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Last Updated: 04/08/2025

Hispanic on —
Dana 9

THE WHITE HOUSE

For Immediate Release

October 31, 1984

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT AT HISPANIC STAMP PRESENTATION

The Rose Garden

11:45 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Having spent so much of my life in California, I've always been aware of the many contributions that Americans of Hispanic descent have made to our country. And the pride, the dignity of the Hispanic community has been a source of strength, a deep well of inspiration from which America has drawn in good times and bad, during peacetime and in times of danger and conflict.

Americans of Hispanic descent have added so much to our way of life, in government service, in the private sector, in the arts and in every aspect of our culture.

And today, we gather to pay a special tribute to Americans of Hispanic descent who have placed their lives on the line in the defense of America.

The Postmater General, at our suggestion, today is issuing a stamp commemorating this awe-inspiring record of courage and valor. And this stamp is the result of a concerted effort on behalf of the 10 surviving Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients, the United States Postal Service and the Department of Defense. It's a fitting tribute to the men and women who have given such service to the cause of freedom.

It was 174 years ago when Pather Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla rang the bells in his village. Like the sounding of our Liberty Bell, he was proclaiming to the world his people's resolve to live in freedom. That same love of freedom still rings in our hearts today, especially in the hearts of our fellow citizens of Hispanic descent has been demonstrated time and again.

When danger threatened our republic, Hispanics, as this stamp underscores, have been in the forefront of the defense of our freedom and independence. Thirty-seven of them, an incredible number, have received our highest military award, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

It was my honor to have presented the Medal of Honor, the last one awarded, to an Hispanic American, to Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez.

I've gotten to know Roy. He and the nine other Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients visited me here at the White House this spring. And when I met and spoke with them, I could clearly see that it was the values they were taught as children that gave them the strength to be the kind of men they grew up to be. (Applause.)

These values, devotion to family and respect for God, love of country and respect for honest work, these are the ingredients that have molded the character of Americans of Hispanic descent. This is the stuff of which her

There's a place in Illinois that underscores what I'm saying. In the town of Silvis, in an Hispanic neighborhood, there's a street on which lived 22 very special American families. From these 22 families, 84 men served in Norld War II, Norea and Vietnam. The two Sandoval families on that street sent 13 men, 6 from one

family, 7 from the other. Three Sandoval sons never came back. They and five others who gave their lives for our freedom are honored by a special monument. Their street, one just plain econd treet, is now Hero Street, U.S.A. (Applause.)

There's an even bigger monument, and it's the one in the heart of every man, woman and child in this country who are thankful for the precious liberty we enjoy and grateful to those to whom we owe such a debt. The stamp that we issue today is our way of giving a heartfelt message to our wonderful Hispanic neighbors who have fought for their country, individuals to whom we owe so much. And the message is: You are truly American heroes.

I'd like to thank all of you for joining with us here today in this tribute. Thank you and God bless you (applause.)

(The stamp is presented.) (Applause.)

END

11:53 P.M. EST

HISPANIC STAMP PRESENTATION

WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE. HAVING
SPENT MUCH OF MY LIFE IN CALIFORNIA, I'VE
ALWAYS BEEN AWARE OF THE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS
AMERICANS OF HISPANIC DESCENT HAVE MADE TO
OUR COUNTRY.

THE PRIDE AND DIGNITY OF THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF STRENGTH -- A DEEP WELL OF INSPIRATION -- FROM WHICH AMERICA HAS DRAWN IN GOOD TIMES AND BAD, DURING PEACETIME, AND IN TIMES OF DANGER AND CONFLICT. AMERICANS OF HISPANIC DESCENT HAVE ADDED SO MUCH TO OUR WAY OF LIFE, IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE, IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, IN THE ARTS, AND IN EVERY ASPECT OF OUR CULTURE.

TODAY, WE GATHER TO PAY A SPECIAL
TRIBUTE TO AMERICANS OF HISPANIC DESCENT WHO
HAVE PLACED THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE IN THE
DEFENSE OF AMERICA.

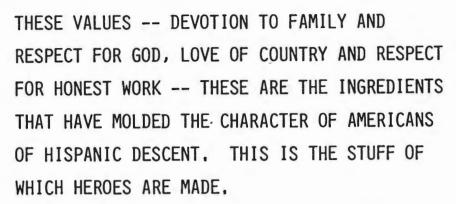
THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, AT OUR SUGGESTION, TODAY IS ISSUING A STAMP COMMEMORATING THIS AWE-INSPIRING RECORD OF COURAGE AND VALOR. THIS STAMP IS THE RESULT OF A CONCERTED EFFORT ON BEHALF OF THE TEN SURVIVING HISPANIC MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS, THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. IT IS A FITTING TRIBUTE TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE GIVEN SUCH SERVICE TO THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM.

