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LA VOZ DE BRAZORIA

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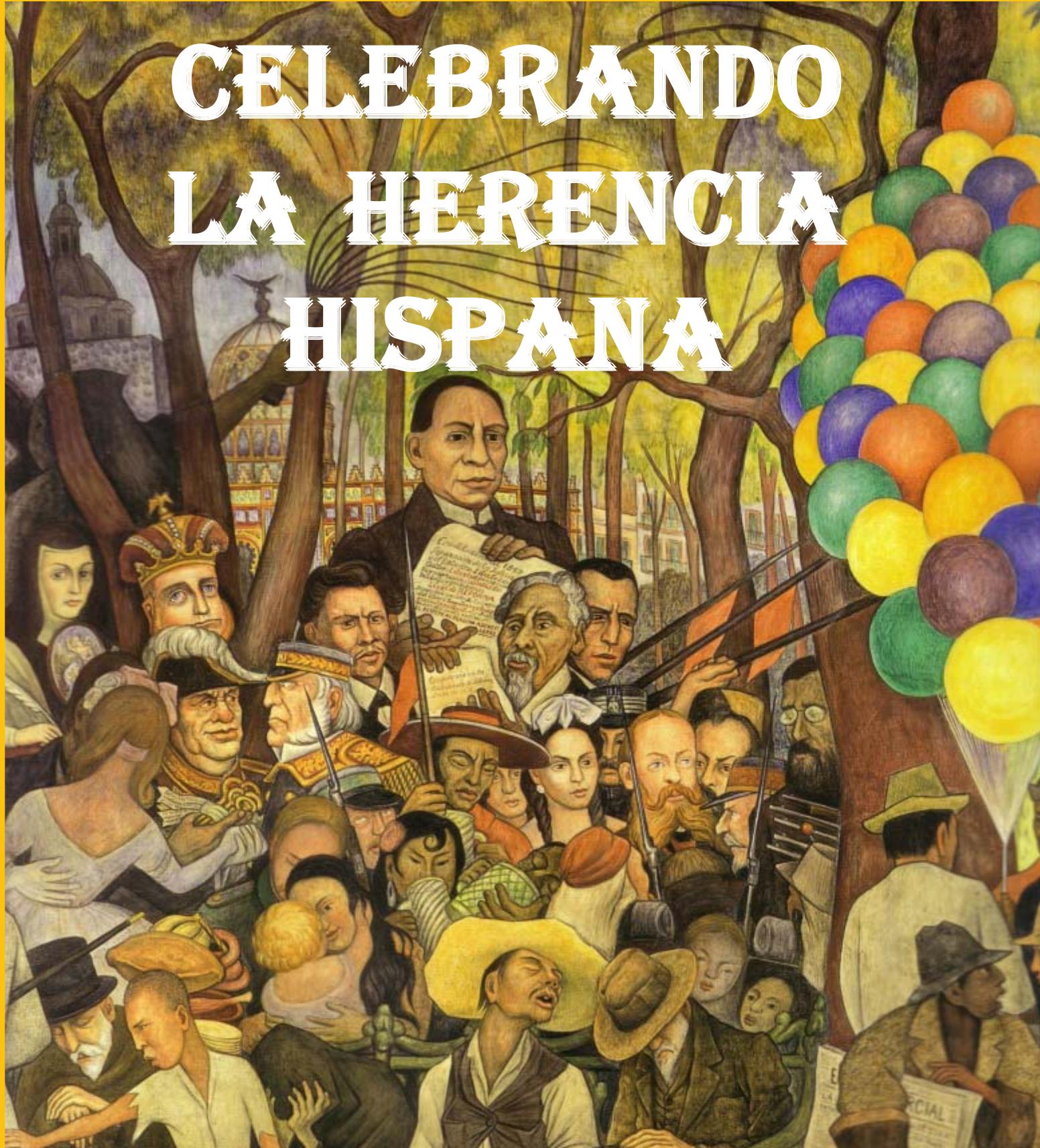
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Celebrating the Hispanic Heritage

September 15 to October 15 is **National Hispanic Heritage Month**; there are 30 days to celebrate and honor the contributions of 40 million Hispanics in the United States. Learning about the contributions of Latinos can help build the self-esteem and pride of those who identify themselves as Hispanic/Latino as well as our young friends who visit the ¡Soy Unica! ¡Soy Latina! Web site.

