

Press Release

What: NMHCPL 10th Anniversary

When: April 19, 2008 at 5:30 pm

Where: Embassy Suites Hotel 1000 Woodward Pl NE, Albuquerque NM

Why: To commemorate the arrival of the First European settlers

NMHCPL reflects on the first Thanksgiving this side of the Mississippi & awards those who work to promote educate and protect the history of our Spanish Ancestors

How: Banquet, keynote speaker, film director, award winners, vocal artist and pageantry

New Mexican Hispanic Culture Preservation League celebrates its tenth anniversary.

The New Mexican Hispanic Culture Preservation League will be celebrating their tenth *First Thanksgiving and Awards Banquet* to be held April 19, 2007 at 5:30 pm at the Embassy Suites Hotel 1000 Woodward Pl NE, Albuquerque NM.

The NMHCPL Mission Statement

“The mission of the New Mexican Hispanic Culture Preservation League is to preserve the heritage, Spanish language and the history of Hispanic New Mexico, to promote the education and understanding of the contributions of Hispanics to the development of New Mexico and the nation, to protect the history of New Mexican Hispanic heritage and culture. To achieve this mission, we will seek the TRUTH of our heritage and history, and restore the TRUTH and PRIDE of our New Mexican Hispanic Culture”



To that end annually NMHCPL expresses our appreciation for those who work to educate others about the Hispanic history, culture and the accomplishment of our ancestors with the following awards: **Doña Eufemia Award** will be bestowed on Patricia Baca Black Esterly. Generations of Pat's family have believed in making any of their skills available wherever needed, and Pat shares in that tradition. Over the years she has been a Brownie Girl Scout leader, library volunteer, model and newsletter editor of various volunteer groups, most recently the New Mexico Genealogical Society.

Mrs. Esterly has worked to establish the *New Mexico Genealogical Society*, where she has served as editor of the **New Mexico Genealogist**; she published and translated the **1821 Santa Fe Census**, and started the NMGS web site. Working with Mort Erwin, she compiled and published a CD consisting of the “*First Forty Years of the New Mexico Genealogist Research*”.

Pat and other volunteers worked to make researching New Mexico families through Catholic Church records easier. They are the best and most accurate of all genealogical tools. Every Catholic Church is linked with the current county, and film numbers are available for research. It began with New Mexico, and later expanded to include southern Colorado. The project, *Locating Catholic Church Records in New Mexico*, is published on the NMGS web site.



El Adelantado Award will be bestowed on Ronaldo Miera. Ron holds a degree in Electro-Mechanical Drafting Technology and retired from the Postal Service in 1992 where he held the position of Denver Regional National Business Agent, Maintenance Division, a position he retained until 1983. After his retirement Mr. Miera joined the National Association of Retired Federal Employees Chapter 80 in Albuquerque, and was elected to the position of Vice President for Legislation. Mr. Miera was Vice President through 1994.

Currently Ron is President of the Hispanic Genealogical Research Center of New Mexico, a post he has held since 1994. During his tenure the HGRC has published 57 Herencias, the quarterly journal of the organization, and 61 books of extracted sacramental records. The HGRC has a monthly speakers program focusing on the history, culture and genealogy of New Mexico. Most of these presentations have been video recorded for the HGRC archives. In 1997 the HGRC added the Great New Mexico Pedigree Database to its web site which now contains over 100,000 names.

Mr. Miera lobbied the New Mexico State legislature on behalf of HGRC in 1998 to obtain a grant to publish the seminal book “*The Spanish Recolonization of New Mexico*” authored by Jose Antonio Esquibel and John Colligan. Also in 1998 Mr. Miera learned that the book “*Origins of New Mexico Families*” by Fray Angelico Chavez would not be reprinted and available for the

Cuartocentenario. The Museum of New Mexico Press, a division of the Office of Cultural Affairs, holds the copyright and publishing rights to the book. Mr. Miera spoke with then Governor Gary Johnson, and the book was reprinted. This scenario was repeated in 2003, when the Museum of New Mexico Press was again reluctant to reprint the book. After visiting with Governor Bill Richardson about the problem, the book was reprinted. “*Origins of New Mexico Families*” is a major key to Hispanic families’ genealogy research.

In 1999 don Ronaldo was instrumental in persuading Bishop Donald Pelotte, Bishop of the Gallup Diocese, into microfilming the sacramental records of the Gallup Diocese. The diocese had in their possession records with a starting date of 1777 to the present. The Bishop agreed to have the Diocese records from 1777 to 1922 microfilmed. With a grant from the New Mexico State Records Center the microfilming project started in early 2000. With the training and help from the employees at the record center the HGRC volunteers were able to complete the project in the fall of 2000.

This year a special education award has been added. The award is dedicated to Millie Santillanes, whose dream was that teachers teach all of New Mexico’s history, which includes the accomplishment of Hispanics as they explored and settled this nation. As Stewart L. Udall stated in his book *Majestic Journey*, “And why have we been so slow to concede, in the West, that the Age of Discovery belongs to Spain’s Adventurers? And why have we been so grudging in acknowledging contributions made in the dawn years of our history by people with Spanish surnames.”



The education award will be presented to Doña Dolores Valdez de Pong. Dolores earned a B.S. in Speech Pathology and Audiology from Colorado State University, and a teaching certificate from Adams State College. Later she earned an M.A. in Training and Learning Technologies from UNM. Doña Dolores has taught in the Santa Fe Public Schools for 32 years. Her love of teaching went above and beyond as she is also a children’s playwright. She has written numerous bilingual school productions including over 70

Spanish children’s songs and lyrics that deal with NM history, culture and geography.

