



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HISPANIC COMMISSION HONORS FOUR OREGON LATINOS

José Ibarra Muñoz, chair of Oregon’s Commission on Hispanic Affairs, announced yesterday that the Commission had unanimously adopted resolutions honoring four Oregonians for their distinguished records of public and community service. The award resolutions and detailed resumes of the honorees are attached. For more information **contact** Mr. José Ibarra Muñoz at 541-261-1399 and chair.ocha@gmail.com .

The honorees are:

- **Diego F. Castellanoz, Nyssa, Malheur County.** Mr. Castellanoz is a former Nyssa mayor and current member of the Nyssa City Council and the Nyssa School Board. He is believed to be the only Latino to have been mayor of an Oregon city. Mr. Castellanoz has been active for years in local and state-wide activities and is a former member of the Commission. He was honored for decades of spirited community work, especially for the area’s Latino population.
- **Genoveva (Eva) Castellanoz, Nyssa, Malheur County.** Ms. Castellanoz, wife of Teodoro Castellanoz and mother of nine children, including fellow honoree Diego, was honored for her work as a folk artist and for her pro bono work of healing with indigenous Mexican remedies and practices. For years she has made ceremonial floral crowns that are used in traditional ceremonies for which she received a 1989 National Heritage Award from the National Endowment for the Arts. She has been recognized by other arts and historical organizations, and her life has been documented in various publications as well as in a new biography, *Remedios*, authored by Lewis and Clark University academic Joanne B. Mulcahy.
- **Annabelle Jaramillo, Benton County.** Ms. Jaramillo, an incumbent Benton County Commissioner, has served on many local and state-wide public, political and civic boards and commissions. She was honored for her record of sustained community activity.
- **Miguel A. Salinas, West Linn, Clackamas County.** Mr. Salinas is a former school principal, school administrator and educational advocate for Latino students. Now retired, he continues his interest in education. With his wife, Lydia, he has been very active for several years in documenting the history of a group of Latino farm workers who migrated after World War II from South Texas to the Woodburn-St. Paul area. Mr. Salinas has taken oral histories of many of those individuals and formed an organization for the group, “Pioneros de Oregon”. He was honored for his sustained community service.

STATE OF OREGON
COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, THAT ON THIS DAY, IN RECOGNITION OF HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO HIS COMMUNITY AND FOR HIS SPECIAL COMMITMENT TO OREGON'S LATINO POPULATION, THE COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS OF THE STATE OF OREGON HONORS

DIEGO F. CASTELLANOZ

OF MALHEUR COUNTY, OREGON.

ON BEHALF OF THE LATINO COMMUNITY OF THIS STATE THIS COMMISSION EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION TO OUR HONOREE FOR DECADES OF HARD WORK AND SACRIFICES. HE SERVED NYSSA AS ITS MAYOR, MAKING HIM OREGON'S ONLY LATINO MAYOR. AND FOR YEARS HE HAS SERVED AS A NYSSA CITY COUNCIL MEMBER AND MEMBER OF THE NYSSA SCHOOL BOARD. HE IS ALSO A FORMER MEMBER OF THIS COMMISSION. HE HAS EARNED THE TRUST AND RESPECT OF THOSE WHO WORKED WITH HIM AS WELL AS THOSE HE SERVED, THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OREGON.

ADOPTED BY A VOTE OF THE COMMISSION ON THE 24TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2010.

JOSÉ IBARRA MUÑOZ, CHAIR

RAYMOND C. CABALLERO, VICE-CHAIR

STATE OF OREGON
COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS

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GENOVEVA CASTELLANOZ
OF MALHEUR COUNTY, OREGON.

ON BEHALF OF OREGON'S LATINO COMMUNITY, THE COMMISSION EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION TO OUR HONOREE FOR HER HARD WORK AND SACRIFICES OVER MANY DECADES. SHE WAS BORN GENOVEVA SILVA JUÁREZ IN VALLE DE SANTIAGO, GUANAJUATO, MEXICO. MARRIED TO TEODORO CASTELLANOZ, SHE IS THE MOTHER OF NINE CHILDREN. SHE WORKED WITH HER FAMILY IN THE AREA'S ONION AND BEET FIELDS. WITHOUT CHARGE SHE PROVIDED INDIGENOUS REMEDIES TO THE ILL. FOR HER WORK AS A FOLK ARTIST, MAKING CEREMONIAL FLORAL CROWNS, SHE RECEIVED A NATIONAL HERITAGE AWARD FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS. SHE HAS EARNED THE TRUST, ADMIRATION AND RESPECT OF THOSE WHO WORKED WITH HER AS WELL AS THOSE SHE SERVED, THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OREGON.

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ANNABELLE JARAMILLO

OF BENTON COUNTY, OREGON.