IT WAS 174 YEARS AGO WHEN FATHER MIGUEL HIDALGO Y COSTILLA RANG THE BELLS IN HIS VILLAGE. LIKE THE SOUNDING OF OUR LIBERTY BELL, HE WAS PROCLAIMING TO THE WORLD HIS PEOPLE'S RESOLVE TO LIVE IN FREEDOM. THAT SAME LOVE OF FREEDOM STILL RINGS IN OUR HEARTS TODAY, ESPECIALLY IN THE HEARTS OF OUR FELLOW CITIZENS OF HISPANIC DESCENT.

THIS HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED TIME AND AGAIN. WHEN DANGER THREATENED OUR REPUBLIC, HISPANICS -- AS THIS STAMP UNDERSCORES -- HAVE BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE DEFENSE OF OUR FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE. THIRTY-SEVEN OF THEM -- AN INCREDIBLE NUMBER -- HAVE RECEIVED OUR HIGHEST MILITARY AWARD.

IT WAS MY HONOR TO HAVE PRESENTED THE MEDAL OF HONOR, THE LAST ONE AWARDED TO AN HISPANIC AMERICAN, TO MASTER SERGEANT ROY BENAVIDEZ.

I'VE GOTTEN TO KNOW ROY. HE AND THE NINE OTHER HISPANIC MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS VISITED ME HERE AT THE WHITE HOUSE THIS SPRING. WHEN I MET AND SPOKE WITH THEM, I COULD CLEARLY SEE THAT IT WAS THE VALUES THEY WERE TAUGHT AS CHILDREN THAT GAVE THEM THE STRENGTH TO BE THE KIND OF MEN THEY GREW UP TO BE.



THERE IS A PLACE IN ILLINOIS THAT
UNDERSCORES WHAT I AM SAYING. IN THE TOWN
OF SILVIS, IN AN HISPANIC NEIGHBORHOOD,
THERE IS A STREET ON WHICH LIVE TWENTY-TWO
VERY SPECIAL AMERICAN FAMILIES. FROM THESE
TWENTY-TWO FAMILIES, EIGHTY-FOUR MEN SERVED
IN WORLD WAR II, KOREA, AND VIETNAM.
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AND SEVEN FROM THE OTHER. THREE SANDOVAL
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HONORED BY A SPECIAL MONUMENT -- THEIR
STREET, ONCE NAMED SECOND STREET, IS NOW
HERO STREET, U.S.A.



THERE IS AN EVEN BIGGER MONUMENT AND IT IS THE ONE IN THE HEART OF EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD IN THIS COUNTRY WHO ARE THANKFUL FOR THE PRECIOUS LIBERTY WE ENJOY AND GRATEFUL TO THOSE TO WHOM WE OWE SUCH A DEBT. THE STAMP WE ISSUE TODAY IS OUR WAY OF GIVING A HEARTFELT MESSAGE TO OUR WONDERFUL HISPANIC NEIGHBORS WHO HAVE FOUGHT FOR THEIR COUNTRY, INDIVIDUALS TO WHOM WE OWE SO MUCH. THAT MESSAGE IS: YOU ARE TRULY AMERICAN HEROES.

I'D LIKE TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR JOINING WITH US TODAY IN THIS TRIBUTE. THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU.

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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HISPANIC STAMP PRESENTATION WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1984

Welcome to the White House. Having spent much of my life in California, I've always been aware of the many contributions

Americans of Hispanic descent have made to our country.

The pride and dignity of the Hispanic community has been a source of strength -- a deep well of inspiration -- from which America has drawn in good times and bad, during peacetime, and in times of danger and conflict. Americans of Hispanic descent have added so much to our way of life, in Government service, in the private sector, in the arts, and in every aspect of our culture.

Today, we gather to pay a special tribute to Americans of Hispanic descent who have placed their lives on the line in the defense of America. The Postmaster General, at our suggestion, today is issuing a stamp commemorating this awe-inspiring record of courage and valor. This stamp is the result of a concerted effort on behalf of the 10 surviving Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients, the United States Postal Service, and the Department of Defense. It is a fitting tribute to the men and women who have given such service to the cause of freedom.

