



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
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NGAR-HRO-EEM

1 September 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR All Arkansas National Guard Personnel

SUBJECT: National Hispanic Heritage Month 2021

1. September 15 – October 15 is designated as National Hispanic Heritage Month. This year's theme is **"Esperanza: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage and Hope."** We encourage you to take this opportunity to learn more about the contributions made by Hispanics and Hispanic-Americans throughout American history.
2. September 15 was selected as the starting point of National Hispanic Heritage Month because it is the anniversary for five Latin American countries who declared their independence in 1821: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Furthermore, in 1810, Mexico declared its independence on September 16, and Chile on September 18. Since the American Revolution, Hispanics have served courageously in every American war. Between 400,000 and 500,000 Hispanic Americans served during World War II, where 17 were awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest military decoration in the United States military awarded for acts of valor. Their contributions to the armed forces, as well as to the arts, public service, agriculture, and many other sectors of our nation, have been vital to the continued safety, growth, and prosperity of the United States.
3. The observance recognizing National Hispanic Heritage Month was established by Title 36, U.S. Code, Section 126 and Public Law 100-402. The President issues a Proclamation each year calling on the people of the United States to observe National Hispanic Heritage Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities. Let's all take the time to reflect on the many contributions Hispanics and Hispanic-Americans have made in the past, and will continue to make in the future, as we strive to become a stronger and more diverse nation together.
4. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact CW2 Patrick Jacob, EEO Specialist, at patrick.d.jacob.mil@mail.mil or 501-212-4222.

KENDALL W. PENN
Major General
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