

Profiles

Hispanic Heritage Month Observance

Sept. 15- Oct. 14

Gerard D. Valle

Time at JSC:

15 years

Organization:

EB2: Project Development Branch

Position title:

TVIS 1.1 Project Manager

Education:

Bachelor's of Science in Aerospace Engineering, Texas A&M University

Place of birth:

San Antonio, Texas

Hobbies:

Family activities, sports and riding my motorcycle.

What does Hispanic Heritage Month mean to you?

Being proud of my heritage.

Favorite words of wisdom:

Have fun and do the right thing.



NASA JSC 2002e34384

Natalie V. Saiz

Time at JSC:

17 years

Organization:

Human Resources Office

Position Title:

Chief, Human Resources Management Branch

Education:

Bachelor's of Business Administration, University of New Mexico
M.A. in Human Resources Management, University of Houston-Clear Lake

Place of birth:

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Hobbies:

Working on Creative Memories scrapbooks for my three children, beginning yoga, reading all the Harry Potter books

What does Hispanic Heritage Month mean to you?

I think about my grandmother, who raised five children on her own. My grandfather died from tuberculosis in his 30s since he worked in the potash and copper mines early in his life. I think about my grandmother's encouragement and faith she had in me. She has been my rock and someone I always look up to. My grandmother is very wise and instilled a sense of pride about my culture. She was also very progressive and always encouraged me to reach for the stars. I thank you, Tana, for being the most wonderful grandmother in the world!

Favorite words of wisdom: It's very important to keep a balance between your family and work life.



NASA JSC 2002e33845

Yolanda G. Garza

Time at JSC:

Five years

Organization:

University of Texas-El Paso/ NASA Office

Position Title:

Management Assistant

Education:

Currently attending the University of Texas-El Paso

Place of birth:

San Antonio, Texas

Hobbies:

Traveling and painting

What does Hispanic Heritage Month mean to you?

It means that we celebrate and recognize the many accomplishments Hispanics have achieved and contributed in the building of this nation. We should be grateful to our Hispanic forefathers as they laid the groundwork for us. They suffered through tough times to ensure their offspring reaped the benefits of their work and that Hispanics gained recognition as an equal amongst men.

Favorite words of wisdom:

"The tragedy of life doesn't lie in not reaching your goal. The tragedy lies in having no goal to reach." – Benjamin Mays



NASA JSC 2002e14055

Beto Sanchez

Time at JSC:

22 years

Organization:

Mission Operations Directorate, DA8/Flight Director Office

Position title:

Assistant for Program Integration

Education:

B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, University of Texas

Place of birth:

Columbus, Wisconsin

Hobbies:

Travel, sailing, windsurfing and bicycling

What does Hispanic Heritage Month mean to you?

It gives me some good reminders of things that my grandparents and parents might have seen, known, done and been.

Favorite words of wisdom: You have to be strong enough in order to be able to afford to absorb the cost of being good and doing the right thing.



NASA JSC 2002e34382

Frank Moreno

Time at JSC:

17 years

Organization:

Space Shuttle Program

Position title:

Payload Integration Manager

Education:

B.S.E. in Electrical Engineering, University of Houston

Place of birth:

Houston, Texas

Hobbies:

Reading, traveling, running, training with weights

What does Hispanic Heritage Month mean to you?

To me it means having Spanish blood in your lineage. With it comes a heritage of unfortunate misdeeds but also a heritage of the greatest explorers that have ever lived. These explorers extended Spanish presence to every part of the world and were instrumental in the development of western civilization. Our racial diversity is the spice of life; we come in all colors but all speak Spanish and are strong in faith. There is a basic instinct to enjoy (gozar) our families and life itself that is ingrained in each of us.

Favorite words of wisdom: "Be strong in faith" and "Life is what you make of it."



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Photos by Bill Stafford

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