

**SEPTEMBER 2012
SPECIAL EMPHASIS OBSERVANCES**

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



2012 Theme: Diversity United, Building America's Future Today

By Executive Order 13230, National Hispanic Heritage Month honors the culture, heritage, and contributions of Hispanic Americans each year. The event began in 1968 when Congress deemed the week, including September 15 and 16, National Hispanic Heritage Week to celebrate the contributions and achievements of the diverse cultures within the Hispanic community. The dates were chosen to commemorate two key historic events: Independence Day, honoring the formal signing of the Act of Independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua (September 15, 1821), and Mexico's Independence Day, which denotes the beginning of the struggle against Spanish control (September 16, 1810). It was not until 1988 that the event was expanded to a month-long period, which includes El Dia de la Raza on October 12, celebrating the influences of the people who came after Christopher Columbus and the multicultural, multiethnic society that evolved as a result; Chile's Independence Day on September 18 (El Dieciocho); and Belize's Independence Day on September 21.

For more information, please visit*: <http://hispanicheritagemonth.gov/>
www.deomi.org
<http://aclassapartmovie.com/about.php>
www.mmb.state.mn.us/hisp-hert



Special Emphasis Programs are implemented and observed primarily to ensure that minorities, women, people with various disabilities, and people with various sexual orientations are provided an equal opportunity in employment and program delivery activities. These programs improve the workplace environment by promoting and fostering diversity in the workplace through awareness, and to educate others to appreciate, value, understand, and celebrate social and cultural similarities and differences.

*The Diversity Council is not responsible for the content or accuracy of information on the given websites.