



September 9, 2016

**The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Commemorates  
National Hispanic Heritage Month**

Washington, DC – The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights commemorates National Hispanic Heritage Month, first celebrated in 1968. We recognize the myriad contributions of Hispanics in all aspects of American society, and recognize the important role of Hispanic heritage and traditions in the diversity of our nation.

In 1968, Congress passed a law authorizing President Lyndon Johnson to issue an annual proclamation designating the week including September 15 and 16 as National Hispanic Heritage Week. September 15 is the anniversary of the independence of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua; September 16 - Mexico and Chile; and September 18 – Belize. In 1988, the tribute was expanded to 30 days, and renamed National Hispanic Heritage Month. Each year the President issues a proclamation to celebrate the contributions to America of men and women of Hispanic origin.

Commission Chairman Martin R. Castro stated, “As the first Latino Chair in the Commission’s history, I take great pride in the Commission’s recognition of National Hispanic Heritage Month. Latinos are proud Americans and we have contributed tremendously to the growth and success of the United States in every way and in every setting, from our nation’s past, to its present, and without a doubt to its future.”

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Founded in 1957, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights matters and issuing a federal civil rights enforcement report. For information about the Commission, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/usccrgov>