It was 174 years ago when father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla rang the bells in his village. Like the sounding of our Liberty Bell, he was proclaiming to the world his people's resolve to live in freedom. That same love of freedom still rings in our hearts today, especially in the hearts of our fellow citizens of Hispanic descent.

This has been demonstrated time and again. When danger threatened our Republic, Hispanics -- as this stamp underscores -- have been in the forefront of the defense of our freedom and independence. Thirty-seven of them -- an incredible number -- have received our highest military award.

It was my honor to have presented the Medal of Honor, the last one awarded to a Hispanic American, to Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez.

X

I've gotten to know Roy. He and the nine other Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients visited me here at the White House this spring. When I met and spoke with them, I could clearly see that it was the values they were taught as children that gave them the strength to be the kind of men they grew up to be. These values -- devotion to family and respect for God, love of country and respect for honest work -- these are the ingredients that have molded the character of Americans of Hispanic descent. This is the stuff of which heroes are made.

There is a place in Illinois that underscores what I am saying. In the town of Silvis, in an Hispanic neighborhood, there is a street on which live twenty-two very special American families. From these twenty-two families, eighty-four men served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. The two Sandoval families on that street sent thirteen men -- six from one family, and seven from the other. Three Sandoval sons never came back. They and five others who gave their lives for our freedom are honored by a special monument -- their street, once named Second Street, is now Hero Street, U.S.A.

There is an even bigger monument and it is the one in the heart of every man, woman, and child in this country who are thankful for the precious liberty we enjoy and grateful to those to whom we owe such a debate. The stamp we issue today is our way of giving a heartfelt message to our wonderful Hispanic neighbors who have fought for their country, individuals to whom we owe so much. That message is: You are truly American heroes.

I'd like to thank all of you for joining with us today in this tribute. Thank you and God bless you.

(Rohrabacher/BE) October 30, 1984 4:00 p.m.

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Americans of Hispanic descent served in positions of authority throughout State government while I was Governor; in fact, I appointed more to top-level positions than any Governor in California's history: Since we got to Washington, we've enlisted top talent from the Hispanic community and they are providing a valuable service to this Administration and to our country.

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#18 . exists to the court of freedom.

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It was my honor to have presented the Medal of Honor, the last one awarded to a Hispanic American, to Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez. This hero had been kept waiting in limbo for years during the last administration, which apparently thought that recognizing his gallantry was a bad idea because it would stir unpleasant memories of the Vietnam War.

Well, I think we can all be happy that America is no longer hesitant to honor any individual who did us the honor of serving as gallantly as Roy Benavidez.

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lives for our freedom are honored by a monument at the end of the once named second street, is now Here Street, USA.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 29, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY

FROM:

CATHI VILLALPANDO

SUBJECT:

Remarks for Hispanic Stamp Presentation

Wednesday, October 31, 1984

The draft Presidential remarks are fine as written except for Page 3, Paragraph 1, Sentence 2; the phrase "Hispanic neighbors" can also denote citizens of neighboring Latin American countries. The phrase "Hispanic-American neighbors would be clearer.

Enclosure

Valha

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

NOTE FOR DANA ROHRABACHER

FROM: PAUL B. SIMMONS

RE: HISPANIC STAMP EVENT

I'm told Roy Benavidez is to attend this event, making it impossible not to single his case out since the President himself awarded the Medal of Honor to him.

To avoid odious comparisons, not to mention a double entendre on p. 2 ("limbo"), between his treatment as a war hero and his now-fabled mistreatment at the hands of the Social Security bureaucracy, I suggest the red-lined sentences on p. 2 be struck and be replaced with a reference to the honor RR had in personally awarding the medal to this gallant man.

To denigrate the Carter Administration in this case is, I fear, to open the transom for Mondale or Roybal or someone to snipe at RR: ("Well, better to be cautious in documenting a Medal of Honor Case than to do this man the dishonor of stealing his hard-earned Disability benefits . . .").

OBS.

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OFFICE OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT

MEMC	UM		29 P3:3	1		
DATE:	10/29/84	ACTION/CO	NCURF	RENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:	4:00 pm tod	ay
SUBJECT:	PROPOSED	PRESIDENTIAL RE	MARKS:	HISPANIC STAMP PRESENTAT	TON	
		ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
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RESPONSE	ETO:			ı		

[☐] John A. Svahn Assistant to the President for Policy Development (x6515)

[☐] Roger B. Porter Director Office of Policy Development (x6515)

Document No.			

