



HISPANIC HERITAGE M O N T H



CELEBRATE
AND EDUCATE
SEPTEMBER 15
TO OCTOBER 15

National Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month, (September 15–October 15) in which the people of the United States honor the achievements of Hispanics. The celebration was first authorized in 1968, when the U.S. Congress adopted a resolution asking the president of the United States annually to issue a proclamation designating a week in September including September 15 and 16 as “National Hispanic Heritage Week.”

In 1988 Congress expanded the celebration to a 31-day period beginning September 15. The resolution calls “on the people of the United States, especially the educational community, to observe National Hispanic Heritage Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.”

Hispanic Heritage Month coincides with the celebrations of Independence Day in many Latin American countries—including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua (September 15), [Mexico](#) (September 16), and [Chile](#) (September 18)—as well as with Columbus Day (originally October 12 in the United States but now commemorated there on the second Monday in October).



What is Hispanic?

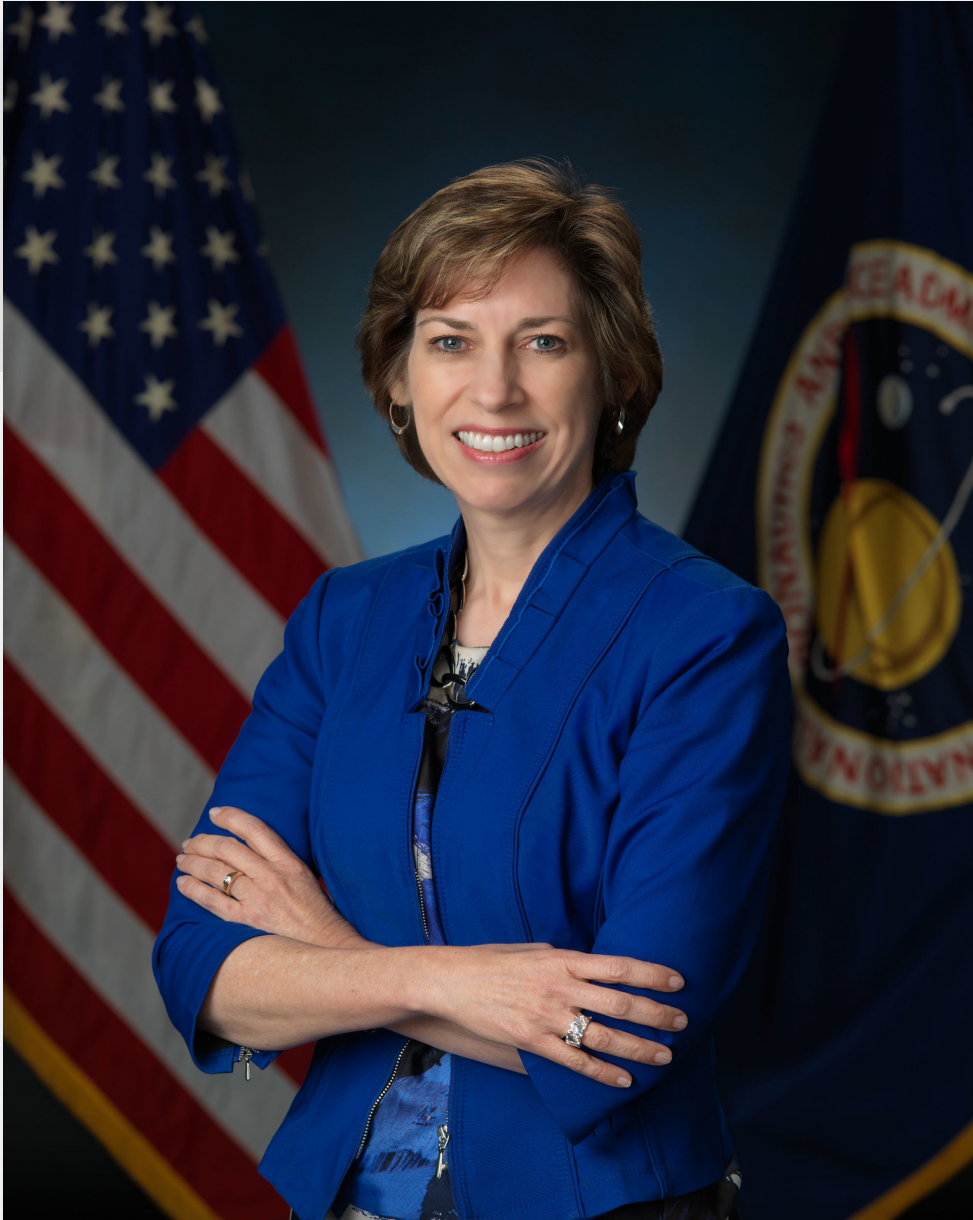
- Hispanic refers to a person who is from, or a descendant of someone who is from, a Spanish-speaking country.
- Latino/a or Latinx refers to a person who is from, or a descendant of someone who is from, a country in Latin America.
- [National Hispanic Heritage Month - YouTube](#)

