



PRESS RELEASE

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2019 HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH THEME ANNOUNCED

Washington, D.C., April 17, 2019 — The National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers (NCHPEPM), announced the 2019 Hispanic Heritage Month theme: “**Hispanic Americans: A History of Serving Our Nation.**” The theme invites us to reflect on Hispanic American’s service and contributions to the history of our Nation.

The announcement was made during the Council’s April monthly meeting. NCHPEPM members, associates, and partners from various federal agencies and affinity groups, including the general public, selected the theme through a voting process, which started in March 2019 with 12 theme submissions.

Veronica Vasquez, President of National Image Inc., submitted the winning theme, stating “*Hispanic American have recently been subjective to attacks on our loyalty, it is now time to remind people of the many contributions of Hispanics to the history of our Nation. Hispanics have served and continue to serve our Nation with honor and valor in all aspects in the formation of our country. Our contributions are numerous.*”

Hispanic serve as Civil Rights leaders, politicians, military, educators, first responders, science pioneers, and public servants, etc. Individuals who have contributed to the History of our Nation include:

- **Hilda Solis** - Department of Labor former Secretary
- **Sonia Sotomayor** - Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States
- **Julian Castro** - Housing and Urban Development former Secretary
- **Jorge Ramos** – News anchor and winner of eight Emmy Awards.
- **Sylvia Mendez** - Paved the way for school desegregation in the US perquisite to *Brown vs. Education*
- **Felix Longoria and Hector P. Garcia** - Helped bring recognition to Hispanic World War II Veterans and founder of the American G.I. Forum
- **Ruben Salazar** - Journalist
- **Roberto Clemente** – Baseball trailblazer
- **Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta** - Co-founders of the United Farm Workers Union
- **Lauro Cavazos** - US Secretary of Education from August 1988 to December 1990
- **Nydia Velazquez** - First Puerto Rican elected to Congress
- **Rodolfo Gonzalez** – Poet and champion of the Chicano movement
- **Ellen Ochoa** – First Hispanic to leave Earth’s atmosphere
- **Franklin Chang-Díaz** – Astronaut
- **Richard E. Cavazos** - First Hispanic Four-Star General

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- **Albert Baez** - Co-inventor the X-ray microscope
- **Master Sergeant Raul Perez "Roy" Benavidez** – Medal of Honor recipient
- **Alfred Velazquez Rascon** – Medal of Honor recipient and the 10th director of the Selective Service System
- **Luis Muñoz Marín** - First Democratically elected Governor of Puerto Rico
- **Herman Badillo** - U.S. Congressman
- **Joan Baez** - Folk Singer and Activist
- **Dr. Severo Ochoa** – Doctor and biochemist, He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1959 for synthesizing RNA (ribonucleic acid)
- **Dr. Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa** - Neurosurgeon, Author, Researcher, and Chair of the Department of Neurologic Surgery at Mayo Clinic's
- **Oscar de la Hoya** – Boxing champion
- **Fernando Vargas** – U. S. Olympian and boxing champion”

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America.

The Hispanic Heritage observance began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

The NCHEPM is a membership-based organization consisting of an executive board, members, associates, and partners from multiple Federal agencies and other organizations from across the United States, advocating for the improvement of Hispanic participation in the Federal Government.

For more information about the Council, please visit www.nationalcouncilhepm.org

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