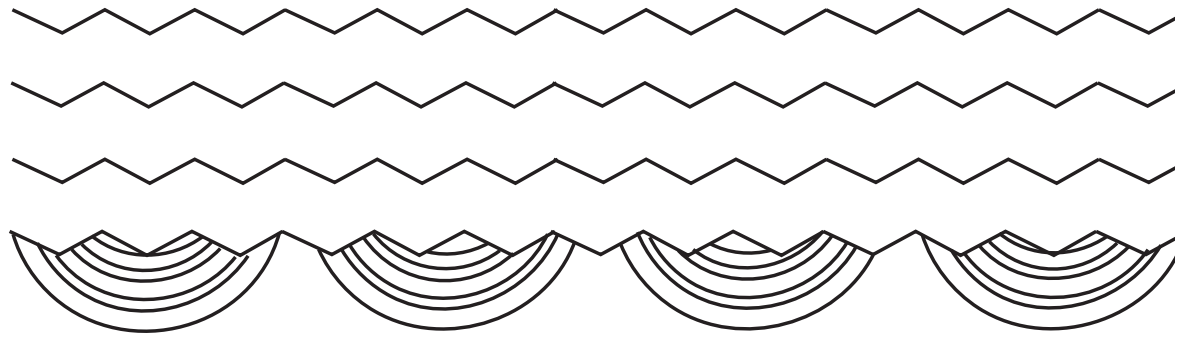


**CULTURAL  
AWARENESS**

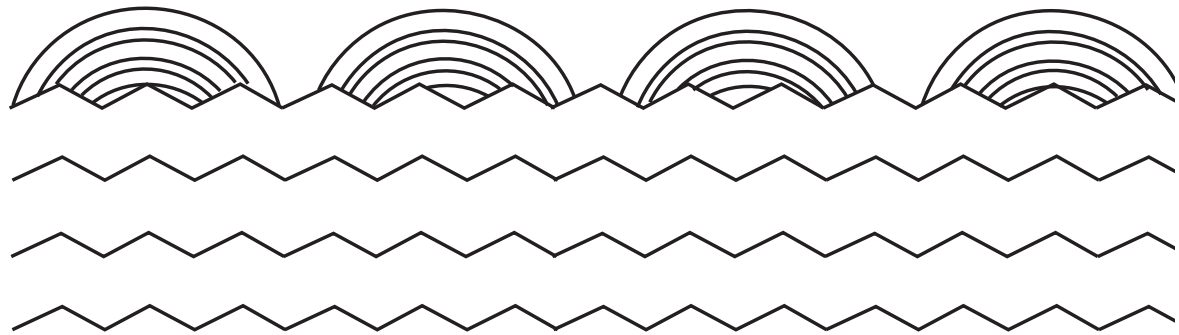
NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