Hispanic Inventors and Celebrities

Pedro Edralin Flores

- The first U.S. patent for a yo-yo like toy was issued in 1866, but it was not until 1928, that a Filipino immigrant named Pedro Flores popularized the toy.
- While working as a porter in a Santa Monica, California hotel, he demonstrated various yo-yo tricks to the guests. Flores made a key innovation in the yo-yo. Instead of tying a knot around the axle, he used a loop, which allowed the yo-yo to sleep or spin and to perform other tricks.
- Flores is also credited with promoting the yo-yo contests that helped fuel the craze.





Dr. Ellen Ochoa

- The first Hispanic-America Woman in space when she served on the nine-day STS-56 mission aboard the space shuttle Discovery in 1993. She has flown in space four times, including STS-66, STS-96 and STS-110, logging nearly 1,000 hours in orbit..
- A co-inventor on three patents for an optical inspection system, an optical object recognition method, and a method for noise removal in images.
- She was Johnson Space Center's first Hispanic director, and its second female director. Her previous management roles include Deputy Center Director and Director of Flight Crew Operations.



Santiago Ramón y Cajal

- The first person of Spanish origin to win a scientific Nobel Prize.
- Santiago was Spanish Neuroscientist, Pathologist, and histologist specializing in neuroanatomy and the central nervous system.
- He discovered the axonal growth cone and demonstrated experimentally that the relationship between nerve cells was not *continuous*, or a single system as per then extant reticular theory, but rather *contiguous*; ^[6] there were gaps between neurons. This provided definitive evidence for what Heinrich Waldeyer would name "neuron theory", now widely considered the foundation of modern neuroscience.

