

The original documents are located in Box 38, “9/10/76 - Remarks Upon the Signing of the Proclamation 4459: National Hispanic Heritage Week, 1976” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE WEEK

PROCLAMATION SIGNING, SEPTEMBER 10, 1976

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO THE
WHITE HOUSE TODAY AS I SIGN THIS PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING
SEPTEMBER TWELFTH THROUGH THE NINETEENTH AS NATIONAL
HISPANIC HERITAGE WEEK.

IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR, IT IS GOOD FOR US TO
CONSIDER HOW MUCH THE PEOPLE WHO CAME TO THE NEW WORLD
IN SEARCH OF AN OPPORTUNITY TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN
FUTURES HAVE MEANT TO AMERICA.

THESE REPRESENTATIVES OF MANY RACES AND CULTURES BROUGHT
WITH THEM THEIR OWN UNIQUE HERITAGE AND CONTRIBUTED
IMMEASURABLY TO THE AMERICAN SPIRIT AND CHARACTER.

AMERICA'S HISPANIC HERITAGE RUNS PARTICULARLY DEEP.

MEN AND WOMEN OF HISPANIC ORIGIN FOUGHT IN THE

REVOLUTIONARY WAR. HISPANIC AMERICANS HAVE ENRICHED

OUR CULTURE, ARTS AND SCHOLARSHIP. THEY HAVE HELPED

BUILD AN AMERICA WHERE FREEDOM AND EQUALITY ARE THE

PRACTICE AS WELL AS THE IDEAL.

IN RECENT MONTHS, THE MORE THAN ELEVEN MILLION
AMERICANS OF HISPANIC ORIGIN HAVE MADE SUBSTANTIAL NEW
CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

MORE THAN 50 HISPANICS HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO
RANKING POSITIONS IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

Compressed
FEDERAL FUNDS FOR BILINGUAL EDUCATION HAVE BEEN
INCREASED.

A SYSTEM OF SPANISH SPEAKING CO-ORDINATORS HAS BEEN
ESTABLISHED TO HELP HISPANIC AMERICANS GET WORTHWHILE JOBS.

THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO PROTECT
THE RIGHTS OF THE SPANISH SPEAKING.

HISPANIC KNOW-HOW, ENERGY, PRIDE AND DEDICATION
HAVE STRENGTHENED AMERICA FOR OVER TWO CENTURIES.

THE HISPANIC CONTRIBUTION TO AMERICA HAS BEEN A CONSISTENT
AND VITAL INFLUENCE ON OUR SOCIETY.

I KNOW THAT CONTRIBUTION WILL CONTINUE TO FLOURISH IN THE

YEARS AHEAD - AND CONTINUE TO ADD TO ALL THAT IS GOOD

IN AMERICA• TODAY, I AM PROUD TO SIGN THIS

PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE WEEK•

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