Hispanic/Latinos are the children of a varied mix of races and ethnicities that include the Mayans, Taínos, Mapuche, Aztecs, American Indians, Spanish, Africans, Portuguese, and Europeans, to name a few. In fact, Hispanics in this country can be subdivided into more than 70 categories.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, individuals representing 300 races and more than 600 American Indian tribes make their home in the United States. In June, Hispanics became the largest U.S. minority group. With 40 million Latinos, the United States is the third-largest Spanish-speaking country in the world, after Mexico and Spain.

Our Hispanic celebration officially began in 1974 as "Hispanic Heritage Week" under the administration of **President Gerald R. Ford**. Fourteen years later, **Representative Esteban Torres** (D-California.) introduced a bill to Congress to extend the celebration to a full month, and, in 1988, **President Ronald Reagan** declared September Hispanic Heritage Month.

The month commemorates the cultural, linguistic, and racial diversity of the Latino community in the United States with parades, musical concerts, food festivals, sporting tournaments, business conferences, and political and literary activities.

From New York to San Francisco, Hispanic Heritage Month has become a popular time of year for many as brightly decorated stages project the music and joy of million Hispanics-a mix from 23 countries-who proudly celebrate their successes, ideas, and traditions.

Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to recognize contributions to American society, and with that purpose in mind many organizations, universities, and churches hold events.

Celebrando la Herencia Hispana

Desde el 15 de Septiembre hasta el 15 de Octubre se celebra en Estados Unidos, el mes de la herencia hispana. En estos 30 días se honra las contribuciones que los 40 millones de latinos han aportado a la historia de este país. El conocer estas contribuciones e influencias ayuda a elevar la auto-estima y el orgullo de los hispanos y sus familias y ciertamente, enorgullece a nuestras amigas que nos visitan en el sitio-Web de ¡Soy Unica! ¡Soy Latina!

Los latinos/hispanos representan una variada mezcla de razas y etnia que incluyen, entre otros: los mayas, taínos, mapuches, aztecas, amerindios, españoles, africanos, portugueses y europeos. De hecho; los hispanos en este país se pueden subdividir en más de 70 categorías.

En los Estados Unidos hay 300 razas y existen más de 600 tribus indo-americanas. Los hispanos en USA se convirtieron, en junio de este año, en la más alta minoría, con 40 millones. USA, es el tercer país de habla hispana en el mundo después de México y España.

La Semana de la Herencia Hispana, comenzó históricamente en 1974, bajo la presidencia de **Gerald R. Ford**. Catorce años más tarde, inspirado por este evento, el diputado **Esteban Torres** (California) presentó un proyecto de ley ante el Congreso para extender esta celebración a un mes. Oficialmente, en 1988, el **Presidente Ronald Reagan**, proclamó el Mes de la Herencia Hispana.

Durante este mes se conmemora la diversidad cultural, lingüística y racial de la comunidad latina, en los Estados Unidos. Los festejos incluyen; desfiles, eventos musicales, festivales gastronómicos, torneos deportivos, conferencias de negocios y actividades políticas.

Desde Nueva York hasta San Francisco, este mes se ha convertido en la celebración más popular del país. Los salones, teatros y parques se decoran con brillantes colores para compartir la música y la alegría de este grupo de ciudadanos-mezcla de 23 países- rindiendo, orgulosamente, homenaje a sus éxitos, ideales y tradiciones.

Este es un momento de gratitud hacia las culturas y tradiciones que han influido grandemente a nuestra sociedad. Pensando en esto, muchas organizaciones, universidades e iglesias coordinan eventos.

PRODUCTION**Editor**

Alfredo R. Santos

Managing Editor

Molly R. Santos

Marketing

Arturo Muñoz

Graphic Design

Lewis Cuellar

Photographer

Dolores Diaz Miller

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

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Se Habla Español

Commentary: Black-brown coalitions are tough to sustain

With Hispanics being the nation's largest minority group, the general assumption among many political and social pundits is that they will align themselves with African-Americans to represent a potent political force on the local, state and national level.

Roland Martin says Hispanics and blacks can't afford to be egomaniacal and regard each other as irrelevant.

But as someone who has seen this so-called phenomenon up close, I can tell you that forging a multiethnic coalition will be very difficult.

As a native Houstonian, a longtime resident of the **Dallas-Fort Worth** area, and now a resident of **Chicago**, it has been interesting to watch as a number of local leaders have tried to establish such a connection.

