



THE HISTORY OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Hispanic Heritage Month is a nationally recognized celebration honoring the outstanding contributions, diversity, ancestry, and traditions of all Hispanic Americans in areas such as politics, art, business, language, education, music, and family. Commencing on September 17, 1968, by a resolution of Congress as a weeklong observance, Hispanic Heritage Month was lengthened to 30 days by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to be celebrated annually from September 15th through October 15th. September 15th was chosen to commemorate the Independence Days of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. The month also celebrates the heritage and contributions of Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean nations, and South America.

Prominent Hispanic Americans who are, and have been of great influence in the many facets of American society include Marco Rubio, U.S Senator from Florida; Sonia Sotomayor, the first Hispanic Supreme Court Justice; Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez, top Commander of the Coalition forces during the first year of the Iraq War; Judith Zaylor, Executive VP of Production at Warner Bros.TV; Myrtle Gonzalez, considered the first female Hispanic star in Hollywood; Oscar de la Renta, world famous designer; Luis Walter Alvarez, noble prize winning physicist; and Oscar De La Hoya, regarded as one of the greatest boxers of all time.

Through strong family values, faith, hard work, and service, Hispanic Americans continue to be a growing and influential asset to the American vision. In the United States, they continue to pursue a positive and courageous force. We gather together to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month to thank our Hispanic community for their culture, courage, and sacrifice.

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STATE SENATOR LEE M. ZELDIN HISPANIC HERITAGE AWARDS CEREMONY

*A Celebration of the Hispanic Community
In the 3rd Senate District*

OCTOBER 18, 2013





HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2013

Dear Friends,

Good evening. Thank you for joining us tonight as we recognize Hispanic Heritage Month 2013 to honor and say thank you for the many contributions of the Hispanic Community in the 3rd Senate District.

I wish to extend a special welcome to the honorees present this evening, including the UNIDAD Latina Scholarship recipients from William Floyd High School and local business owners Jose & Norma Paredes of Paredes Tax Services, Inc.

Over the past year, the Hispanic community has continued to make innumerable contributions to the culture and quality of life on Long Island. This diverse community, encompassing many countries with different traditions, is committed to working diligently to further freedom and equality in the areas of education, law enforcement, politics, economic empowerment and justice.

The efforts of these citizens have enriched every area of life on Long Island. As workers, consumers, entrepreneurs, community organizers, and veterans, Hispanic Americans contribute greatly to the fabric of life in America.

Every day presents numerous opportunities to solve problems and improve the lives of Long Islanders. In order to make the greatest achievements possible, we need to embrace the talent, enthusiasm, and determination of all our people.

Each of these honorees selected are an integral part of our community. I am honored to have them join us tonight.

Sincerely,

Senator Lee M. Zeldin



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