



MESSAGE FROM THE VEEP

Hispanic Heritage Month



By Clarence M. Hatcherson

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PRESIDENT HARRY TRUMAN signed *Executive Order 9981* on July 26, 1948, ending segregation in the military. The **United States Marine Corps** arguably has taken the lead in practicing diversity in its enlisted and officer ranks. **September 15 to October 15** is recognized as **National Hispanic Heritage Month**; as such we celebrate the contributions made and the important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States and celebrate the group's heritage and culture.

In recognition of National Hispanic Heritage Month I'd like to dedicate this month's newsletter to *Hispanic American Marines in general, two in particular and one specifically.*

Hispanics have participated as members of the United States Marine Corps in the Boxer Rebellion, World War I, the American intervention in Latin America also known as the Banana Wars, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War and most recently in the military campaigns of Afghanistan and Iraq.

Private France Silva (May 8, 1876 – April 10, 1951) born in Hayward, California, was the first Marine of Mexican-American and Hispanic heritage to receive the **Medal of Honor**. He received the Medal of Honor for his *meritorious conduct in China during the Boxer Rebellion.*

Lieutenant General Pedro Augusto del Valle (August 28, 1893 – April 28, 1978) was a United States Marine Corps officer who became the *first Hispanic to reach the rank of Lieutenant General.* His military career included service in World War I, Haiti and Nicaragua during the Banana Wars of the 1920s, in the seizure of Guadalcanal, and later as Commanding General of the 1st Marine Division during World War II.



Major General Angela Salinas, born in Alice, Texas to Mexican immigrants, is the **Director of Manpower Management Division, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Headquarters Marine Corps**. On August 4, 2006, when she assumed command of **Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego**, she became the *first woman to command the Recruit Depot*. On August 2, 2006, Salinas became the *first Hispanic woman to become a United States Marine Corps general officer*, and the sixth woman in the Marine Corps to reach the rank of brigadier general.

Maj. Gen. Angela Salinas began her military career at Parris Island after enlisting into the United States Marine Corps in May 1974. She was

subsequently assigned as a legal services clerk (MOS 4421) at **Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton**, the **Marine Air Reserve Training Detachment in Alameda**, and the inspector-instructor staff for **4th Reconnaissance Battalion in San Antonio**.

In 1977, Salinas was selected for the **Enlisted Commissioning Program** and commissioned as a **second lieutenant after graduation from Dominican College of San Rafael** with a B.A. in history. She was subsequently assigned to the **2nd Marine Aircraft Wing at MCAS Cherry Point** and served as a legal services officer. In 1980, she was assigned to

Woman Recruit Training Command at Parris Island,

where she served as a series commander, executive officer, and battalion operations officer.

In 1986, Salinas assumed command of **Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion** until 1987, when she became the **Deputy G-1, 1st Force Service Support Group**, both at **Camp Pendleton**. In 1988, she was transferred to serve as the executive officer for Recruiting Station Charleston, then assumed command the following



year. In 1992, she served as a combat service support ground monitor for the **Manpower Management and Officer Assignments at Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington, D.C.**

In 1993, Salinas became **Deputy, Special Assistant for General/Flag Officer Matters, Office of the Director, Joint Staff at the Pentagon**. In 1996, she assumed command of the **4th Recruit Training Battalion at Parris Island**. In 1999, she served as the **Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5, for III Marine Expeditionary Force, Okinawa, Japan**. In 2001, she assumed command of the **12th Marine Corps District**. From 2004 to 2006, Salinas served as **Chief of Staff, Marine Corps Recruiting Command at Quantico**.

On August 4, 2006, she assumed command of **Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego**. She transferred to direct the manpower management, **Manpower and Reserve Affairs at Marine Corps Base Quantico** in August 2009. In March 2010, she was selected for promotion to major general, and promoted on May 12.

Salinas holds **Bachelor's Degree in history from Dominican University of California** and a **Master's Degree from the Naval War College**. She is a graduate of the **Amphibious Warfare School, the Naval War College's Command and Staff College and the Army War College**.



Clarence Hatcherson is Vice-President of the Montford Point Marine Association L. A. Chapter