# OBSERVANCE

SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 15

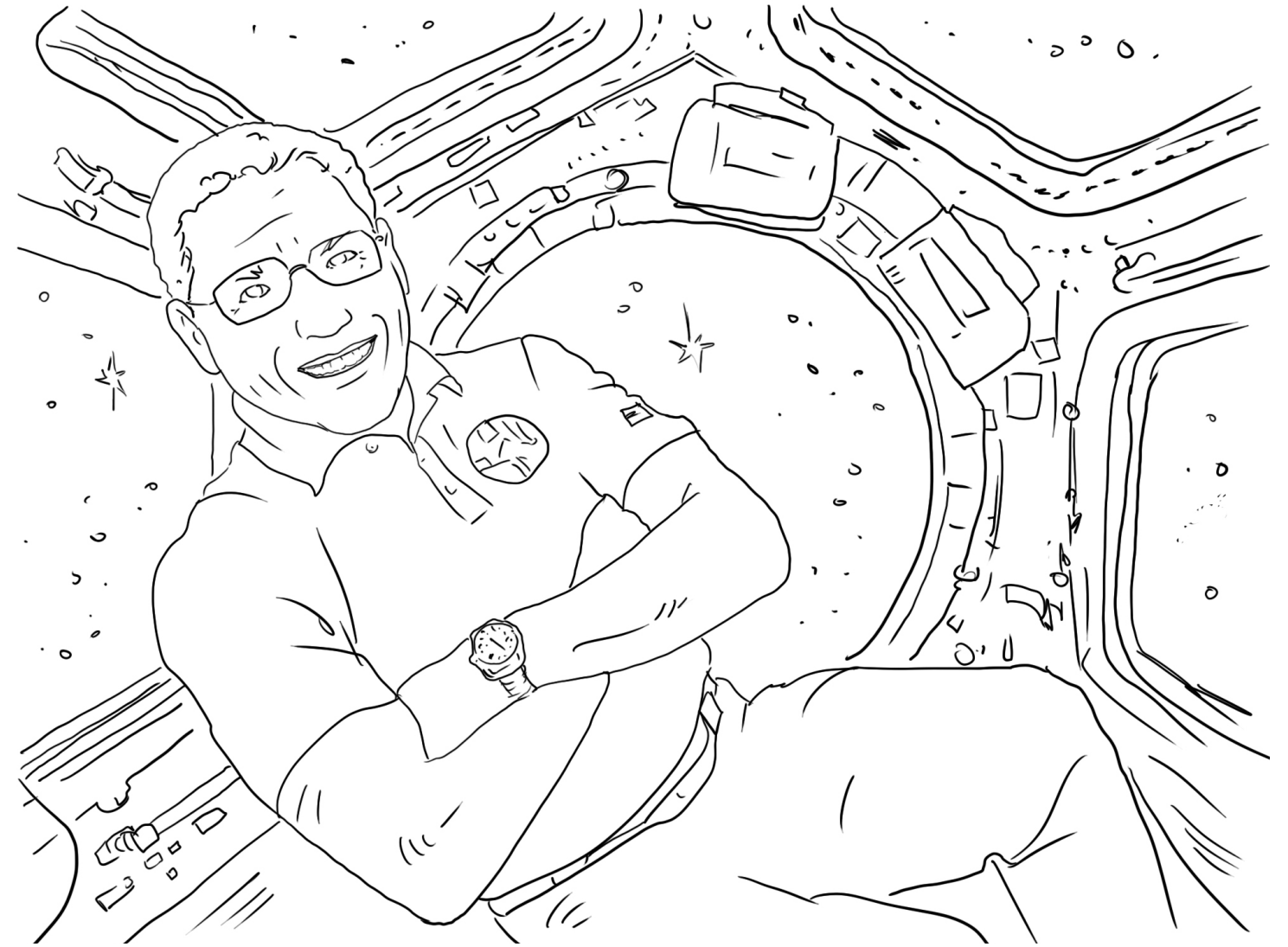


NATIONAL  
**HISPANIC**  
HERITAGE MONTH  
SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 15



*The Department of Defense* joins the Nation in celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of Americans whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

This month stands out from other cultural observances because it spans two different months: September and October.



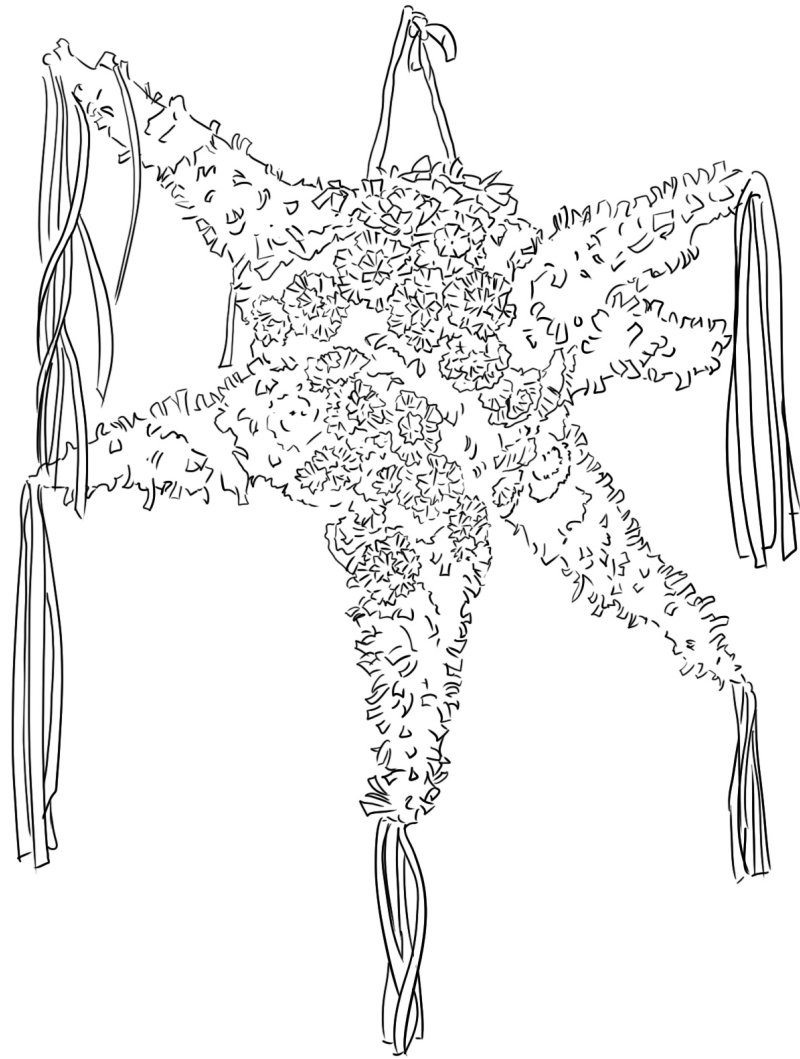
**Dr. Frank Rubio** was born in California and raised in Florida. Rubio graduated from the U.S. Military Academy and the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences. During his military career he flew over 1,100 hours in a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, to include Bosnia and combat tours in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In 2017, Rubio reported for duty at NASA after completing two years of training as an astronaut candidate.

