

## Department of Defense 2020 National Hispanic Heritage Month Poster Set

**Poster Description:** The Department of Defense National Hispanic Heritage Month poster set is the seventh in a series of posters commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of World War II. Each commemorative poster, or poster set, highlights the significant contributions of special observance groups towards achieving total victory in this watershed event. Each poster is reminiscent of the colors and styles found in the 1940's Recruitment and Victory posters from the World War II era.

The 2020 National Hispanic Heritage Month poster set consists of three posters which recognize three individuals who participated in the effort by All Americans in total victory. The backgrounds for all three posters are the same with only the individual recognized being different. The background of each poster begins with a dark blue background at the top and footer. As you move down the poster the colors transition to a lighter blue and then almost white as it reaches the bottom dark blue footer.

One of three separate individuals are situated in the center of the poster. Behind them, 10 broad yellow stripes extend from the bottom center of the poster upwards and outwards like rays of sunlight.

At the top third of the poster is the poster title in capitalized text spread across two lines. The first line, in gold aged font and black shadow box text reads, AMERICANS ALL. The second line of the phrase is showcased by a single off-white five-pointed star before and after the text. The second line is centered in smaller font, and off-white capitalized text and reads, FIGHTING FOR VICTORY.

Situated on the left side of the poster and below the left star is the same title in Spanish. The words in the title are spread across four lines; the second and third lines are separated by a single black five-pointed star which is centered on the text. The first line in capitalized black text, reads TODOS LOS; the second line centered beneath reads, AMERICANOS. The third line centered below the star and proceeding text is in smaller font and capitalized black text which reads, LUCHANDO POR LA; the fourth line reads, VICTORIA.

**Poster 1:** depicts an image of Staff Sergeant Ladislao "L.C." Castro, the assistant engineer and waist door .50 caliber gunner on a B-24 Liberator bomber named "T-Bar" of the "Flying Eightballs" in the 506th Squadron, 44th Bombardment Group (Heavy), 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force.

Castro is staring forward and smiling at the viewer. He is wearing a tan canvas flight cap with flight goggles on his head. He is wearing a tan colored flight suit and a partly opened brown leather flight jacket. The right side of the white sheep wool lined collar of the jacket rests against his right lower jaw; the left collar of his jacket is folded under and compressed by canvas parachute straps with brown reinforced padding crossing his chest. A silver strap buckle on the canvas strap rests on his left shoulder. Over his right shoulder he is carrying a black M2 Browning caliber .50 machine gun with a white number 23 on the receiver. The gun sports a "duck bill" gunsight with a white number 21 on the top of the sight. The barrel of the gun is aimed upward and passes behind the letters "I and N" in the word "Fighting" in the second line of the poster title and barrel's tip ends behind the gold letter "R" in "AMERICA" in the first phrase of the title. The machine gun's main body and receiver is encased in a steel colored E-13

## Department of Defense 2020 National Hispanic Heritage Month Poster Set

Gun Mount Adapter with the stainless steel shoulder rest touching the bottom footer of the poster.

On March 18, 1944, as Castro was completing his final 21<sup>st</sup> mission prior to deploying home, the T-Bar was shot down after a raid on the southern German city of Friedrichshafen near the Swiss border. Castro parachuted from his crippled plane into German occupied France. While the rest of the 10-man crew were captured, Castro evaded capture until discovered by French farmers. The farmers took him to the French Underground, the French resistance movement. He was then taken to Amiens, France where he was hidden with 16 other airmen for five months until the city was liberated by the Canadian Army on September 1st, 1944. But, Castro's service did not end there; he was recalled to active duty as an Air Force mechanic during the Korean War and later served for 22 years as a civil servant at Bergstrom Air Force Base at Austin, Texas, the same place he enlisted to fight in World War II.

**Poster 2:** depicts an image of Sergeant Consuelo Mary Hartsell. One of seven children, she grew up in Rawlins, Wyoming, the only Latino family in town.

She is standing with her body at an oblique angle facing to the viewer's left but her head is turned and she is looking back towards the viewer's right. She is wearing upon her head an olive-green USMC service cap surrounded with a red service cord and brass UCMC emblem on the front. Her black curly hair flows out beneath her cap. She is wearing glasses and smiling to the viewer's right. She is wearing an olive-green service jacket with USMC insignia upon her collar. Beneath her jacket she is wearing a khaki colored blouse with a straight, khaki colored tie.

In the fall of 1944, Hartsell and her sister, Juniata enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve. (Four of the Macias children eventually became Marines.)

The sisters were sent to boot camp at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, the only sisters and the only Latinas in the camp. Both were assigned office jobs at the Depot of Supplies of the 1st Marine Division in San Francisco. Hartsell was assigned a desk job overseeing supplies shipped to and from overseas.

She left the service in 1946. She was awarded American Campaign and World War II victory medals, as well as recognition for her honorable service.

**Poster 3:** depicts an image of Corporal Julius Casarez. "My brother told me that if I enlisted sooner rather than later, I could pick where I wanted to be stationed," he shared in an interview. Little did he know that when he enlisted, the Japanese were only a few days away from bombing Pearl Harbor, and he'd be forced to go where the Army told him to go.

The image of Casarez shows his dark brown colored hair and him staring straight towards the viewer. He is wearing a khaki colored service shirt with brown buttons. His underlying white t-shirt is barely visible.

In June of 1942, Casarez was sent via Africa to India, to serve as part of the 703rd Special Forces, a machine-gun battalion. In July, they crossed into India, which was being bombed.

## Department of Defense 2020 National Hispanic Heritage Month Poster Set

Private Casarez and the rest of his unit served there a few months as machine gunners. Finally, they were sent over the Himalaya Mountains. A month later the Japanese chased the Army unit out of China, where they'd been stationed.

Now in Burma, part of Casarez's unit's duties were to protect the bridges that had recently been built as a way of transporting supplies to Army units at the front. Casarez's unit would shoot at the Japanese planes that would try to bomb the bridges. Casarez finished out the war in the China-Burma-India Theater. He'd spent close to four years fighting not only people, but the time and the elements.

Finally, word came in 1945 that he could go home. However, the unit couldn't arrange transportation out of the area. After about a month, his captain finally told the troops to, "get out of here the best way you can." Casarez hitchhiked across China, until he was able to locate an allied airstrip where, eventually, he was one of the lucky few able to take an airplane home. Corporal Casarez was discharged in November of 1945.

Centered on the bottom dark blue footer of each poster is the observance theme. It is in gold, capitalized block text which reads, HONORING THE PAST, SECURING THE FUTURE!

Immediately to the right of the theme is the Department of Defense 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration seal. The seal is multi-colored with the center consisting of a portion of the American flag. Superimposed over the flag is a dark blue letter capital "V" outlined in gold. Across the letter V is a blue banner with the word "REMEMBER" in capitalized letters and gold text. The center of the seal is surrounded by a narrow white ring and then a wide red ring containing 12 white stars. Surrounding the wide red ring is a wide dark blue ring. Superimposed on the top of the blue ring are the words, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA in capitalized letters and gold text. Superimposed on the bottom of the ring are the words, WORLD WAR II 75<sup>TH</sup> COMMEMORATION in capitalized letters and gold text. Outside the wide blue ring are 4 smaller consecutive rings of white and blue.

Centered immediately below the theme in smaller off-white font and script text is the observance title, National Hispanic Heritage Month. At the bottom right corner of the poster footer in small gold font and capitalized text are the words, DEOMI's WORLD WAR II SERIES.