Back in 1989, when I interned at the **Houston Defender**, the city's top black newspaper, we ran a front page story about a black-brown coalition. The city's black and Hispanic leaders announced their effort to seek a variety of appointments in the city's fire and police departments, as well as in the city's school district.

Yet it was always a fragile coalition as each party tried to establish supremacy over the other. And one move could bring it all crashing down.

That was the case in 1994 when **Rod Paige**, an African-American member of the **Houston Independent School District** board of trustees, was tapped as superintendent. Hispanics were angry, saying they were shut out of the decision-making, and vowed never to let it happen again.

I saw the same black-brown breakdown in 1997 when **Yvonne Gonzalez**, a Mexican-American woman, was chosen as head of the Dallas school district. African-Americans

in the city squared off against Hispanics over whether someone from their ethnic group should be chosen as superintendent, and it continued repeatedly with protests, charges of racism flying back and forth, and complete mistrust between both.

Why such acrimony?

Pure and simple: power.

In America, the nation's largest minority group carries significant weight. It's sort of like being the daddy at the dinner table — you get the biggest piece of chicken or the largest slice of cake.

Political power means jobs and resources. And the one group with the most power wants to benefit their own, and sacrifice everyone else.

For years, African-Americans have argued that their sheer size in terms of numbers requires that they get a seat at the table. Coupled with African-Americans leading the civil rights movement, they say Hispanics shouldn't easily benefit from their hard work and that blacks should primarily reap the benefits.

But that all changed when Hispanics became the largest minority, often exceeding African-Americans in terms of the number of students in the school system, the primary battleground in many cities.

Today, we see that spilling over into every area, even business. African-American ad agencies, and media outlets, complain that the dollars set aside for blacks has been savagely reduced and shifted to Hispanic media.

So what you find is African-Americans and Hispanics fighting it out over a piece of the pie, while the larger ethnic group — whites — remains the same.

Editorial



Roland Martin

Is it possible to see a true black-brown coalition that greatly benefits both minority groups? Maybe. But it's going to take a helluva lot of work between the leading organizations such as the **NAACP**, National Urban League, **La Raza** and the **League of United Latin American Citizens**.

Instead of seeing one as taking from the other, what leaders in both camps should be exercising is a broader view. Blacks are not the enemy of Hispanics, and vice versa. The enemy is a lack of quality of education, being shut out of the economic levers, as well as poor health care. The resources of this nation should go where the need is. And if that means a larger portion going to one group over the other, fine. But we can't sacrifice one for the other.

In cities across the nation, African-Americans and Hispanics can find common ground on common interests. And where they differ, they should simply disagree.

But that requires trust, and neither group can afford to be egomaniacal and regard the other as irrelevant. Hispanics and blacks aren't going anywhere, and they better resolve their disputes, or watch both groups remain at a standstill. And that's not good for anyone.

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Hechos sobre el cáncer de mama

La probabilidad de que una mujer sufra cáncer invasivo de seno (mama) durante su vida es de aproximadamente 1 en 8.

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El cáncer de seno (mama) es el cáncer más común en las mujeres (después del cáncer de la piel) y también es la segunda causa más alta de muerte por cáncer en las mujeres (después del cáncer de pulmón).





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TEJANOS HELPED CREATE FIVE REPUBLICS

by
Richard G. Santos

In 1968, U.S. Congress set aside September 15 through September 22nd as **Hispanic Heritage Week**. Two years later, Congress extended the week to October 15. The intent was and has remained to honor and recognize the culture, traditions and contributions of U.S. citizens of Hispanic ancestry. Consequently, the month long observation goes beyond the much misunderstood *diez y seis* commonly celebrated in Mexico and by Mexican Americans in the U.S. as "Mexican Independence Day".

Hispanic Heritage Month is for all U.S. Hispanics from **Mexico**, Central and South America as well as Caribbean Islands and even **Spain** itself. It is the time to recognize and honor the memory and contributions of all U.S. Hispanics. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, as of July 2006 Hispanics comprised 15% of the U.S. population. That is, that Hispanics numbered at least 44.3 million plus another 3.9 million **Puerto Ricans** and are the largest ethnic group in the nation.

Hispanics of Mexican ancestry number 64% of the Hispanic population. Of this group, 13.1 million reside in California and 8.4 million in **Texas**. The largest concentration is at **Los Angeles County, California** with a reported July 2006 population of 4.7 million. The Bureau also noted that at the current rate of growth, the U.S. Hispanic population is expected to be 102.6 million or 24% of the population by 2050.