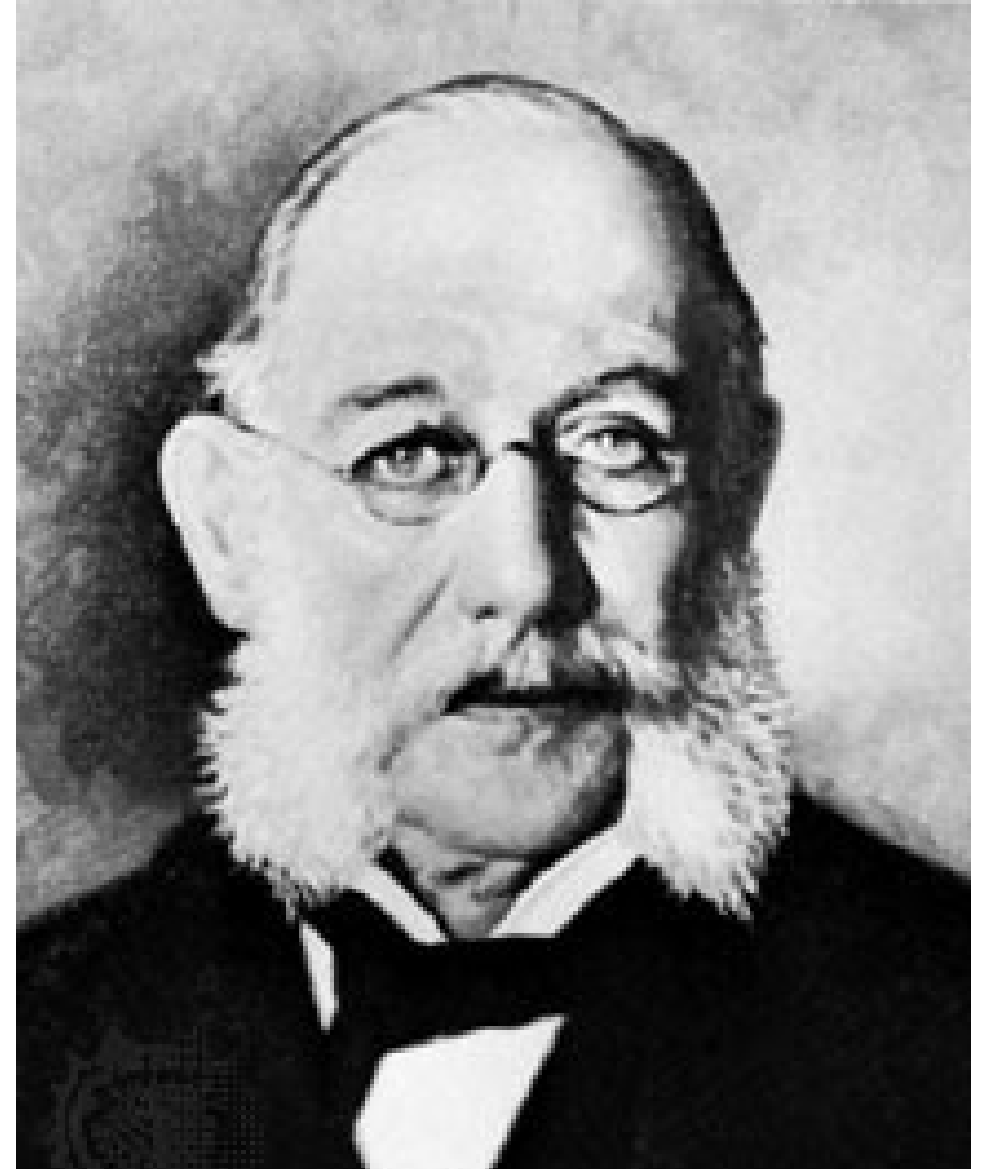
Jharrel Jerome

- Jharrel Jerome is an American Actor and Rapper that is of Dominican descent and identifies as Afro-Latino.
- He is best known for appearing in Barry Jenkins's acclaimed drama film *Moonlight* (2016), which won the Academy Award for Best Picture, and for portraying Corey Wise in Ava DuVernay's Netflix miniseries [*When They See Us*](#) (2019).
- He won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Limited Series or Movie and the Critics' Choice Television Award for Best Actor in a Movie/Miniseries.



Carlos Juan

- Cuban Epidemiologist who discovered that yellow fever is transmitted from infected healthy humans by a mosquito. Although he published experimental evidence of this discovery in 1886, his ideas were ignored for 20 years.
- A graduate of Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia (1855), he returned to Cuba, where he practiced medicine in Matanzas and Havana.
- In 1879 Finlay was appointed by the Cuban government to work with the North American commission studying the causes of yellow fever, and two years later he was chosen to attend the fifth International Sanitary Conference in Washington, D.C., as the Cuban delegate. At the conference, Finlay urged the study of yellow fever vectors, and soon afterward he stated that the carrier was the mosquito *Culex fasciatus*, now known as *Aedes aegypti*.
- Finlay was appointed chief sanitation officer of Cuba (1902–09), and after his death the Finlay Institute for Investigations in Tropical Medicine was created in his honor by the Cuban government.



