



September 18, 2018

President's Waypoint: National Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15 - October 15

From September 15 to October 15, we pay tribute to the generations of Hispanic Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation, society, and local community. National Hispanic Heritage month calls on our community to celebrate the histories, cultures, and contributions of those whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

What makes this national observation unique is the split month of celebration. The reason for the split month is that September 15 through October 15 encompasses several important dates, including between September 15th and 16th, a total of seven Latin American countries celebrate their independence. Included in the group are Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. The celebrations are significant because they represent the independence of these Latin American countries from centuries of colonialism.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988. To learn more about National Hispanic Heritage Month, visit [Hispanic Heritage Month](#).

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