In 2002, Hispanics owned 1.6 million businesses

By 2002 Hispanics owned 1.6 million businesses. Those businesses generated \$222 billion in revenues! Of that figure, 29,168 businesses generated over \$1 million or more annually in revenues. It is interesting to note that according to the **Census Bureau**, "45% of the Hispanic businesses are owned by Mexicans, Mexican Americans and Chicanos."

Related to these figures is the median income of \$36,967 for Hispanics in 2005.

On the negative side, 21.8% Hispanics lived in poverty and 32.7% lacked health insurance in 2005. In regard to education, the Census Bureau reported that in 2006, only 59% of the Hispanic population had a high school education! Even worse, only 3.1 million or 12% had a bachelor's degree or higher. Of that figure only 839,000 25 years of age and older had advance degrees. Education attainment is reflected in the work force as in 2005, 68% of the Hispanic population was in the labor force. Management and professional level had 17% and only 77,700 held chief executive positions. Also in 2005, there were 1.1 million Hispanics in the U.S. Armed Forces. That figure is almost twice as many as the number of Hispanics who served during World War II.

Hispanics have been a part of the history of the United States since the War of Independence against England.

Historically, Hispanics have been a part of the history of the United States since the War of Independence against **England**. Not only were Cubans, Puerto Ricans and Spaniards serving in the Revolutionary Army, but Tejanos initially furnished the U. S. rebel forces with horses, cattle and provisions. Later, Tejanos, Nuevo Leoneses, Coahuiltecos and Tamaulipecos residing in **Texas** served under **Andrew Jackson** at the **Battle at New Orleans** against the British Army.

Having fought for U. S. independence from **England**. The same Tejanos, Nuevo Leoneses, Coahuiltecos and Tamaulipecos fought for Mexican Independence from **Spain** and **Texas** Independence from **Mexico**. Not long thereafter, the same fought in the rebel army of the **Confederate States of America**. Consequently, in less than a century, between 1776 and 1865, Tejanos and **Texas** residents from **Coahuila**,

Tamaulipas and **Nuevo Leon** helped create five republics! That is:

- 1 The United States
- 2 The 1813 First Republic of Texas
- 3 1821 Imperial Mexico which in 1824 became the Republic of Mexico,
- 4 the second [1836] Republic of Texas
- 5 the 1861-65 Confederate States of America.

Moreover, all served heroically and with distinction. During the same period **San Antonio, Texas** - the historical and cultural capital of **Texas** and Tejanos - served under nine (9) separate governments! The Spanish-Mexican colonial Hispanics of **Texas** shed their blood on the battlefields of **Mobile, Pensacola, New Orleans, Nacogdoches, Goliad, Bexar** and **Medina River in Texas** and continued at **Sabine Pass, Vicksburg, Nashville** and **Resaca de las Palmas** in the **Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas**.

In one of the most ironic pages of U. S. history, Tejano Confederate soldiers battled Union Army **Californios** and **Manitos** from **New Mexico** and **Colorado**. Not only did we survive the Age of Turmoil but most important, we are still here and WE ARE NOT IMMIGRANTS as WE DID NOT CROSS THE BORDER BETWEEN MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES!

In the 20th Century, Hispanics from **Mexico**, Central and South America, Europe and the Caribbean swelled the population of the Colonial Hispanics who are now a minority within the larger ethnic group. Combined and mixed into an ethnic group of diverse national, regional, dialectic, cultural, genealogical, educational and economic background as diverse as the spectrum found among Hispanics in regard to color of skin, eyes, hair and body.

In retrospect, the Mexican ruling class that migrated to the **United States** during the **Mexican Revolution** of 1910 differed

little from the Cuban ruling class fleeing **Fidel Castro's** takeover of the Island nation. In both instances, the governing, wealthy, ruling elite were soon followed by their respective veterans and labor classes. Apart from speaking different dialects of Spanish, unlike the Cuban refugees some Mexican refugees and exiled were able to return to their homeland. Another interesting difference is that **San Antonio, Texas** between 1917 and 1929 had five ex-presidents of **Mexico** as temporary residents.

