



U.S. Department of
Transportation

News:

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20590

Contact: Jennifer Hillings
Tele.: (202) 366-4570

Melinda Ledden
Tele.: (202) 366-0237

REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION JIM BURNLEY
HISPANIC HERITAGE WEEK CELEBRATION
SEPTEMBER 18, 1986
FAA AUDITORIUM
WASHINGTON, D. C.

I'm delighted to be here in Secretary Dole's place to participate in our Hispanic Heritage Week celebration and to say to all of you -- bienvenidos, es un gran placer saludarlos.

It is a distinct pleasure to welcome Congressman Manuel Lujan and Dr. Robert Saucedo who is founder, president and chief executive officer of CASDE Corp. Over the years I have had the privilege of working with Congressman Lujan and I can tell you that he and Dr. Saucedo are splendid representatives of this year's Hispanic Heritage Week Theme --Hispanics --An Economic and Electoral Influence.

This week -- Hispanic Heritage Week -- is a time to learn, a time to plan, a time to remember, and a time to reflect.

One of the Secretary's very first official acts was to sign a memorandum to executive and administrative officers affirming her strong commitment to the Hispanic recruitment program and making the hiring and promotion of Hispanics a high priority within the Department. We are all proud of the results. Hispanic employment at DOT has increased 23.2 percent since 1982, and just last year alone we hired 417 Hispanics. I know that many here today have been involved personally in the Hispanic Recruitment Program and your support has been invaluable. That is not all. Hispanic businessmen and women are winning more DOT contracts to provide services ranging from management consulting to high technology development (\$96 million of the \$240 million in the 8 (a) Pilot Program went to Hispanics). Contracts to Hispanic-owned firms in highway construction have nearly doubled since passage of the 1982 Surface Transportation Assistance Act. (96 percent increase in contracts).

- more -

More important than any figures are the people they represent. Jim Marquez, our general counsel for the entire department, is doing a great job and we are so fortunate to have him. Currently we have three Hispanic women in the Senior Executive Service. Ampy Bouchey, director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, Carolina Mederos, director of the Office of Programs and Evaluation, and Margarita Moncada (PRONOUNCED: MON-CAH'-DAH), director of the Federal Highway Administration's Contracts and Procurement Office, are excellent role models for future generations. Carolina, by the way, received DOT's 1986 Gold Medal, the highest award given at the Department of Transportation.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to announce the promotion of a Hispanic employee of the Federal Aviation Administration to the Senior Executive Service. Raymond Salazar will move from the Northwest Mountain Region to Washington, D. C. to the position of Director of the FAA Office of Civil Aviation Security.

Other Hispanics at DOT are working, as air traffic controllers, air safety inspectors, engineers, managers and executives. To all of you here who work for the Department. Hispanic Heritage Week honors you, your accomplishments and your contribution to the future.

In a broader sense, let us use this week to honor all those many millions of Hispanics who so exemplify the values of family, work, and respect for God and love of country.

When it comes to these basic building blocks of character, no group of citizens should be prouder than Americans of Hispanic descent. Over the years their contributions have had enormous impact on the lives of all Americans. In thousands of communities across the land, Hispanics are a vital element in fostering America's achievements in fields as diverse as the arts and industry, agriculture and education, religion and business, science and politics. And when we look for exemplary individuals who have overcome great odds and endured much personal hardship, we know we'll find many in the Hispanic community. We only need to look there to see living proof that the American dream is alive and well. Whether their roots are from Spain, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Central America, or Mexico, they're here building a better America.

Yet success is not only measured in commercial and business accomplishments or in the political arena. Even though we devote much of this week to honoring the progress of Hispanic economic and electoral influence, let us not forget the countless individuals, many of whose names never appeared in any history book, who struggled so that others could see a better tomorrow. Let us pay tribute to the mothers and fathers who recognized the value of education and invested a lifetime of love and sacrifice to inspire their sons and daughters of our own generation. It is through their struggle that our generation has been given the strength, courage and determination to make the progress which has brought us to this day in 1986.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is an honor to be with you today. Muchas gracias. Que Dios los bendiga!

#####

