




## National Hispanic Heritage Month


15 September - 15 October 2011

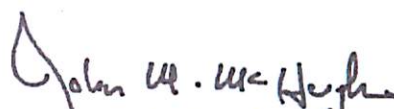
Hispanic Americans trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean, yet throughout American history they have always come together in service to our Nation and our Army. It is therefore fitting, that for this years' National Hispanic Heritage Month, we celebrate the theme of *"Many Backgrounds, Many Stories...One American Spirit."*

Hispanic American Soldiers have a distinguished legacy in our Army – from the courage of the highly decorated Borinqueneers of the Puerto Rican 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, to the distinguished service of General (Retired) Richard E. Cavazos, the Army's first Hispanic four-star general officer and the Honorable Joseph Westphal, our Under Secretary of the Army. They have all shown their true American Spirit and commitment to our Army and our Nation. This spirit is alive and well in our Soldiers serving in harm's way today in Afghanistan and Iraq – Soldiers like Sergeant First Class Leroy Petry, a Hispanic American, an Army Ranger, and a Medal of Honor recipient so honored for his courage and selfless sacrifice saving the lives of his comrades.

We give our thanks and gratitude for the past and present contributions Hispanic-American Soldiers and Civilians have made to the success of our Army and our Nation. During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we encourage our entire Army Family to publicly commemorate these contributions that help make our Army what it is today, the premiere fighting force in all the world.

  
Raymond F. Chandler III  
Sergeant Major of the Army

  
Raymond T. Odierno  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

  
John M. McHugh  
Secretary of the Army