



Hispanic Heritage Month

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, we are highlighting some of our Hispanic and Latino employees. Read about what Hispanic Heritage Month means to them, and what they do to celebrate their heritage.

Rosario Avila

Arrow Benefits Group, Senior Benefits Advisor

Hispanic Heritage Month means a lot to me, growing up I was one of 2 bilingual Spanish speakers in my class (from first grade to sixth grade). During that time being bilingual felt more like a chore and embarrassment than something to be proud of because our peers would make fun of us for speaking a different language and we would be pulled off the playground at recess to translate for either younger kids or parents who did not speak English. I remember my views changed in 1988 when President Reagan extended the time frame to a month, which was the first time I had even heard of this event. I was in middle school and had more bilingual Spanish speakers in my class, we were asked to speak about our different cultures and traditions and many families brought a favorite dish or dessert to share. It was awesome to hear my classmates get excited when they heard my mom was bringing tamales, rice and beans for our class. Ever since then and especially since I had children, we do something to celebrate our culture, bring out decorations or watch the Mexican independence "Grito" on TV.



Jose Gutierrez

Patriot Agency Growth Team Member, IT Tech Lead (Service Desk)

One thing I enjoy about Hispanic Heritage Month is that co-workers and other non-Hispanic people get to learn about special traditions, customs and other important celebrations that are sacred to our communities. It's nice to be heard and for others to know that we are more than just our good foods. It's also important to know and learn that Hispanic means more than just one culture and people from different parts of the world, not just Mexico but Latin countries that represent different ethnicities, cultures, and traditions.

Crystal Zeyen

Intrepid CO, Benefit Advocate and Patriot Benefit Advocate

Our family sets up an ofrenda every year in October for our loved ones who have passed away. A lot of people think it is “creepy” to have an altar to celebrate those who have passed, but it makes us feel closer to our family and friends that we love and miss so much.



Carlos Guzman

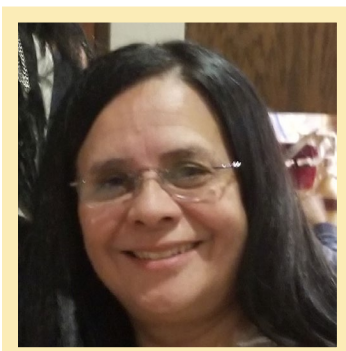
Bowermaster & Associates, Accounting Manager

Hispanic Heritage Month reminds me of all the celebrations I got to witness when I was a kid growing up in El Salvador. Two of the most important traditions that my family has kept are Independence Day and Dia de los Muertos. Independence Day is celebrated on September 15th. There are major parades and parties across El Salvador. There is a large Salvadoran Community in the US so we get to celebrate as if we were home here in the US. Dia de los Muertos (day of the dead) is celebrated on November 2nd. This day we remember and celebrate relatives and friends who have passed away. It is important to keep these traditions alive so our children can learn about their roots and appreciate them.

Jorge Martinez

Patriot Agency Growth Team Member, VP, Carrier & Wholesale Relationships

Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to reflect and make some Cuban food.



Denise Beth

ICMS, Account/Office Manager

My family goes every year on the last Sunday of October to celebrate Dia los Muertos. My family enjoys making tamales every Christmas.