ON BEHALF OF THE LATINO COMMUNITY OF THE STATE OF OREGON, THE COMMISSION EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION TO OUR HONOREE FOR HER HARD WORK AND SACRIFICES OVER MANY DECADES. SHE HAS ABLY LED BY SETTING A NOBLE EXAMPLE. SHE HAS HELD PUBLIC AND POLITICAL OFFICES AND HAS VOLUNTEERED ON MANY LOCAL AND STATE-WIDE PUBLIC AND CIVIC BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS. SHE HAS EARNED THE TRUST AND RESPECT OF THOSE WHO WORKED WITH HER AS WELL AS THOSE SHE SERVED, THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OREGON.

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MIGUEL A. SALINAS
OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY, OREGON.

ON BEHALF OF THE LATINO COMMUNITY OF THIS STATE THIS COMMISSION EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION TO OUR HONOREE FOR DECADES OF HARD WORK AND SACRIFICE. OUR HONOREE HAS DEMONSTRATED HIS LOVE OF COMMUNITY BY DOCUMENTING THE RICH HISTORY OF MANY LATINOS WHO MIGRATED IN THE 1940S FROM SOUTH TEXAS TO THE WOODBURN-ST. PAUL AREA OF MARION COUNTY, OREGON. HE HAS EARNED THE TRUST AND RESPECT OF THOSE WHO WORKED WITH HIM AS WELL AS THOSE HE SERVED, THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OREGON.

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JOSÉ IBARRA MUÑOZ, CHAIR

RAYMOND C. CABALLERO, VICE-CHAIR

DIEGO F. CASTELLANOZ

NYSSA OREGON



Diego Castellanoz

Residence: Nyssa, OR

**Occupation: Supervisor, Amalgamated Sugar Processing Plant,
Employee for 28 years**

**Affiliations: City Councilor, School Board Member, Former
Mayor**

GENOVEVA (EVA) CASTELLANOZ

NYSSA OREGON



(Photo by R. Caballero)

From the Oregon Encyclopedia

Eva Castellanoz (1939-)

Eva Castellanoz (left) in Nyssa.

Oreg. Hist. Soc. Research Lib.



Castellanoz, Eva, Nyssa, OHQ 1-03

Eva Castellanoz (left) in Nyssa.

Oreg. Hist. Soc. Research Lib.

Eva Castellanoz—traditional artist, *curandera* (healer), activist, and teacher—is a leading spokesperson for Oregon's Latino community. She received a National Heritage Award in 1989, has been the subject of Oregon and National Public Radio programs, and served on the Oregon Arts Commission from 1997 to 2001.

Castellanoz has presented Mexican traditional arts at the Smithsonian Institution and now demonstrates them in libraries and community centers throughout the Northwest. She links the "roots" of culture to survival, arguing that "when the root is ruined, the limbs are sick, like our heritage that has been stripped and bitten away."

Castellanoz was born Genoveva Silva Juarez in Valle de Santiago, Mexico, on November 18, 1939. She was the sixth child of Fidel Silva, of Aztec heritage, and María Concepción Silva, an Otomí healer. At age three, Eva and her family moved to Pharr, Texas, after the death of her five older siblings from disease. Her father had already worked in the United States for many years before the 1942 *bracero* program formalized the influx of Mexican workers. Castellanoz's family shifted between Texas to Oregon before settling in Nyssa in 1957.

Castellanoz met and married her husband Teodoro in Pharr when she was fifteen. She arrived in Oregon pregnant with the first of nine children, whom she raised while working in the sugar beet and onion fields. During that time, she traveled to Mexico, where she saw an artist making *coronas* in the streets of Guadalajara. Inspired, she taught herself to replicate the wax and paper floral "crowns" central to weddings and *quinceañeras* (a young woman's fifteenth-birthday celebration). Castellanoz offers spiritual and practical advice along with the coronas, stressing gender equality and autonomy for women. Her teachings counter the increasing commercialization of this rite of passage in the U.S.

After the birth of her last child, Castellanoz was spiritually "called" to *curanderismo*, a healing practice that blends Spanish-Arabic and indigenous Mexican traditions. She now serves middle-class Anglos and Latinos as well as migrant workers without health insurance. Castellanoz does not charge for her services because she believes that "healing is a gift."

Castellanoz's years in the fields, struggling with poverty and other difficulties, engendered her activism. For over thirty years, she has worked with young people, including many gang members. She teaches art as a tool

for personal and social transformation. The "root" of culture, she argues, can heal social dislocation and strengthen communities.

Despite wide recognition for her artistry and healing work, Castellanoz never forgets her own roots. Her commitment to helping immigrants springs from deep spiritual beliefs. In her words, "I am the woman who scrubs your toilet. I am the woman who picks your corn. I am the woman who stands in the factory line. I'm here and I look this way. And I, too, am the image of God."