Although limited in numbers and highly discriminated, Hispanics served in **World War I** and Hispanic **David B. Barkley** of **Laredo, Texas** earned the Medal of Honor. Over half a million Hispanics served in **World War II** with a large number earning Medals of Honor, Purple Hearts, Distinguished Crosses and combat medals for their outstanding acts of heroism. **Korea, Vietnam, Grenada** and the Middle East Actions in **Afghanistan, Kuwait** and **Iraq** have seen Hispanics rise to the highest military ranks as have the number of Medals of Honor.

The entertainment industry ranging from all forms and styles of music, television and cinema are replete with Hispanic luminaries too numerous to list. Moreover, according to the Census Bureau by next year (2008) there will be 53,700 Hispanic college and university professors, 49,200 physicians and surgeons, 29,000 attorneys and 3,300 reporters. The number of publishing authors and composers is apparently too small for the Census Bureau to report yet this could be due to the very nature of the professions.

In conclusion, as we observe **Hispanic Heritage Month 2007**, it is imperative to recall that the ethnic group and observation is much more than a fiesta, parade, food and music. **Hispanic Heritage Month** should be a celebration of a people's history and historical personalities, culture, traditions and contributions to the U.S. and the world.

Richard Santos is the author of a fascinating book titled: *Silent Heritage*

About the Term Hispanic

The term Hispanic was chosen by the U.S. Census Bureau as a way to categorize people of Spanish descent living in the United States. It comes from Hispania, an old name for the Iberian Peninsula, where Spain and Portugal are located.

There are many ways to refer to people in the United States whom the census terms Hispanic. Latino often is used to describe people from Latin American countries. People of Mexican ancestry may prefer Mexican American or Chicano, often considered a more political term. Others may define themselves by their countries of origin: Cuban American, Dominican American.

There also are Hispanics in Africa, Guam and the Philippines. In the southwest United States there are Indians with Hispanic blood.

Rick Noriega Raises Over Half a Million Dollars for His Senate Campaign

Lt. Colonel Rick Noriega has turned up the heat in his campaign to win the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate seat from Texas in 2008 by just having raised over half a million dollars.

Many people are starting to have second thoughts about not having considered him a serious contender just a few months ago. Noriega has been traveling the state, setting up county committees and support groups as he moves quietly building a campaign organization that is surprising everyone.

As a current member of the Texas Legislature, Rick Noriega has demonstrated time and time again what his commitment to the people of Texas means to him. For more than 20 years he has worked to make Texas a safe place in which to raise ones' family.

In the coming weeks please visit his website to learn about the latest developments in the campaign. www.ricknoriega.com



Rick Noriega

EDUCATION:

B.A. University of Houston
MPA. John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

EXPERIENCE:

Texas State Representative D-145 for the past 12 years
Lt. Colonel in the Texas National Guard

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Changes in Green Card Status Coming

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services is proposing a new rule that will require approximately 750,000 lawful residents carrying "green cards" without expiration dates to apply for a new Permanent Resident Card. This new rule will apply to people who are holding a "green card" that was issued between September, 1979 and August of 1989.

This proposal allows for a 120-day filing period for applications. Once this rule is final, it would enable the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service to update cardholder information, conduct background checks, and electronically store applicant's biometric information.

It is important to remember that the cards impacted by this initiative are new between 17 and 30 years old. The new card will be a modern version with greater security, be more tamper-resistant, and will have an expiration date requiring that the card be periodically renewed.

At the right is an example of the older card the the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services would like to terminate. The simplest way to determine if your card is the subject of the proposed rule is to look at the front of your card and see if it does not contain an expiration date. Under the proposed rule, affected cardholders will need to replace their "green cards" by filling From I-90. Currently the total cost is \$370. The filing fee is \$290 and the biometric fee is \$80.)

According to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service, they would prefer people affected by this new rule to use the internet to make the necessary filings. Applicants who use the internet would then receive a notice to appear in person at a United States Citizenship and Immigration Service office for photographs and fingerprints.

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services reminds everyone that any permanent resident 18 years or older is required to carry a valid permanent resident card. Failure to do so can result in a fine or imprisonment. However, we do not anticipate taking such action at this time. Rather than emphasizing possible punitive actions that can be taken, we would encourage cardholders to consider the benefits of complying by filing quickly.

Cambios para la Mica Estan Llegando

La Oficina de Servicios de Ciudadanía e Inmigración esta proponiendo una nueva regla que exigiría que casi 750,000 residentes permanentes legales que poseen "green cards" sin fecha de vencimiento reemplacen sus tarjetas de residencia.

