

American Patriots of Latino Heritage



Dr. Al Mijares, O. C. Superintendent of Schools is being presented with one of four books published by Latino Advocates for Education, Inc. and co-authored by board members Superior Court Judge Frederick P. Aguirre, teacher Linda Martinez Aguirre and engineer Rogelio C. Rodriguez. The four books contain biographical profiles and photographs of over 2,000 local Latino veterans from World War I to the present and research of archival data detailing the military service of Latinos from the Revolutionary War to the present wars. All of the materials have been transferred to the website, American Patriots of Latino Heritage, aplh.webs.com. The public may access the website.

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Website focuses on Latinos in the U.S. military

BY RON GONZALES

ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

A website focusing on the contributions of Latinos in the U.S. military has been launched.

The site, called American Patriots of Latino Heritage, is the result of an effort by the Orange County Department of Education and Latino Advocates for Education to provide a historical resource for students and teachers.

It contains research and a documentary produced by Latino Advocates for Education, with photographs and profiles of more than 2,000 Latino veterans since World War I, as well as women who contributed to the country's defense. It also highlights the military contributions of famous Americans of Latino background, including baseball player Ted Williams, entertainer Desi Arnaz and civil rights leader Cesar Chavez.

"Accentuating the contribution that Latino men and women have made to our country in military service is essential," said Al Mijares, Orange County superintendent of schools. "This is an important part of American history and provides a foundational element to the education of our students. It is imperative that we not forget and celebrate their sacrifices so that all students and their families can understand and more fully enjoy the freedoms of our democracy."

Frederick Aguirre, an Orange County Superior Court judge and president of Latino Advocates, said that the website grew out of a longtime collaboration with the county schools office. He and Mijares came up with the idea of taking research done by Latino Advocates and building a website through Mijares's office.

Latino Advocates has for years sponsored a Veterans Day event in Orange County, gathering information about Latino veterans and embarking on its own research.

Aguirre said he hoped the information compiled would be useful to students on school projects, as well as those seeking a different way of looking at U.S. and world history. The website project will replace the Veterans Day event as a way of celebrating the contributions of veterans, he said, adding that he hopes its contents will grow.

"It's promoting patriotism, it's promoting and identifying our loyalty to this country, and the sacrifice that Latinos have made since the Revolutionary War to the present day," Aguirre said.

You can find American Patriots of Latino Heritage at <http://aplh.webs.com>.