

# HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Sept. 15 to Oct. 15

2010 THEME:

**HERITAGE, DIVERSITY, INTEGRITY AND HONOR:  
THE RENEWED HOPE OF AMERICA**

**About National Hispanic Heritage Month:** The observance started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded to a month by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

It begins on September 15 because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30 day period.

## NOTABLE HISPANIC AMERICAN SCIENTISTS



**Mario Molina** - He received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1995 for the important discoveries he and two other scientists made about the dangers of chemicals to the earth's ozone layer. Dr. Molina was the first Mexican American to receive a Nobel Prize. Dr. Molina studied Chemical Engineering at the University of Mexico and moved to the United States in

1968 and received his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley in 1972.



**Ellen Ochoa** - She is co-inventor of an optical inspection system, an optical object recognition method, and a method for noise removal in images. Dr. Ochoa became the world's first Hispanic female astronaut in 1990. Dr. Ochoa received her Bachelor of Science in Physics from San Diego State University, and a

Master of Science and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University.

*"I felt very honored and very good to receive the Nobel Prize. I felt I could be an example of a Latino scientist. I received some money, and I used some of that money to support students of Latino backgrounds."*

*"Many Latino kids should become scientists because we need scientists all over the world from all different backgrounds. We have many tough problems, and we need everybody's help to solve the problems."*

Mario Molina

*"What everyone in the astronaut corps shares in common is not gender or ethnic background, but motivation, perseverance, and desire - the desire to participate in a voyage of discovery."*

*"This was the last astronaut job that was not (yet) done by a woman. Now with this milestone we can focus on the fact that what is important to succeed in life, it does not matter whether you are a man or a woman."*

Ellen Ochoa