



## National Hispanic Heritage Month

***“Hispanics: Serving and Leading Our Nation with Pride and Honor”***

15 September - 15 October 2013

*“Our Nation’s story would not be possible without generations of Hispanics who have shaped and strengthened the fabric of our Union.”*

~ President Barack Obama

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Each year we take time to reflect on and celebrate the tremendous contributions of Hispanic Americans to our Army and to our Nation. Some of our most senior leaders proudly uphold the legacy of exceptional service begun by prior generations. From Under Secretary of the Army, Joseph W. Westphal to Lieutenant General Rhett Hernandez and Medal of Honor recipient Sergeant First Class Leroy Petry, America and its armed forces have benefitted greatly from the hard work and dedication of these and many other Hispanic Americans.

It was the Borinqueneers of Puerto Rico’s 65th Infantry Regiment during the Korean War who launched the last recorded battalion-sized bayonet charge and overran the Chinese 149th Division south of Seoul on February 2, 1951. This battle exemplifies the unwavering courage and indomitable spirit that has earned our Hispanic American Soldiers a distinguished legacy. With more than 40 Medal of Honor recipients dating back to the Civil War, Hispanic Americans continue to represent our military with deep and abiding patriotism and heroism.

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we encourage our entire Army Family to commemorate the many successes of the Hispanic community. We are extremely proud of what our Army accomplishes; and we know that our strength comes from our diversity. This month, we give special notice to our Hispanic-American Soldiers, Civilians and Families, whose contributions help make our Army what it is today: the premiere fighting force in the entire world. Army Strong!

  
Raymond F. Chandler III  
Sergeant Major of the Army

  
Raymond Odierno  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

  
John M. McHugh  
Secretary of the Army