DATE:	10/29	ACTION/CONCUR	RENCE/C	OMMENT DUE BY:	4:00 P.M.	TODAY	
SUBJECT:	PROPOSED	PRESIDENTIAL	REMARI	KS: HISPANIC	STAMP PRESE	NTATION	
	(10/29 -	12:00 Noon di	raft)				
		ACTIO	N FYI			ACTION	FYI
VICE PR	RESIDENT	. \square		MURPHY			
MEESE				OGLESBY			
BAKER				ROGERS			
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REMARKS:							'

Please forward any edits/comments directly to Ben Elliott, with a copy to my office, by 4:00 p.m. TODAY. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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There is an even bigger monument and it is the one in the heart of every man, woman, and child in this country who are thankful for the precious liberty we enjoy and grateful to those to whom we owe such a debate. The stamp we issue today is our way of giving a heartfelt message to our wonderful Hispanic neighbors who have fought for their country, individuals to whom we owe so much. That message is MUCHAS GRACIAS.

I'd like to thank all of you for joining with us today in this tribute. Thank you and God bless you.

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DATE:	10/29	ACTION/CONCUR	RENCE/C	OMMENT DUE BY:	4:00 P.M.	TODAY	
SUBJECT: _	PROPOSED	PRESIDENTIAL	REMARI	KS: HISPANIC	STAMP PRESE	NOITATION	
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REMARKS:					- 11		

10/29

Please forward any edits/comments directly to Ben Elliott, with a copy to my office, by 4:00 p.m. TODAY. Thank you.

Gestins Int perhaps President should be Benaviday SS disability problems **RESPONSE:** Ext. 2702

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RESPONSE:

Have suggested changes on p.2.

ept non-political in tone.

Thanks

frim Cicco-

Richard G. Darman **Assistant to the President** Ext. 2702

cc: RGD

227 27 231

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HISPANIC STAMP PRESENTATION WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1984

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Americans of Hispanic descent served in positions of authority throughout State government while I was Governor; in fact, I appointed more to top-level positions than any Governor in California's history. Since we got to Washington, we've enlisted top talent from the Hispanic community and they are providing a valuable service to this Administration and to the country.

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

October 29, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT NOW!

SUBJECT:

Draft Presidential Remarks for Hispanic Stamp Presentation

The NSC has reviewed the attached draft Presidential remarks for the Hispanic stamp presentation and has made some suggested changes on page 2.

Attachment

As stated

cc: Richard G. Darman

Document No.	

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

			OMMENT DUE BY:			
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RESPONSE:



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REMARKS

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REMARKS:

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RESPONSE:		
Ben:	Have suggested changes on p.2. Kept non-political in tone.	Event must be
	Thanks Cicoi	Richard G. Darman Assistant to the President Ext. 2702
cc:	RED	

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HISPANIC STAMP PRESENTATION WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1984

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Please forward any edits/comments directly to Ben Elliott, with a copy to my office, by 4:00 p.m. TODAY. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

No objections but perhaps Present should be

reminded a Benariable SS disability problems

Richard G. Darman

Assistant to the President

Ext. 2702

212121 PO.CT

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 29, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND

DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM:

WENDELL L. WILLKIE 2227

ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Presidential Remarks:

Hispanic Stamp Presentation

Our office has reviewed the above-referenced draft remarks and has no legal or other substantive objection to them.

cc: Richard G. Darman

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

NOTE FOR DANA ROHRABACHER

FROM: PAUL B. SIMMONS

RE: HISPANIC STAMP EVENT

I'm told Roy Benavidez is to attend this event, making it impossible not to single his case out since the President himself awarded the Medal of Honor to him.

To avoid odious comparisons, not to mention a double entendre on p. 2 ("limbo"), between his treatment as a war hero and his now-fabled mistreatment at the hands of the Social Security bureaucracy, I suggest the red-lined sentences on p. 2 be struck and be replaced with a reference to the honor RR had in personally awarding the medal to this gallant man.

To denigrate the Carter Administration in this case is, I fear, to open the transom for Mondale or Roybal or someone to snipe at RR: ("Well, better to be cautious in documenting a Medal of Honor Case than to do this man the dishonor of stealing his hard-earned Disability benefits . . .").

OBS.

