

September 23, 2023

Ladies and Gentlemen

Today, I am honored to stand before you to celebrate and acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the Hispanic in The United States of America. The rich tapestry of this country is woven with the threads of the diverse cultures and backgrounds, and no doubt, the Hispanic community has played a pivotal role in the shaping of this nation we know today.

The term Hispanic refers to people, cultures and countries related to Spain that use the Spanish language or are the Hispanidad, broadly speaking.

From 1970 the census in the EE.UU, uses the word Hispanic for any person of any Hispanic culture, independently of race or ethnicity.

Spanish explorers ventured across the Atlantic bringing their language, culture and traditions to the shores of this continent; they, together with the rest of the Hispanic community established missions, forts, towns, trade routes and roads.

It is clear that the most notable contribution of the Hispanic to the US has been the Spanish language which is now spoken in more than 41 million homes in this country.

Throughout the history of the US we have made immense contributions in fields from politics to business, from

science to art. Spain's descendants' leaders as Assistant Superior Court Justice Benjamin Cardozo back in 1932 and his relative Emma Lazarus, around 1860 whom with her poem, now known by all Americans and inscribed in the Statue of Liberty reads...."Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free"... which has inspired and paved the way for future generations.

In conclusion, the contributions of the Hispanic in the EE.UU. are profound and far-reaching. They have shaped our nation's culture and enriched our society. As we celebrate the Hispanic Community let us recognize that is our collective diversity what makes America truly great.

Thank you.

Honorary Consul of Spain in San Diego
Rosaura Morrow-Picasso