

What You Should Know About National Hispanic Heritage Month

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Hello everyone!

In the United States, September 15 to October 15 is National Hispanic Heritage Month.

Quick Tip: Hispanics generally refer to people who speak Spanish or have a background in Spanish-speaking countries, while Latinos are classified based on geographic location and are often used to refer to people from Latin America. The meanings of the two overlap to some extent, but they are not the same.

Origin of Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15 and is a 30-day period to commemorate the anniversaries of national independence in numerous Latin American countries.

Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua all recognize September 15 as their independence day, Mexico celebrates its independence on September 16 and Chile celebrates its independence on September 18.



Hispanic Heritage Month dates back to 1968, and while Hispanic Heritage Month first started as a national program, it was also a response to decades of Latino activists, especially in the 1960s, whose demands included acknowledging their culture, history and rights.

Then-President Lyndon Johnson signed legislation to designate the week of September 15 as National Hispanic Heritage Week.

"The Hispanic people have not only made great contributions in the fields of culture, business and science, but have also shown heroism in battle," he wrote in his opening remarks.



Hispanic Heritage Month Timeline

1777 fight for independence



The governor of Louisiana, the Spaniard Bernardo de Galvez joined General George Washington in the battle against British soldiers and helped the United States win independence.

1845 Texas joins



Mexico used to control the area until Texas gained independence from Mexico in 1836. In 1845, Texas joined the United States as the 28th state.

1945 friends on the battlefield



More than 300,000 Latinos joined the U.S. military and fought in World War II.

1960s pursuit of identity



At the height of the civil rights movement, the Hispanic community was also struggling for recognition.

1968 Hispanic Heritage Week



California Congressman George E. Brown hosts Hispanic Heritage Week.

California lawmakers first proposed Hispanic Heritage Week.

1988 Hispanic Heritage Month



Ronald Reagan extends Hispanic Heritage Week into a month-long celebration.

Hispanics who made history

Every year, between September 15 and October 15, Americans come together to honor the contributions of the Hispanic community and the diversity and culture within the Hispanic community. We celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month by searching to find 20 famous Hispanic men and women (groups) who left their mark on our society and on our hearts.

Cesar Chavez



Cesar Chavez was a farmer leader who founded the National Farm Workers Association in 1962. A Mexican-American farm worker, Chavez went on to become the most famous Hispanic civil rights activist.

He promoted the union movement through public relations and used aggressive but nonviolent tactics to turn the struggles of farm workers into an ethical cause that gained national support.

SONIA SOTOMAYOR



Appointed by Barack Obama in 2009, Sonia Sotomayor became the first Hispanic (and third woman) to serve as Supreme Court Justice. She is known for her calls of reform to the criminal justice system and her dissents on issues regarding race, gender, and ethnic identity.

ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ



Often referred to by her initials, AOC, Puerto Rican descendant Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is the youngest congresswoman in United States history, and is also the first member to serve from the Bronx or Queens. Winning in what was seen as the biggest upset victory in the 2018 midterm primaries, AOC advocates for a progressive platform that includes a federal jobs guarantee, abolishing I.C.E, a proposed Green New Deal, and a 70% marginal tax rate for incomes above \$10 million.

ELLEN OCHOA



Ellen Ochoa is a Mexican-American engineer and former astronaut, known best for being the first Hispanic woman to go into space when she served on a nine-day mission aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery. She also served as Director of the NASA Johnson Space Center, becoming the first Hispanic and second woman to do so.

JUAN FELIPE HERRERA



The 21st U.S. Poet Laureate and the first Mexican-American Poet Laureate, Juan Felipe held this esteemed position from 2015–2017. During his time as California's Poet Laureate in 2012, Herrera created the i-Promise Joanna/Yo te Prometo Joanna Project, which focuses on anti-bullying and advocacy of the arts for children.

Roberto Clemente



Roberto Clemente is a Puerto Rican professional baseball player. He is the first Hispanic player to win a World Series title, National League MVP award and World Series MVP award as a starter.

In 1972, he died in a plane crash while delivering aid to earthquake victims in Nicaragua. After his death, he was posthumously inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1973, becoming the first Hispanic player to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

RAFFI FREEDMAN-GURSPAN



Raffi Freedman-Gurspan is a Honduran transgender rights activist. She is also the first openly transgender person to work as a White House staffer and the first openly transgender legislative staffer to work in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. A longtime advocate for human rights, gender equality, and LGBTQ+ people, Gurspan also served as a policy adviser for the National Center for Transgender Equality, leading justice initiatives focused on low-income and transgender people of color. Gurspan is considered one of the leading young voices for queer Hispanics.

SOR JUANA INÈS DE LA CRUZ



Considered a pioneer of women's rights at a time when neither feminism nor gender equality had entered our lexicon, Mexican-born nun Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz was a 17th-century feminist writer and thinker. She is most known for her work "Respuesta a Sor Filotea," which

argued for a woman's right to education. de la Cruz rose in prominence during the 20th century during the second wave of feminism, and is now widely considered the first feminist author of the New World.

SYLVIA MENDEZ



Unsung shero, Sylvia Mendez, paved the way for desegregation of schools in the U.S when in third grade, she became the first Mexican-American to go to an all-white school in California. Her parents sued in the landmark case Mendez vs. Westminster in 1947, successfully desegregating all public schools in California. This was the first case in which the U.S ruled in favor of desegregation, and paved the way for the more well-known Supreme Court Case, Brown vs. Board of Education.

