

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ANDREW H. CARD, JR.
FAA HISPANIC HERITAGE CLOSING CEREMONY
OCTOBER 14, 1992
WASHINGTON D.C.

EVENT: FAA ceremony. 3-5 minute remarks.

Thank you Administrator Richards for inviting me this morning. It's a pleasure to celebrate with all the FAA employees the many contributions that have been made to this country by Hispanic Americans. I know that beginning last month and continuing up to today, a number of special events were planned at FAA -- and throughout the Department -- to highlight the achievements of so many outstanding Hispanic Men and Women.

I want to thank Manuel and Miriam Vega for putting today's program together. Also Mike Flores, Chairman of the Hispanic Heritage Month Committee and Rosa Flores, President of the Capital Chapter of the National Hispanic Coalition of FAA Employees for making this year's program so successful. And let me also acknowledge Peter Suazo and the Hispanic Employees Council for all the work they do throughout the year for the Hispanic community here at the Department.

I especially want to thank the nearly 2,900 Hispanic DOT employees along with our 10 senior Hispanic executives for their dedication and hard work. Here at the FAA, we have Ray Salacar [**Sa-la-zar**] and "Archie" Archilla [**Ar-che-ah**]. And across the street, we have Alicia Casanova ... Dr. Robert Martinez ... Steve Diaz and many others, who have demonstrated time and time again their commitment to this agency and I am proud to have them on my team.

We have celebrated this month, 500 years of Hispanic Heritage. But we have not only recognized the cultural aspects of Hispanic life -- such as music and food -- but also the political and economic struggle and accomplishments of the Hispanic people. And having been in South Florida over the past several weeks, I witnessed first hand the Cuban community's efforts to get Southern Dade County back on its feet.

As Secretary of the Department, I just want you to know that we will continue to create a work environment which is "all inclusive."

We are firmly committed to this agency's and the Department's on-going and special efforts to recruit, train and advance Hispanics at all levels. We are fully committed to working closely with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities in recruiting the best candidates possible for employment opportunities in the FAA. And we are totally committed to expanding our career development programs -- from entry to senior level -- to ensure that all FAA employees have a chance to contribute fully to the FAA's mission.

Having come from the White House, I can assure you that the President has made it quite clear, that in his administration, discrimination will not be tolerated. And that diversity remains a cornerstone of his domestic agenda.

If government is to be truly representative of the people, then it must reflect the cultural, ethnic and racial makeup of this nation as whole.

Again, congratulations to all the participants in this very successful Hispanic Heritage Month.

Thank you.

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