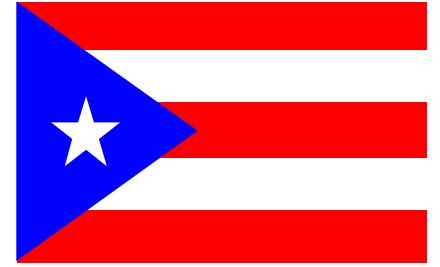




MEXICO

# Latino



PUERTO RICO



GUATEMALA

# Heritage



COSTA RICA

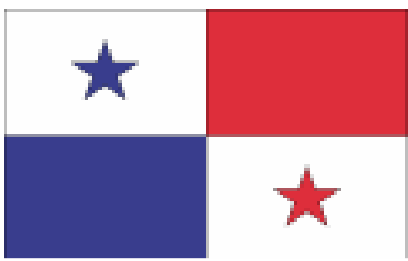


CUBA

# Month

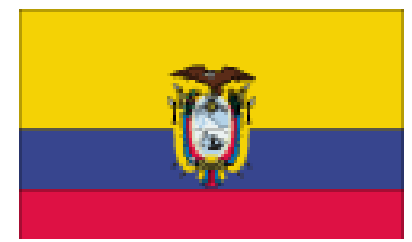


ARGENTINA



PANAMA

The History of



ECUADOR

# Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month

\*In 1968 Congress passed a proclamation designating the week including September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> as "National Hispanic Heritage **Week**" (*due to Hispanic Holidays*).

\*In 1988 The Congress passed the designation of "National Hispanic Heritage **Month**" beginning September 15<sup>th</sup> and ending October 15<sup>th</sup> each year.



COLUMBIA

# Some Latino Celebrations



NICARAGUA

Quinceañera - For hundreds of year's young women in Latin America from Mexico to Argentina has celebrated quinceañera - the 15<sup>th</sup> birthday - in grand tradition. Generally quinceañera parties are very lavish, with mariachi bands, a feast, and many guests celebrating the 15-year-old's transition into womanhood.

Cinco de Mayo - The day commemorates a Mexican army victory in the "Batalla de Puebla" against the French in 1862, during the French occupation of Mexico. The holiday is frequently confused with Mexican Independence Day, which occurred 50 years earlier, in the fight for independence from Spain.

National Puerto Rican Day of New York: In early June each year since the 1950s, the streets of New York City throng with participants in a festival of Puerto Rican pride. The parade runs from 44<sup>th</sup> to 86<sup>th</sup> street. In 1998, New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani proclaimed June 7<sup>th</sup> to June 14<sup>th</sup> "Puerto Rican Week" in New York.

Hispanic Day Parade: Hispanics from all over the world have congregated in New York City every October since 1965 for the Hispanic Day Parade to celebrate pride in cultures unique to each country.

Los Dias de los Muertos: The Day of the Dead. A traditional 3 day celebration practiced throughout Mexico. The holiday honors the dead and welcomes them back for two days of feasting and festivities. It is a celebration of life. It goes back to the Aztecs, long before the Spanish conquistadores arrived in what is now Mexico. The Day of the Dead came to be celebrated on two Catholic holidays, All Saints Day and



DOMINICAN  
REPUBLIC



SPAIN

# Famous Latino Americans



BOLIVIA

**Julia Alvarez**, b.1950, From the Dominican Republic, Julia was a graduate of Syracuse University. She writes vivid memories of her childhood and transition to New York City from the Dominican Republic.

**Luis Walter Alvarez**, 1911 – 1988. From California, Luis won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1968.

**Joan Baez**, b1944, From New York City Joan was a singer and activist who was one of the first to urge social protest through music.

**David Barkley**, 1899-1918, From Texas, David was the first Hispanic Medal of Honor recipient. He won for his bravery during WWI.

**Cesar Chavez**, 1927-1993, From Arizona Cesar was a labor leader who led strikes, fasts, picketing and marches to obtain contracts for labor workers.

**Dolores Huerta**, b.1930, From New Mexico, Dolores was a lobbyist and labor leader. She co-founded the United Farm of America with Cesar Chavez.