Doña Dolores has received a *Top Teach Award by Fox Television*. She has also received two *Quality of Education Awards* given to her by the NM Research and Study Council. She was a finalist for the **Golden Apple Award** and received the *John Gaw Meem Award* given by the Historic Santa Fe Foundation for a Historic Preservation Class Project. In 2006 Dolores Valdez de Pong was named *Santa Fe Teacher of the Year*.

Her first publication was a collection of 2500 Given Hispanic Names of the Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado. Dolores has written articles for La Herencia magazine, and co-authored the book "Life in Los Sauces" with her mother, truly a labor of love. Dolores is also a world traveler. She has visited fifteen foreign countries including Spain, and is married to Ricardo Pong from Hong Kong.



Our keynote speaker, Dn. Jeronimo Padilla, Director of the Bataan Memorial

Military Museum and Library in Santa Fe, New Mexico will deliver a lecture on "La Matanza de 1680." Mr. Padilla, a renowned historian, is also a genealogist and has been an excellent resource for Spanish and United States Military History. An armed forces Veteran, Mr. Padilla served in both the United States Air Force and the New Mexico National Guard, where his primary assignment was that of an instructor at the academy located in

Roswell, New Mexico. He has been noted for his background in collecting and researching Spanish and Mexican antiquities. Incidentally, Mr. Padilla accompanied Major General Miles to Washington, D.C. in 1982 to assist in establishing New Mexico as the oldest militia in the United States. Currently, Mr. Padilla is in the process of publishing his book about New Mexico's forgotten truth and ignored history.

Tony Martinez, Director of "Colors of Courage, Sons of New Mexico" a distinguished award-winning documentary filmmaker, will treat the group to clips of the video on the Bataan Death March during World War II. The film won best documentary at the 2004 Taos Talking Picture Festival. Many Hispanics from New Mexico were held prisoners of war after being ordered to surrender and were not rescued for almost three years. Tony has been awarded a *George Foster*

Peabody Award and three national Emmys as a director/ producer on ESPN's acclaimed Sports Century series.



In 2001, Mr. Martinez began mentoring Television journalists for the Dallas based firm, *The Coaching Company*. In his role as coach and consultant, he trains television journalist in on-air performance, writing, producing and career counseling. Clients include CNN, CTV (Montreal), CBS Sports and several network affiliate stations.

Tony has served as Regional News Director for Fox Sports Southwest. He is a native New Mexican born in Santa Fe. His father Eduardo Martinez (deceased) was a survivor of the Death March and served with the 200th Coast Artillery Battery A.

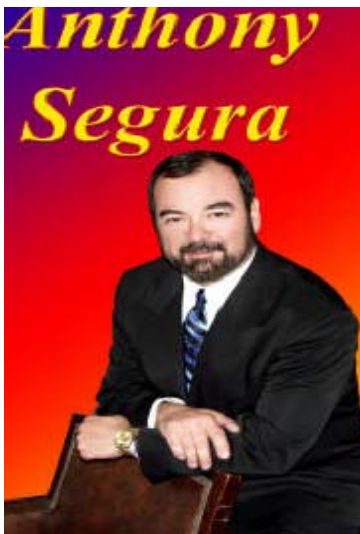
U. S. Representative Tom Udall responded to New Mexican Hispanic Culture Preservation League's request to sponsor legislation to obtain the Congressional Gold Medal for the prisoners of war during this period. We have asked others in congress to co-sponsor the legislation and ask all New Mexicans to join us in petitioning congress to bestow the long overdue honor to these men.



Angel Espinosa, award winning New Mexico recording artist, female vocalist, songwriter and entertainer, has been referred to as "*one of the most important singers in the New Mexico Hispanic music scene*" by Steve Terrell, music critic for the New Mexican. Angel will honor the league with her talent during the banquet.

Recently Angel won top honors at the 2007, 16th Annual New Mexico Hispano Music Awards. Angel has won the coveted, ***Female Vocalist of the Year Award*** for the fifth time with her rendition of Juan Gabriel's romantic ballad "Si Quieres". She also won the award for Mariachi Song of the Year for a song entitled "Ni Si Quiera Una Mirada", composed by Jorsaci, songwriter to such recording legends as Rocio Durcal.

In 1998 Angel's Song, "El Corrido De Don Juan de Oñate" won her **Songwriter of the Year** at the NM Hispano Music Awards. This song was also named the official song for the NM Cuartocentenario in the City of Espanola and the County of Rio Arriba.



Anthony Segura will be Master of Ceremonies for the event. He is an employee of Albuquerque Community Access Cable channel 27. The show has been aired live to an audience of over 40,000 people locally. Anthony also has a radio show on KANW89.1. The Mission statement of Music New Mexico style is: "To economically produce, exhibit, archive and disseminate New Mexico Music through electronic media to enhance the cultural experience of New Mexico Spanish Music for everyone." Annually Anthony raises funds to send New Mexican music (CD's) to the New Mexican troops in Iraq. Mr. Segura has shown his interest in Spanish heritage as member of

Founder's Day and participated with La Entrada for the Cities 300th Birthday. Anthony's web site is: <http://www.musicnmstyle.com/>

Tickets for the celebration are \$60.00 before ~March 24, 2008~after \$65.00 pp Contact: Conchita Lucero (505) 299-6726 ~1801 June NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112. Student discounts are available.