

HISPANIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Hispanic Americans: Making a Positive Impact on American Society



Pennington
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Preface

Chief Librarian, Karen Olender, at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI), created this document that provides background and reference material information for Hispanic Heritage Month 2007. This document is posted on the Internet at: <https://www.deomi.org>. Additionally, there are various materials on the web site that support other national observances.

The opinions expressed in this report are those of the author, and should not be construed to represent the official position of DEOMI, the military Services, or the Department of Defense.

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HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

2007 Theme: Hispanic Americans: Making a Positive Impact on American Society
15 September–15 October 2007

Many sub-groups make-up the Hispanic/Latino ethnic and cultural group: Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Central and South American. Each group has its own history in the immigration story of America but they share a common bond in their language.

The Hispanic American Almanac: A Reference Work on Hispanics in the United States, published by Thomson Gale, provides a wealth of knowledge about Hispanics in America. Topics include emigration histories, the labor movement, Hispanic businesses, the arts, famous personalities, prominent scientists, and historic landmarks.

Hispanics have served heroically in the Armed Forces. In August 2007, PBS television stations premiered the documentary film, *The Borinqueneers*, the story of the Puerto Rican 65th Infantry Regiment, the only all-Hispanic unit in the history of the U.S. Army. This film, narrated by Hector Elizondo, includes interviews with veterans, commanding officers, and historians. For more information see <http://www.borinqueneers.com/home.php>.

REFERENCES

Books

Hispanic Cultural Influences:

Radomile, Leon J. (2003). *Heritage Hispanic-American Style* (Bilingual Ed.). Novato, CA: Vincer Enterprises.

This is a fun book which asks questions (preguntas) in both English and Spanish about Hispanic culture, history, and prominent persons. Answers are compiled at the end of the book.

Arreola, Daniel D. (Ed.). (2004). *Hispanic Spaces, Latino Places: Community and Cultural Diversity in Contemporary America*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.

Two sociologists and sixteen geographers look at cultural geography, regional diversity, and community-type of Hispanic/Latino groups.

Suarez-Orozco, Marcelo M. & Paez, Mariela M. (Eds.). (2002). *Latinos: Remaking America*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

This book examines various Hispanic/Latino experiences by exploring the sub-groups that make up the Hispanic/Latino population.

Suro, Roberto (1998). *Strangers Among Us: How Latino Immigration is Transforming America*. New York: Knopf.

Examining the history of Latino immigration, the author looks at the Puerto Rican migration to New York in the 1950's, the Cuban migration to Miami, and the migration of Mexicans to Los Angeles.

Tobar, Hector (2005). *Translation Nation: Defining a New American Identity in the Spanish-Speaking United States*. New York: Riverhead Books.

The author, a former Latino affairs correspondent for the Los Angeles Times, captures the Latino experience through a series of vignettes of Hispanics living in different parts of the United States.

Hispanics in the Military:

Morin, Raul (1966). *Among the Valiant: Mexican-Americans in WWII and Korea*. Alhambra, CA: Borden Publishing Company.

The author spent three years in several Army hospitals recovering from wounds he received in WWII. He decided to write this book because he couldn't find Spanish-named soldiers in the novels and motion pictures made about the war years and he wanted to tell about the exploits of Hispanic soldiers.

Villarreal, Rudolph C. (2002). *Arizona's Hispanic Flyboys, 1941-1945*. New York: Writer's Club Press.

This book is a listing of Arizona Hispanics who served as pilots, navigators, flight engineers, gunners, and radio operators during WWII.

Cervantes, Henry, LTC, USAF (Ret.). (2002). *Piloto: Migrant Worker to Jet Pilot*. Central Point, OR: Hellgate Press.

Son of migrant field workers, Hank Cervantes became a pilot in WWII and had a successful career in the United States Air Force.

Harris, W. W. Brigadier General, U.S. Army (Ret.). *Puerto Rico's Fighting 65th U.S. Infantry: From San Juan to Chorwan*.

The story of the *Borinqueneers* is related by their commanding officer of two years who led his men in combat for nine months in Korea.

Prominent Hispanics:

Chavez, Linda (2002). *An Unlikely Conservative: The Transformation of an Ex-Liberal*. New York: Basic Books

The author is chairman of the Center for Equal Opportunity, a non-profit public policy research organization. This book relates Chavez's journey from being a member of the Young People's Socialist League to becoming a Reagan Republican and personal experiences that shaped her views.

Pantoja, Antonia. (2002). *Antonia Pantoja: Memoir of A Visionary*. Houston, TX: Arte Publico Press.

Born in Puerto Rico in 1922, Antonia Pantoja moved to New York in 1944 and eventually became an activist. She was awarded the Medal of Freedom in 1996 in recognition of her work in organizing Puerto Ricans to overcome the barriers of poverty, increasing political awareness, and promoting economic opportunities.

