



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY  
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FORCE MASTER CHIEF

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September 15<sup>th</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup> is recognized as Hispanic Heritage month allowing us time to reflect upon the valuable contributions Hispanics have made to our great nation.

From the formation of the American Navy, Hispanic sailors have distinguished themselves by answering the call of duty and demonstrating a rich and genuine support for freedom.

I encourage all sailors to embrace this period as a time to learn, experience, and reflect on the traditions of cultural diversity within our amazing organization. We often consider an awareness month to only recognize a specific culture's expression of heritage; however, failing to embrace and understand their backgrounds is a missed opportunity to learn the lessons of our past and grow as individuals within the Navy. Every culture brings forth a sense of pride and every culture contributes to the rich melting pot of diversity. Celebrate and be proud of your heritage and the integral part all of you have made to make the Navy the great organization it is today. Thank you.

Sincerely,

L. A. MARTINEZ  
Force Master Chief  
Fleet Marine Force  
United States Navy