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MEMORANDUM		84 00 / 29 P3: 31							
ATE: 10/29/84	ACTION/CO	_ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:00 pm today							
JBJECT: PROPOSED PRES	IDENTIAL RE	DENTIAL REMARKS: HISPANIC STAMP PRESENTATION							
	ACTION	FYI	ACTION	FYI					
SVAHN			WALTERS						
PORTER			ADMINISTRATION/						
ANDERSON			JOHNSTON						
BLEDSOE			DRUG POLICY						
BRADLEY			TURNER 🗆						
DAVIS			OFFICE OF POLICY INFORMATION						
DRIGGS									
GALEBACH			PROPERTY REVIEW BOARD						
GORDLEY			OTHER						
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McALLISTER									
McCAFFREY									
ROPER									
SIMMONS									
SMITH									
SWEET									

(x6515)

[☐] John A. Svahn
Assistant to the President
for Policy Development

[☐] Roger B. Porter
Director
Office of Policy Development
(x6515)

Document No.	

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE:	10/29	ACTION/CONCUR	4:00 P.M. TODAY					
SUBJECT: _	PROPOSED	PRESIDENTIAL	REMARKS	: HISPANIC	STAMP I	PRESENT	ATION	
	(10/29 -	12:00 Noon di	caft)					
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VICE PR	RESIDENT	. 🗆		MURPHY				
MEESE				OGLESBY				
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REMARKS:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				1 - 7 - 1			

Please forward any edits/comments directly to Ben Elliott, with a copy to my office, by 4:00~p.m. TODAY. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HISPANIC STAMP PRESENTATION WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1984

Welcome to the White House. Having spent much of my life in California, I've always been aware of the many contributions Americans of Hispanic descent have made to our country.

Americans of Hispanic descent served in positions of authority throughout State government while I was Governor; in fact, I appointed more to top-level positions than any Governor in California's history. Since we got to Washington, we've enlisted top talent from the Hispanic community and they are providing a valuable service to this Administration and to the country.

Today, we gather to pay a special tribute to Americans of Hispanic descent who have placed their lives on the line in the defense of our country. The United States Post Office, at our suggestion, is issuing a stamp commemorating this awe-inspiring record of courage and valor.

It was 174 years ago when father Miguel Hidalgo de Castillo rang the bells in his village. Like the sounding of our Liberty Bell, he was proclaiming to the world his people's resolve to live in freedom. That same love of freedom still rings in our hearts today, especially in the hearts of our fellow citizens of Hispanic descent.

This has been demonstrated time and again. When danger threatened our Republic, Hispanics -- as this stamp underscores -- have been in the forefront of the defense of our

It was my honor to have presented the Medal of Honor, the last one awarded to a Hispanic American, to Sargeant Roy Benavidez. This hero had been kept waiting in limbo for years during the last administration, which apparently thought that recognizing his gallantry was a bad idea because it would stir unpleasant memories of the Vietnam War.

Well, I think we can all be happy that America is no longer hesitant to honor any individual who did us the honor of serving as gallantly as Roy Benavidez.

I've gotten to know Roy. He and 11 other Hispanic recipients visited me here at the White House this spring. When I met and spoke with them, I could clearly see that it was the values they were taught as children that gave them the strength to be the kind of men they grew up to be. These values — devotion to family and respect for God, love of country and respect for honest work — these are the ingredients that have molded the character of Americans of Hispanic descent. This is the stuff of which heroes are made.

There is a place in Illinois that underscores what I am saying. In the town of Silvis, in a Hispanic neighborhood, there is a street, formerly 2nd Street, on which live 22 very special American families. From these 22 families, 84 men served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. The two Sandoval families on that block sent 13 men -- 6 from one family, and 7 from the other. Three never came back. They and 5 others who gave their

There is an even bigger monument and it is the one in the heart of every man, woman, and child in this country who are thankful for the precious liberty we enjoy and grateful to those to whom we owe such a debate. The stamp we issue today is our way of giving a heartfelt message to our wonderful Hispanic neighbors who have fought for their country, individuals to whom we owe so much. That message is MUCHAS GRACIAS.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS STAFFING MEMORANDUM RESPONSE

October 29, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD G. DARMAN

FROM:

LEE L. VERSTANDIG

ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

SUBJECT:

Proposed Presidential Remarks: Hispanic

Stamp Presentation

I have reviewed the subject remarks and have no comments/edits on them.

Thank you.

cc: Ben Elliott.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 29, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY

FROM:

CATHI VILLALPANDO

SUBJECT:

Remarks for Hispanic Stamp Presentation

Wednesday, October 31, 1984

The draft Presidential remarks are fine as written except for Page 3, Paragraph 1, Sentence 2; the phrase "Hispanic neighbors" can also denote citizens of neighboring Latin American countries. The phrase "Hispanic-American neighbors would be clearer.

Enclosure