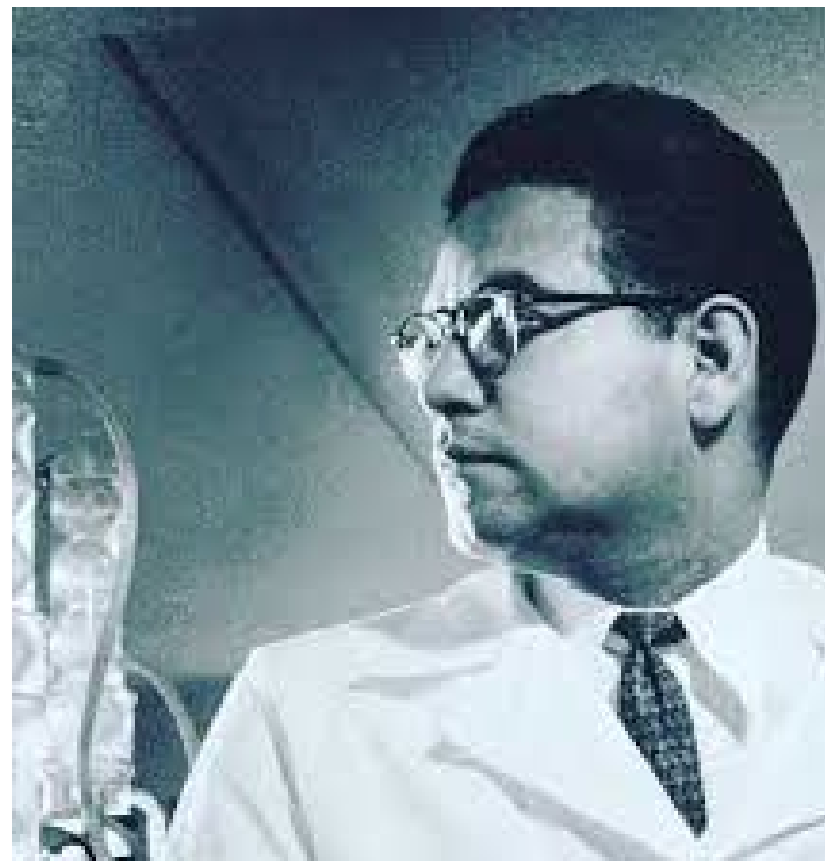
America Ferrera

- *Ugly Betty* turned America Ferrera into more than a sitcom star. In 2002, Ferrera became the first and only (as of 2019) Latina actress to win a Best Actress Emmy for starring in a TV series.
- In 2016, the Emmy winner reflected on the “surreal” moment, although she admitted that, at the time, she had no idea that she was the first Latina actress to win the category.
- I wasn’t even aware of it until after the fact, until other people brought it to my attention, that I was the first Latina to win the Emmy, which was not a big part of the story and I certainly didn’t even think of it that way,” Ferrera told *Variety*. “Looking back and thinking, ‘Oh wow, that barrier was broken when I won,’ that’s really special and regardless of what happens that can never be undone. I was so in a bubble that I wasn’t even aware of what that moment meant in a larger context for women like me in the industry.”



Luis Miramontes

- Luis Miramontes was a Chemist known as the co-inventor of progestin norethisterone used in one of the first three oral contraceptives.
- Carl Djerassi, Luis Miramontes and George Rosenkranz of the Mexican chemical company [Syntex](#) are listed on the patent for norethisterone as its co-inventors. Djerassi "is now known sometimes as the 'Father of the Pill'".^[2] The historians, nevertheless, agree that the invention, or the first synthesis, is the work of Miramontes
- On 15 October 1951, Luis Miramontes, a young Mexican chemist doing his undergraduate bachelor's thesis work at Syntex completed the synthesis of the 19-nor-17 α -ethynyltestosterone or, for short 'norethisterone'—which turned out to be the first oral contraceptive to be synthesized.
- In 1964, the contraceptive pill was chosen by the US Department of Patents as one of the 40 registered more important inventions between 1794 and 1964. The name of Luis Miramontes appeared next to Pasteur, Edison, Bell, the Wright brothers and others of equal stature. It was included in the "USA Inventors Hall of Fame"





Desi Arnaz

- At a time when representation for Hispanics was mostly non-existent, Arnaz was a trailblazer in his own right.
- Through *I Love Lucy*, Arnaz became the first Latino actor to star in a national English-language primetime TV show, and a successful producer to boot.
- Born in Santiago, Cuba, in 1917, Arnaz migrated to the U.S. with his family as a teenager and kicked off his acting career with the 1939 Broadway musical *Too Many Girls*. The following year, Arnaz moved to Hollywood, where he met and later married his first wife, Lucille Ball.
- Ball and Arnaz premiered *I Love Lucy* in 1951. The sitcom was the first to be filmed in front of a live studio audience. Arnaz, who was also a producer on the show, is credited with pioneering the multi-camera technique popular in sitcom comedies.
- In 1976, Arnaz became the first Latino host of *Saturday Night Live*, helming episode 14 of the sketch comedy show's inaugural season. Arnaz was also the first to double as an *SNL* host and musical guest.

Gina Torres

- Torres became the first Afro-Latina actress to create, produce and star in her own TV series with the debut of her USA Network drama, *Pearson*. The *Suits* spinoff, which premiered in July, finds Torres continuing her role as high-powered attorney Jessica Pearson.
- “As women of color, it’s important to be impeccable in our words and in our work since we’re held to a higher standard,” Torres told NBC News over the summer. “But we must also be unapologetic about our excellence and not apologize for being awesome.”
- The Cuban-American actress, whose credits include *Hercules: The Legendary Journey*, *Westworld*, *The Shield*, *I Think I Love My Wife*, *Alias* and seven seasons on *Suits*, has appeared in hit shows and films for more than 25 years.



Jennifer Lopez

- Jennifer Lopez is the first Latina actress to be paid \$1 million for a film, which she scored for her breakout role [in *Selena*](#)
- In 2001, Lopez made history again, becoming the first Latina to top the box office (*The Wedding Planner*) and the Billboard album charts (*J.Lo*) at the same time.
- In 2020, the *Hustlers* star co-headlined the Super Bowl halftime show alongside Shakira, marking the first time that two Latina artists shared the big stage.