**Oscar Hijuelos**, b. 1951, From New York City, Oscar was the first Hispanic to win the Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

**Mario Molina**, b.1943, From Mexico, Mario won the Nobel Prize for chemistry.

**Carlos Noriega**, b1959, from Peru Carlos was a Marine Corp Pilot for years before becoming an astronaut.

**Ellen Ochoa**, b. 1958, From California Ellen was an astronaut as well as a researcher, engineer and classical flutist.

**Severo Ochoa**, 1905-1993, From Spain Severo became an American citizen in 1956. He won the Nobel Prize for bio-chemistry for the synthesis of RNA.

**Gary Soto**, b.1952, From California, Gary writes fiction and narrative poetry for children. He is also a professor at UC Riverside.

# Places in the U.S. named in Spanish

**Alamo:** "poplar." This tall softwood tree gave its name to a number of U.S. places, including the memorable chapel-fort in Texas and the town of Los Alamos in New Mexico, where atomic bombs were produced.

**Alcatraz Island** (California): from "álcátraces," pelican. A sizable pelican population once lived on this rocky island in the San Francisco Bay.

**Boca Raton** (Florida): from "boca de ratones," a Spanish term applied to nearby inlets. It translates as "mouth of the mouse" (not "rat," which is "rata") and may refer to the jagged rocks at these inlets. It has also been suggested that "ratones" was a term used for the pirates who might hide in such a place.

**California:** The state was named for a mythical land described in a popular Spanish novel from around 1500, *Las sergas de Esplandián* (The exploits of Esplandián) by Garcia Ordóñez de Montalvo.

**Cape Canaveral** (Florida): from "cañaveral," canebrake. The promontory NASA made famous takes its name from the thickets of cane that grow in sandy areas.

**Colorado:** "reddish." The state is named for the reddish color of mud found in the Colorado River.

**El Paso** (Texas): "passage." The border city of El Paso lies at a small gap between the Rockies and the Juarez Mountains of Mexico. This narrow passage has made the city a hub for both north-south and east-west travel.

**Florida:** "Flowery." Some say that Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon named the land for the Spanish term for Easter, Pascua de Florida (Flowery Feast), because he first saw the land during the Easter season. Others believe he named it for the area's lush flowers.

**Fresno** (California): "ash tree." The central Californian city and county are named for their abundant ash trees.



PARAGUAY

**La Brea** (California): "tar." The tar pits in this famous part of Los Angeles have yielded amazing fossils for more than 100 years.

**Las Cruces** (New Mexico): "crosses." The city is named for the burial ground of some 40 travelers who were killed by Apaches in 1830.

**Las Vegas** (Nevada): "meadows." Before casinos and neon lights defined Las Vegas, the area was noteworthy as a desert oasis with artesian springs.

**Los Angeles** (California): "angels." In 1781 Spanish settlers founded El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de Los Angeles de Porciúncula (The Town of Our Lady the Queen of the Angels of Porciúncula). It became known as La Ciudad de los Angeles (City of Angels), and then just as Los Angeles.

**Los Gatos** (California): "cats." At the time this western California city was founded, many wildcats roamed the area.

**Montana**: from "montaña," mountain. Representative James M. Ashley of Ohio suggested using the Spanish word in honor of the territory's mountainous western part.

**Nevada**: "snow-covered." The mountains in this western state are often capped with snow.

**San Antonio** (Texas): "Saint Anthony" (of Padua). On the feast day of St. Anthony in 1691, Spanish explorers found and named the eponymous river. Later the name was given to the city, which was founded in 1718.

**San Francisco** (California): "Saint Francis" (of Assisi). The city by the bay was once a Mexican village named Yerba Buena (Good Grass). In 1846, during the Mexican War, Commodore John Sloat captured and renamed the settlement for its San Francisco de Asís mission (better known as Mission Dolores), which was founded in 1776.

**Sangre de Cristo Mountains** (Colorado and New Mexico): "blood of Christ." This mountain range was named for the red glow cast on it by the setting sun.

**Santa Fe** (New Mexico): "holy faith." Spanish settlers founded this oldest U.S. capital nearly 400 years ago, as La Villa Real de la Santa Fe de San Francisco de Asís (The Royal City of the Holy Faith of Saint Francis).



HONDURAS