



## Hispanic Heritage Month – September 15 thru October 15, 2017

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15 thru October 15, Eighth Army recognizes the important contributions made by Hispanic and Latino Americans and we celebrate their heritage and culture.

Since our Nation's founding, Hispanic Americans have served bravely in the United States Army, earning fifteen Medals of Honor and numerous distinguished military decorations for their leadership, courage, and patriotism.

In keeping with this tradition in Eighth Army, we recognize Private First Class Miguel Armando Vera, who distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an automatic rifleman with the 2nd Infantry Division in Chorwon, Korea, September 21, 1952.

That morning, despite suffering from wounds inflicted in a previous battle, Private Vera voluntarily left the aid station to join his comrades in an attack against well-fortified enemy positions on a hill of great importance. When the assaulting elements had moved within twenty yards of the enemy positions, they were suddenly trapped by a heavy volume of mortar, artillery and small-arms fire. The company prepared to make a limited withdrawal, but Private Vera volunteered to remain behind to provide covering fire. As his companions moved to safety, Private Vera remained steadfast in his position, directing accurate fire against the hostile positions despite the intense volume of fire which the enemy was concentrating upon him. Later in the morning, when the friendly force returned, they discovered Private Vera in the same position, facing the enemy. Private Vera's noble intrepidity and self-sacrifice saved many of his comrades' lives. Private Vera's extraordinary heroism and selflessness at the cost of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

Today, Hispanic Americans in Eighth Army continue this proud legacy as they stand ready to "Fight Tonight" on Freedom's Frontier.

We encourage all personnel to take part in their local National Hispanic Heritage Month events and learn more about outstanding contributions Hispanic Americans have made both to our great nation and Eighth Army.

Eighth Army is strong...and getting stronger!

Pacific Victors!

RICHARD E. MERRITT  
CSM, USA  
Command Sergeant Major

THOMAS S. VANDAL  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding