



# **HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated in the United States from September 15 to October 15 to honor the history, culture, and contributions of Hispanics and Latinos. This date was chosen because September 15 marks the independence of several Latin American countries (Mexico, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Chile) and because it also includes Columbus Day on October 12. The celebration began in 1968, when President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed Hispanic Heritage Week, and in 1988, President Ronald Reagan expanded it to a full month with the approval of Congress. It was approved because the Hispanic community was growing rapidly in number and influence, and there was a need to publicly recognize their contributions to the American economy, culture, politics, and society, in addition to strengthening cultural respect and integration. Since then, it has been celebrated annually as a reminder of the richness of diversity and the essential role of Hispanics in building the nation.