bought the Anaheim Angels in 2003, becoming the first Hispanic owner of any major U.S. sports franchise. In 2005, he renamed it the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim

About 1 of every two people added to the nation's population between July 1, 2004, and July 1, 2005, were Hispanic.

Hispanic Heritage Month

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National Hispanic Holidays of Independence

| Country | Date | Holiday |
|---|------------------------|------------------|
| <u>Argentina</u> | May 25 (1810) | Revolution Day |
| <u>Bolivia</u> | August 6 (1825) | Independence Day |
| <u>Chile</u> | September 18 (1810) | Independence Day |
| <u>Colombia</u> | July 20 (1810) | Independence Day |
| <u>Costa Rica</u> | September 15 (1821) | Independence Day |
| <u>Cuba</u> | January 1 (1959) | Liberation Day |
| <u>Dominican Republic</u> | February 27 (1844) | Independence Day |
| <u>Ecuador</u> | August 10 (1809) | Independence Day |
| <u>El Salvador</u> | September 15 (1821) | Independence Day |
| <u>Guatemala</u> | September 15 (1821) | Independence Day |
| <u>Honduras</u> | September 15 (1821) | Independence Day |
| <u>Mexico</u> | September 16 (1810) | Independence Day |

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| <u>Nicaragua</u> | September 15 (1821) | Independence Day |
| <u>Panama</u> | November 3 (1903) | Independence Day |
| <u>Paraguay</u> | May 14-15 (1811) | Independence Days |
| <u>Peru</u> | July 28 (1821) | Independence Day |
| <u>Puerto Rico</u> | July 4 (1776) | U.S. Independence Day* |
| <u>Spain</u> | October 12 (1492) | National Day** |
| <u>Uruguay</u> | August 25 (1828) | Independence Day |
| <u>Venezuela</u> | July 5 (1811) | Independence Day |

31 million - The number of U.S. household residents age 5 and older who speak Spanish at home. Spanish speakers constitute a ratio of more than 1-in-10 U.S. household residents. Among all those who speak Spanish at home, more than one-half say they speak English "very well."