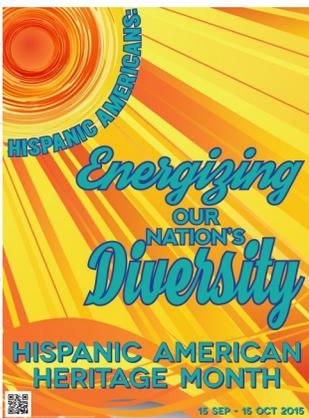




Garrison EO
Weekly
Newsletter

21-25 Sept.
2015

Hispanic
Heritage
Month



DID YOU KNOW?

People of Mexican origin account for two thirds (34 million) of the nation's Latinos. Those of Puerto Rican origin are the next largest group at 4.9 million (with another 3.5 million on the island of Puerto Rico). There are five other Hispanic origin groups with more than 1 million people each: Cubans, Salvadorans, Dominicans, Guatemalans and Colombians.

United States Army Garrison-Ansbach, Equal Opportunity Advisor Office



Energizing Our Nation's Community

Hispanic Heritage Month began in September 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon B. Johnson. In 1970, the Hispanic population in the United States was 9.6 million, constituting 4.7 percent of the nation's total population. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan expanded the length of the observance, establishing Hispanic Heritage Month. The Hispanic population that same year was 19.4 million, roughly 7.9 percent of the nation's total population. Between July 1, 2011, and July 1, 2012, the number of Hispanics in America rose by 1.1 million. This number is nearly half of the approximately 2.3 million people added to the nation's population during this period. In 2060, the projected Hispanic population of the U.S. will be 128.8 million. According to this projection, His-

panics will constitute 31 percent of the nation's population.

Many Hispanics have contributed greatly to the American culture. Physicist Luis Walter Alvarez left his post at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to join the Manhattan Project to develop the first atomic bomb. Ritchie Valens became the first Hispanic rock star with his hit recording "Come On, Let's Go." He also is the first Mexican American rocker to be featured on American Bandstand. Valens is considered the first Latino to successfully cross over into mainstream rock. Venezuelan shortstop Luis Aparicio becomes the first Hispanic American in U.S. professional baseball to be named Rookie of the Year.

For more information, look for next week's newsletter!

Upcoming Events

Hispanic Heritage
Observance

Date: 14 Oct. 2015

Time: Noon – 1 p.m.

Location: Katterbach
Fitness Gym

Keynote Speaker:

Yanna Rodriguez

There will be lots of cultural food and entertainment!! Free to the community!!

Visit your local library, located on Bleidorn Kaserne or Stork Barracks, to check out the vast selection of books and movies and learn more about those individuals and groups who had a large impact in the Hispan-

Master Sgt. Roy Benavidez Medal of Honor Recipient

In May, a 12-man Special Forces reconnaissance team was inserted by helicopters into a jungle west of Loc Ninh, Vietnam, to gather intelligence about enemy activity. After arriving, the team met heavy enemy resistance, and requested emergency extraction. Helicopters attempted to extract them but were unable to land due to intense small-arms and anti-aircraft fire. Staff Sgt. Roy Benavidez heard the radio appeal for help and boarded a helicopter to respond. Realizing that all the team members were either dead or wounded and unable to move to the pickup zone, Benavidez directed the pilot to land at a clearing. Armed only with a knife, he jumped from the helicopter carrying his medical bag and rushed to help the trapped patrol. Before reaching the team, he was wounded in his right leg, face, and head. Still, he repositioned the stranded team, and directed their fire to facilitate the landing of the extraction aircraft. Despite his severe wounds and under intense enemy fire, he carried and dragged half of the wounded team members to the awaiting aircraft. As the battle intensified, he recovered the body of the dead team leader and the classified documents on him. Benavidez was severely wounded in the abdomen by small arms fire, and by grenade shrapnel in his back.

