



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

September 9, 2003

Message for National Hispanic Heritage Month

Our Nation observes National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 through October 15 by celebrating and honoring the invaluable contributions of Hispanic Americans to the United States. This year's theme, "Honoring our Past, Surpassing our Present, and Leading our Future" recognizes the many significant contributions of Hispanic Americans in continuing to make our country a great Nation.

National Hispanic Heritage Month presents an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the contributions, cultures, and diverse heritage of more than 35 million Hispanic Americans, with ancestries that can be traced to Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Cuba, Spain, and many other countries. For almost 500 years Spanish-speaking people have played significant roles in the development of our Nation, and they continue to make a difference in shaping the future of this country.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) remains committed to ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to participate in the programs and services offered by the Department. DOT actively works with public and private sector organizations to formulate the strategies and programs that will not only strengthen the Department's support to the Hispanic and other diverse communities, but also help recruit and train future aviators, astronauts, engineers, scientists, and public servants.

As the Department observes National Hispanic Heritage Month, we also celebrate the diverse cultures that comprise our Nation's rich heritage. This year's theme is particularly fitting as it honors the past contributions of Hispanic Americans and the role they play in leading this country to an improved future.

Please join me in participating in the various events hosted by the Department throughout National Hispanic Heritage Month.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norman Y. Mineta".

Norman Y. Mineta