

2023 Diversity Messages

September 11th Patriot Day

The Importance of Patriot Day

On September 11, 2001, four commercial airplanes were hijacked. The hijackers then deliberately flew two of the planes into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York. The third plane crashed into the Pentagon headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense, in Arlington, Virginia. The fourth plane (United Airlines Flight 93) was directed at Washington DC, but its passengers bravely attempted to take back control and it crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. These attacks claimed the lives of 2,977 people and became the biggest act of terrorism ever on United States soil.

Patriot Day 2023 is recognized by United States law as the official day of remembrance for these tragic events and has been observed every year since the attacks. Although the attacks took place within the United States, the shock and grief experienced in response to the attacks was shared throughout the world, and for this reason Patriot Day 2023 will be observed, not only in America, but across the world.

Commemorating those whom we have lost on 9/11 is an important part of the process of healing the national psyche from these traumatic events. Paying tribute to the victims can take many forms and it is recommended that you do whatever makes you most comfortable to commemorate the day.

September 15th – October 15th National Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month is unique in that it crosses over two months, celebrated from September 15 to October 15. This time was chosen because it includes Independence Day celebrations for Belize, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua.

Why Do We Observe Hispanic Americans in the U.S.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there are 62.1 million Hispanic Americans in the United States or 19 percent of the country's population as of the 2020. Hispanic Americans have contributed to American life since the American Revolution, fighting in every war since. Today they continue to advance communities across the country as small business owners, veterans, teachers, and public servants, among many other professions. Hispanic Heritage Month recognizes the achievements and contributions of Hispanic Americans.

Hispanic Americans have been integral to the prosperity of the U.S. Their contributions to the nation are immeasurable, and they embody the best of American values. The Hispanic American community has left an indelible mark on the U.S. culture and economy.

As we recognize Hispanic Heritage Month, we would also like to acknowledge the contributions of the over 600 state employees that are of Hispanic or Latino descent and serve the great citizens of Tennessee. Thank you for supporting citizens across the State of Tennessee. Roberto Clemente said, "If you have an opportunity to make things better and you don't, then you are wasting your time on Earth." Thank you for your efforts to make things better for the citizens of Tennessee.