Hispanic heritage an integral part of Valley's heritage

By IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS STAFF
1:34 a.m. PDT, September 22, 2012

In a county where 81 percent of population is of Hispanic descent, it is fitting that one can find numerous events marking Hispanic Heritage Month. These celebrations, in contrast to other community events held throughout the year, have for their intent and purpose a singular focus: to highlight the culture and contributions of the local Hispanic population.

Congress had originally approved National Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968. It was eventually expanded into a month-long celebration 20 years later in 1988 and has allowed communities throughout the nation to serve up their own localized festivities.

As anyone who knows their local history will note, Hispanics, and in particular those of Mexican descent, have a storied connection to the Valley. Yet the monthlong celebration, spanning from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, is also meant to pay tribute to the growing number of Cubans, Columbians and Salvadorans, to name just a few, we find in our midst.

As Census Bureau data has shown, this particular demographic has continued to grow in size in the Valley while the numbers of other ethnic and racial groups have declined. Having constituted 73 percent of the county’s population in 2000, the Hispanic population accounted for 142,955 out of 175,589 in 2010, or about 81 percent to date.

In practical terms, those numbers translate into increased exposure and, one would hope, increased appreciation of all things Hispanic. Whether it is one of the Valley’s many city- or school-sponsored events, one can expect to be assailed by the sights, sounds and tastes of that rich and diverse heritage.

Yet, even more important are testimonials and presentations that draw attention to the growing influence and contributions of the area’s Hispanic population. No doubt that population growth has been accompanied by a corresponding influence in matters of policy and planning.

As Friday’s “Nuestra Raíces” reception at San Diego State University-Imperial Valley campus pointed out, the campus itself owes much of its existence to the advocacy of Mexican-American WWII veterans who felt an institution of higher education was sorely lacking in the Valley. When one thinks of Hispanics’ historical contributions to the Valley, this one certainly deserves mention.
THE ISSUE National Hispanic Heritage Month
WE SAY Hispanics have contributed much to Valley history.
WHAT DO YOU SAY? Send us your thoughts on this topic to www.ivpressonline.com/letterstotheeditor

To comment on this story click here to be directed to Facebook.

Add by Google

Warning Stories why.vw.com
Watch Stories From Other VW Owners. Share Your Own Journey Now.

Man Cheats Credit Score www.thecreditsolutionprogram.com
1 simple trick & my credit score jumped 217 pts. Banks hate this!

Social Workers with a BSW msw.USC.edu/Virtual-Academic-Center
Earn an MSW in as little as a year One-year program online through USC

Featured Stories

Kato Kaelin
Reportedly Admits: O.J. Simpson Killed…

Triathlete struck by car dies

Man sentenced for illegal prescription drug sales

Body found in burning car identified

Vigil held in memory of Ramona middle-schooler

Campus library evacuated after pipe bursts

Body found in home burned by wildfire

Some San Diego pastors plan to break a federal law

Controversial touchdown riles NFL fans

Comments (0)

Add comments | Discussion FAQ

Currently there are no comments. Be the first to comment!
Hispanic heritage an integral part of Valley's heritage - KSWB