On September 21, 2022, Rubio traveled to the International Space Station for an initial 6-month mission.

However, this mission was extended to over a year, which will break the record for the longest mission conducted by a U.S. astronaut.

# Make a Piñata



The *piñata* is a traditional celebration that actually began in ancient China but later spread to Mexico around the 16th century. Once made of clay pots, the piñata has been used for many celebratory purposes across cultures but has evolved into what is its most well-known form now, a colorful papier-mâché shape or character filled with candies and toys. The tradition of the piñata in Hispanic cultures today is used to celebrate birthdays, baptisms, New Years celebrations, and more, becoming a symbol of joy and togetherness in cultures around the world.

## **Supplies:**

1 round balloon, blown up

Tissue or newspaper torn into strips

1 cup flour

1 cup water

Bowl for mixing

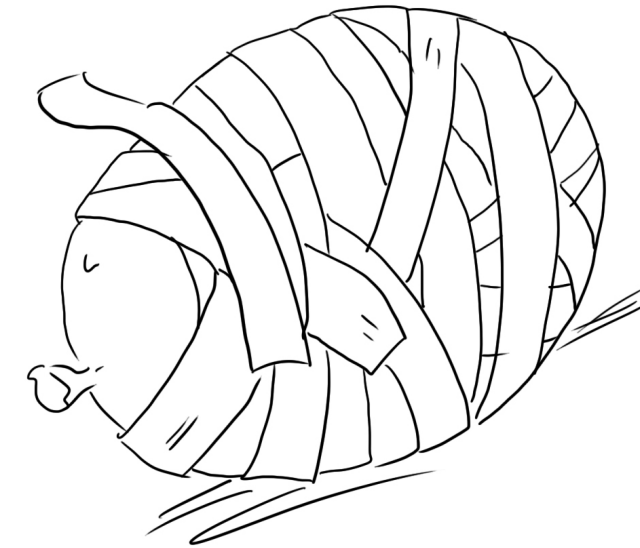
String about 4 feet long

Coloring supplies

Knife or scissors

Treats, candy, or other prizes to stuff pinata

A large stick or bat



## **Instructions:**

1. Mix flour and water in a bowl to make your paste. Be sure to mix very well so that mix is thick and has no big lumps.
2. Dip a paper strip into your paste mix so that it is covered in paste.
3. Place this strip on the balloon, running from top to bottom.
4. Continue to add strips until the entire balloon is covered with several layers of paper strips.
5. Once balloon is covered, let sit until completely dry. Overnight is best.
6. With the help of an adult, use the knife or scissors to then poke two holes near the opening where you popped the balloon and run the string through the holes. This will be to hang your pinata!
7. Decorate your pinata! Make it as bright and colorful as you want!
8. Stuff your pinata, hang it in an area with lots of space, and let the fun begin!!

