



## NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

National Hispanic Heritage Month is an annual event that celebrates the history and culture of Americans who are descendants of people from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, South America and Central America. It also acknowledges the contributions that were made to the American heritage and culture by members of the Hispanic and Latino community.

The first day of September also happens to be the anniversary for the independence of many Latin American countries including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras. During the first few weeks of Hispanic Heritage Month, Mexico, as well as Chile, celebrate their independence from Sept. 16 and Sept. 18.

The County of Los Angeles is also expected to host many festivals and events celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month, as they do typically every year.

**RUBY LA and JULIET ALEMAN**

Staff Writers

## HOW DID N.H.H.M. START?

Spanish explorers first arrived in what is now the United States in the 1400s seeking a new home. Centuries later, their descendents wanted to appreciate their culture by making Sept. 15 an official Independence day for many Latin Americans.

On June 11, 1968, California Congressman George E. Brown proposed the House Joint Resolution 1299. Brown's proposal was passed quickly and President Lyndon B. Johnson signed it on Sept. 17, 1968. This law was one of the first steps toward the current month-long celebration of the Hispanic people.

Three other similar joint resolutions had also been proposed, which have been made to recognize and conserve traditions through positive approaches. Though they were not as recognized as the week-long house joint resolution Brown passed, the bills helped build the momentum that would become National Hispanic Heritage Month.

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## UPCOMING N.H.H.M. EVENTS

Los Angeles County is home to five million Americans of Hispanic descent making it a perfect place to host festivals and celebrations in honor of National Hispanic Heritage month. The city of Inglewood has organized the Hispanic Heritage Festival 2018, set on September 15 at Crozier Middle School. This event is recognized by the Department of Cultural Affairs and all ages are welcome to explore the diversity that exists within the Hispanic and Latino American community.

From car shows to street-style food vendors, all can be expected in the festival. This is the opportunity for many to showcase memorabilia and other talents that represent Hispanic heritage. There are hands on activities for the younger children to embrace the art of crafting that has been passed down for generations. Festivities for adults include live music, dances and competitions to ensure an enjoyable event for everyone.

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## FUN FACTS

1. 57.5 million people (18 percent of the American population) are of Hispanic or Latino origin.

2. It is estimated that by the year 2060, the Hispanic population in the United States will constitute approximately 31% of the population.

3. Approximately 1.1 million veterans of the United States armed forces are Hispanic or Latino.

4. Hispanic Heritage Month has been featured on Sesame Street.

5. Many festivals, parades and festivities include traditional celebration foods like tamales, salsas, pozole, chiles rellenos and chicken mole.

6. Celebrations usually include but are not limited to film screenings, concerts, dancing, festivals with food, crafts, museum exhibits and other events.

7. In 2014, Latinos became the largest ethnic group in America.

8. In 1781, Los Angeles was established by Spaniards, Afro-Latinos, indigenous peoples and mestizos.

9. In 1928, Octaviano Larrazolo from New Mexico was the first Hispanic elected to the U.S. Senate.

10. In the 1946 court decision of Mendez v. Westminster, it was ruled illegal for students of Mexican heritage to be segregated into inferior schools.

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