

## **2022 Department of Defense National Hispanic Heritage Month Poster**

**Poster Description:** The 2022 Department of Defense National Hispanic Heritage Month poster is focused on American civil rights activist, Ms. Sylvia Mendez. The poster background consists of a tan, parchment colored texture.

Overlaying the top third of the poster is a separate, graphic background overlay of watercolor paint strokes and paint splotches in light green, red, and yellow. Situated on the top center of this background is a colored photograph of Ms. Sylvia Mendez. Her upper body is canted 45 degrees to the right (towards the viewers left) and her face is turned directly forward and she is smiling at the viewer. Ms. Mendez is wearing bright red lipstick and a black blouse and jacket. The jacket lapels are edged with a design in white stitching. Ms. Mendez wears the Presidential Medal of Freedom on a royal blue and white edged ribbon around her neck.

To the right of Ms. Mendez' photo is a quote in white, capitalized text and spread across five lines which reads, "NO MATTER YOUR RACE OR BACKGROUND, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE." Beneath the quote in yellow, sentence case font is a dash and her name – Sylvia Mendez.

Beneath Ms. Mendez's center photo are four smaller black and white photographs. Each photo slightly overlaps another. The first photo depicts Sylvia seated at a piano when she was eight years old. She is wearing a white dress with a white ribbon in her hair. The second photograph is a 1944 photograph of the first grade class at the Hoover Elementary School in California, a segregated school for students of Mexican descent, to which Sylvia was assigned when her parents moved to the Westminster School District. In 1946, Sylvia's father was one of the plaintiffs in the federal court case, Mendez et al., v. Westminster School District of Orange County, et al. The case and its aftermath opened the doors to better educational opportunities for Hispanic students.

The third photograph is a 1940's era photo of Sylvia's parents, Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez. The fourth photograph is of Ms. Mendez and Colonel Mark Toy at a Hispanic Heritage Month event at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District headquarters. Colonel Toy has just presented Ms. Mendez with a unit coin for her past service and for speaking at their event.

Centered beneath the photographs is a dark, yellow colored title bar outlined in white in the form of a paint swatch. Situated on the swatch is the observance theme spread across two lines. The first line in large, white capitalized text shadowed in black, reads, UNIDOS. The second line in smaller, rust colored capitalized text reads, INCLUSIVITY FOR A STRONGER NATION.

Beneath the Observance Theme is a medium-brown colored title bar. Situated on the title bar is the observance title in white, title case text, National Hispanic Heritage Month.

At the poster's bottom left is observance dates, Sep 15 – Oct 15 in medium-brown colored text. Immediately below the observance dates are the Department of Defense and Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) seals.

To the right of the seals is quick response code (QRC) which direct an individual to DEOMI's website, [www.defenseculture.mil](http://www.defenseculture.mil). It is separated from a second QRC by a symbol depicting a microphone. Scanning the second QRC with a mobile device will open an audio narration with this poster description.