ARTURO ALFONSO SCHOMBURG



An Afro-Puerto Rican writer, scholar, and activist, Arturo Alfonso Schomburg (also known as Arthur A. Schomburg), was a prominent figure during the Harlem renaissance. He was most known for his extensive collection of works from the African Diaspora, so much so that the New York Public Library purchased his collections after his death. Today, The Schomburg Center is one of the most notable research libraries on Black culture.

ROSARIO DAWSON



Afro-Latina Rosario Dawson—of Puerto Rican and Cuban descent—is not only an actress and producer, but an activist and philanthropist as well. She is known for her political endorsements and campaigning for Democratic and Green Party candidates, as well as for co-founding Vote Latino, a non-profit org that encourages young Hispanics to register and become more politically active.

JORGE RAMOS



Known as the "Walter Cronkite of Latin America," Mexican-born American journalist and author, Jorge Ramos, is one of the most influential people in America, and is currently a major anchor for Univision. He champions Hispanic peoples rights through his reporting, and is a staunch advocate of increasing literacy among Hispanic Americans. *Despierta Leyendo* (Wake Up Reading) is one of the fruits of his labor—the first Book Club in the history of Hispanic television.

SANDRA CISNEROS



Mexican author Sandra Cisneros is most known for her bestselling coming-of-age tale, "The House on Mango Street." As the first Mexican-American author to have her work published by a mainstream publisher, she is heralded as one of the most influential Hispanic women in the literary space, and a pioneer of the Chicano literary movement. Cisneros spent most of her life advocating for at-risk youth; early on in her career, she taught them, and later continued to give back through her work with the Macondo and Alfredo Cisneros del Moral Foundations.

PABLO ALVARADO



Named one of TIME's 25 most influential people in America, Pablo Alvarado is often called the César Chavez of day workers. Alvarado works tirelessly as director of the National Day Laborer Organizing Network, helping to both unify and strengthen it's member organization and assist day laborers in their ability to mobilize and organize.

DEMI LOVATO



Demi Lovato has used her star power since her early Disney days to empower young girls. She is an official ambassador for Free the Children, and her work revolves around anti-bullying, mental health, and gender equality. Demi's Hispanic roots (she is of Mexican descent) has compelled her to speak out about issues regarding immigration, and she works closely with organizations to help those who are affected by the decision to end the DACA program.

LAS HERMANAS MIRABAL



The Mirabal sisters (Patria, Minerva, Maria Teresa, and Dedé) are known for their opposition of Dominican dictator, Rafael Trujillo, and his corrupt regime. They lead many of the covert operations designed to foster dissent amongst Dominicans, overthrow his dictatorship, and restore democracy. Three of the sisters (Patria, Minerva, and Maria Teresa) were assassinated on Trujillo's orders for their activities. The United Nations designated November 25th as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in honor of the sisters, and Julia Alvarez further honored their legacy with a fictional account of their tale titled "In the Time of the Butterflies."

DOLORES HUERTO



Dolores Huerto is known for her work as a labor leader, and famously helped organize the Delano Grape Strike alongside Cesar Chavez. She also cofounded the National Farm Worker's Association with Chavez, and popularized the slogan "Sí, se puede" ("Yes, we can") around her organizing. Huerto was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her work and in 1993, became the first Hispanic woman inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

BERTA CÁCERES



Indigenous Honduran activist, Berta Cáceres, was most known for her successful campaign opposing a proposed dam on the Gualcargue River, which is considered sacred by the Lenca, the Indigenous tribe that Cáceres belonged to. She also cofounded the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras, which advocates for indigenous communities in Honduras. Cáceres was assassinated in 2016; her death sparked worldwide outrage and brought much-needed attention to the high rate of deaths among environmental activists.

RAUL JULIÁ



With a new documentary of his life—Raul Juliá: The World's a Stage— airing on PBS ahead of Hispanic Heritage Month, no list would be complete without the incomparable Juliá. Well known for his role as Gomez in *The Addams Family*, Raul was considered a master of both the theater and the stage. Still, he considered his best roles the ones off the stage. Here, he worked tirelessly to elevate and advocate for Hispanic filmmakers, especially those from his home of Puerto Rico.

Rita Moreno



Rita Moreno is a Puerto Rican actress, singer and dancer. Her career spans more than 70 years. In 1962, she became the first Hispanic woman to win an Oscar.

She is one of the few artists to win four major US entertainment awards, including an Oscar, two Emmys, a Grammy, and a Tony. Rita Moreno was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, in 2004.

Writing the Hispanics of the Future

Hispanic Heritage Month not only provides an opportunity to learn about the rich history of the Hispanic community, but also to learn about their importance in today's society. In modern society, Hispanics make up an increasing share of the total U.S. population.



The 2020 U.S. Census shows that Hispanics (and Latinos) make up a fast-growing multiracial group. In 2020, 62.1 million people identified as Hispanic or Latino, or 18% of the U.S. population. Between 2010 and 2020, half (51.1%) of the total U.S. population growth was due to the increase in Hispanics or Latinos.

Hispanics and their culture have a strong influence around the world. They have left an indelible mark on history and will continue to write their future.



All materials are searched from the Internet, we organize and combine the knowledge learned in school to write and translate