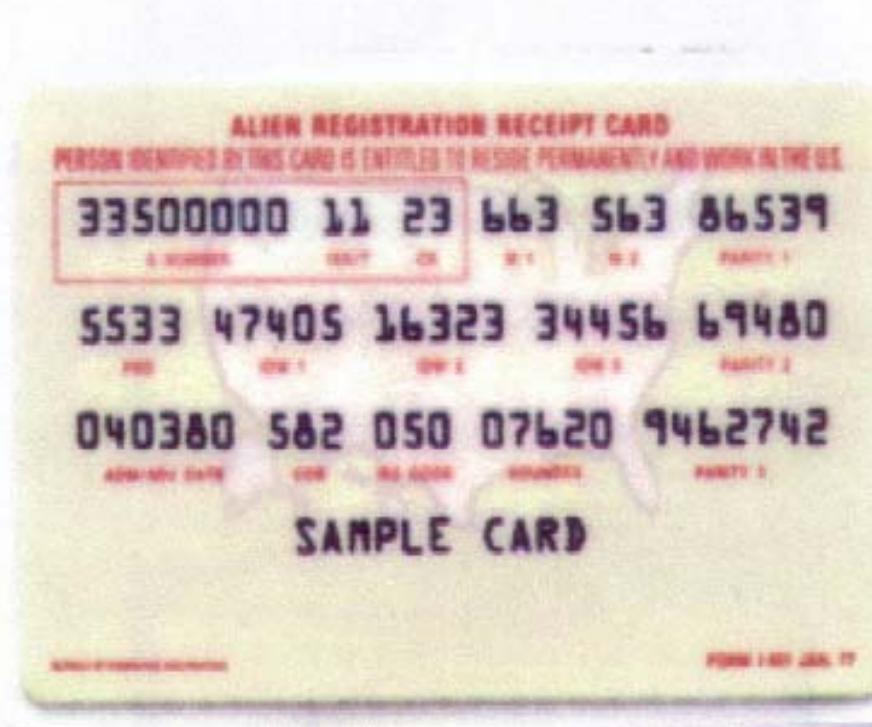
Esta propuesta permiteria un plazo de 120 dias para conseguir la nueva tarjeta. Ya que la regla esta finalizada, va permitir La Oficina de Ciudadanía e Inmigración emiitir tarjetas de residente permanente más segura, actualizar la información de los titulares de las mismas y almacenar electronicamente información biometricas.

Es importante recordar que las tarjetas que afectadas por esta nueva regla estan entre 17 y 30 años de viejo. La nueva tarjeta seria una versión moderna y más seguras, más resistente a cualquier alteración o falsificación e incluiría una fecha de vencimiento.

A la mano izquierda esta un ejemplo de la tarjetas que La Oficina de Ciudadanía e Inmigración propone terminar. La manera más facil para determinar si su tarjeta esta incluyendo la nueva propuesta de cambio. Es de fijarse si tiene fecha de vencimiento en la frente. Bajo la nueva reglas que se estan proponiendo, cada residente va tener que reemplazar su tarjeta "green card" completando un formulario I-90. Actualmente, el costo total del trámite es de \$370. \$290 es la tarifa para el trámite de la solicitud y \$80 de la tarifa biométrica para las fotografias y las huellas digitales.

Segun los de La Oficina de Ciudadanía e Inmigración, ellos prefieren que uno usa el internet para hacer el trámite. Los solicitantes recibirán una notificación para presentarse personalmente en una oficina de Ciudadanía e Inmigración para tomarse las fotografias y las huellas digitales.

Es importante señalar que cualquier residente permanente mayor de 18 años debe portar una tarjeta válida de residente permanente. El incumplimiento de este requisito puede resultar en una multa y hasta la cárcel. Sin embargo, no prevemos que estas medidas se tomen es este momento. En vez de hacer énfasis en las posibles acciones punitivas que pueden tomarse, exhortamos a los titulares de las tarjetas a analizar los beneficios de cumplir con el envío de sus solicitudes sin ninguna demora.



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Nationwide Warranty
1339 Hwy 332, Clute
979-265-9258

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

MasterCard VISA

FREE TRANSMISSION PERFORMANCE CHECK	A/C FREE PERFORMANCE CHECK
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**\$100
OFF
REBUILD***

* Automatic Transmissions On
* Not to be Combined
With Other Discounts

**Transmission
FLUID CHANGE ***
\$59⁹⁵

REG \$79.95

*Most Vehicles, includes fluids, gasket & filter