Rodriguez, Richard. (2002). *Brown: The Last Discovery of America*. New York: Penguin Books.

This memoir by journalist and social critic, Richard Rodriguez, looks at race in American culture.

Levy, Jacques E. (1975). *Cesar Chavez: Autobiography of La Causa*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

This is the story of the founder of the United Farm Workers of America who worked to prevent the exploitation of farm workers and improve their working conditions.

Haugen, Brenda. (2005). *Henry B. Gonzalez: Congressman of the People*. Minneapolis, MN: Compass Point Books.

Henry B. Gonzalez served in the House of Representatives from November 1961 until January 1999. The Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas is named after him.

Nava, Julian. (2002). *Julian Nava: My Mexican-American Journey*. Houston, TX: Arte Publico Press.

Julian Nava was the first Mexican-American to serve as ambassador to Mexico. He obtained a PhD in History from Harvard and served on the Los Angeles School Board during challenging times when school walkouts, desegregation, and bilingual issues confronted education administration.

Audiovisuals

Heroes Hispanos. (1993). Hialeah, FL: Telemundo Network

Running time: 150 minutes

From the American Revolution through Desert Storm, this documentary explores the contributions of Hispanic Americans in the armed forces.

Hispanic Magazine's Guide to Hispanic Excellence: the Leaders. (1993). USA: Public Media Video.

Running time: 35 minutes

Hispanic leaders such as: Dr. Antonio Novello, the first Hispanic woman to serve as U.S. Surgeon General; Joseph Unanue, owner of the largest Hispanic food company; and Raul Yzaguirre, advocate for justice and equality talk about work ethics and role models that made a difference in their lives.

Hispanics and the Medal of Honor. (2002). USA: A&E Television Network.

Running time: 50 minutes

This documentary narrated by Hector Elizondo explores the role of Hispanics in the armed services.

CBS. (1998). *20th Century Hispanics in America with Mike Wallace.* USA: A&E Television Networks

Running time: 50 minutes

This is a history of recent Hispanic immigration beginning in 1959 with Cuban exiles coming to America.

NOW with Bill Moyers: Richard Rodriguez on Being American. (2004). Princeton, NJ: Films for the Humanities

Running time: 40 minutes

Bill Moyers talks with journalist and social critic Richard Rodriguez about race, culture, class and religion.

On-Line Magazines

Hispanic Heritage Newsletter. Retrieved August 22, 2007 from <http://www.somosprimos.com>

This publication presents articles, events, and information about Hispanic heritage issues.

Hispanic Magazine. Retrieved August 22, 2007 from <http://www.hispaniconline.com/magazine/>

This magazine provides a wide range of articles about entertainment, history and social issues.

Latino Leaders. Retrieved August 22, 2007 from <http://www.latinoleaders.com/>
This online publication profiles leaders in the Hispanic community.

Web sites

Hispanic Americans in Congress. Retrieved August 22, 2007 from <http://www.loc.gov/rr/hispanic/congress/>

Information included in this Web site was taken from a print publication, *Hispanic Americans in Congress, 1822–1995*.

Hispanic-Americans in the U.S. Army. Retrieved August 22, 2007 from <http://www.army.mil/cmh/topics/hisp/Hispanic.htm>

This Center for Military History Web site features images from the U.S. Army in Puerto Rico and a list of Hispanic Medal of Honor winners.

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). Retrieved August 22, 2007 from <http://www.lulac.org>

LULAC is the largest and oldest Hispanic Organization in the United States and has more than 700 council offices nationwide offering community-based programs.

Mexican Braceros. Retrieved August 22, 2007 from <http://www.farmworkers.org/benglish.html>

Braceros was the name given to farm workers recruited from Mexico under the Bracero Treaty of 1942 between Mexico and the United States that allowed employment of Mexicans to alleviate the manual labor shortages resulting from the military draft of WWII.

National Council of the Raza. Retrieved August 22, 2007 from <http://www.nclr.org>

This organization's Web site provides news resources, publications, policy briefs and white papers on Latino civil rights and current issues.

National Park Service: Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Retrieved August 22, 2007 from <http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/feature/hispanic/>

This Web site accesses travel itineraries to locations of Hispanic American historic places.

Pew Hispanic Center. Retrieved August 22, 2007 from <http://www.pewhispanic.org/>

This Web site chronicles the diverse experience of Hispanics in America and is supported by The Pew Charitable Trusts. The Pew research component conducts public opinion polls to gather Latino views on social and public policy.

Smithsonian Latino Center. Retrieved August 22, 2007 from <http://www.latino.si.edu>

This Smithsonian Institution features this Web site that includes Latino art collections, music collections, exhibits, museum resources, and the Latino Virtual Gallery.