Written by [Joanne Mulcahy](#)

Further Reading:

Cantú, Norma. "Chicana Life-Cycle Rituals." In *Chicana Traditions: Continuity and Change*. Ed. Norma E. Cantú and Olga Nájera-Ramírez. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2002, pp. 15-34.

Gamboa, Erasmo and Carolyn M. Baun, eds. *Nosotros: The Hispanic People of Oregon*. Portland: Oregon Council for the Humanities, 1995.

Governar, Alan B. *Extraordinary Ordinary People: Five Masters of Traditional Arts*. Cambridge, Mass.: Candlewick Press, 2006.

Trotter, Robert T. II, and Juan Antonio Chavira. *Curanderismo: Mexican-American Folk Healing*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1997.

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ANNABELLE JARAMILLO



Ms. Jaramillo was born in Colorado and is now a resident of Philomath, Benton County, Oregon.

Education: Bachelor and Master's degrees in science from Portland State University.

Employment:

- Research botanist for USDA Pacific Northwest at Oregon State University.
- Development officer, Center against Rape & Domestic Violence.
- Principal, Jaramillo Group. Consulting firm.

Since 2001 to the present she has served as a Benton County Commissioner and is currently vice-chair. The following is a partial listing of some of her activities in serving Oregon, especially its Latino community:

- Benton County Democratic Chair.
- President, Oregon Women's Political Caucus.
- Member, Governor Atiyeh's Education Mission.
- 1992, Executive Director of the Hispanic Commission
- President, National Image, Inc.
- 1992-2000, Citizen Representative for Gov. John Kitzhaber.
- 1994, one of four honorees, Oregon Women of Achievement, OR Commission for Women.
- 1995, Honoree, Western Region Government Hispanic Advocate of the Year, US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.
- 1996, Director, Oregon for Clinton-Gore Presidential Campaign.
- 1997-2001, National Environmental Justice Advisory Board.
- 2002-present, Member, [Law Enforcement Contacts Policy and Data Review Committee](#), Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.
- 2004-present, Member, Oregon Progress Board.
- 2006 Member, Oregon Governor's Taskforce on Equality.
- 2006-Present, Member, Oregon Sustainability Board.
- 2007 Member, Oregon Forestry Lands Advisory Commission.
- Member, Local Officials Advisory Board, Land Conservation and Development Commission.
- Board Member, Oregon Chapter, American Civil Liberties Union.
- Board member, CASA voices for children, Benton County.
- Senior Fellow, American Leadership Forum.
- Witness many times before Oregon legislative committees on several issues important to the Latino community.



MIGUEL A. SALINAS

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Miguel Amezcua Salinas was born in Guadalajara, Mexico on August 22, 1945. Later the family joined with his farm worker father in Texas and they then migrated to Arizona and California and finally settled in Marion County, Oregon. They were one of about 50 farm worker families that migrated from Asherton, Texas to the St. Paul area in the 1940s.

He attended school in St. Paul and Gervais. He is a graduate of Oregon State University. Mr. Salinas spent virtually all his professional life as a teacher, principal and bilingual education administrator in Woodburn and later for the Portland Public Schools. Since his retirement he has continued to advocate for Latino students and along with his wife, Lydia Salinas, has devoted several years in documenting the history of the Asherton, Texas, families. They formed an association, Pioneros de Oregon, to honor that rich history.

Oregon town honors early Hispanic residents

By The Associated Press

WOODBURN, Ore.— Their Oregon trail began in California, Texas and Mexico more than 50 years ago when they piled their children and belongings into old cars to seek a better life in Oregon.

They were among the first Hispanics to establish communities in Marion and Polk counties. Fifty of those families were honored Sunday for their contributions to Oregon.

Juanita and Candelario Constante were among them. Juanita, 71, remembers squeezing their eight children into the back of an old Buick in 1967 and leaving California.

The family picked strawberries for a

living and eventually bought a home. All of the children graduated from high school, and her daughter became one of the first Hispanic women from a migrant family to become a doctor.

Juanita said the Sunday event at St. Luke's Catholic Church was wonderful because she got to see families that she hasn't seen in "a lifetime." The walls were covered with homemade posters featuring written histories and snapshots of graduations, weddings and other family occasions.

"It's beautiful," Juanita said. Miguel Salinas, who organized the event, said he hopes to capture the Constante family story and 49 others in a book about Hispanic pioneers this year.

The West Linn resident is a member of

HEART, Hispanic Education Advocacy Resource Team. He also grew up with most of these families in Woodburn.

He plans to interview the families and talk to them about how things have changed in Oregon. Juanita Constante said north Marion County looked a lot different a half-century ago. There were a handful of Hispanic families, no Mexican restaurants and no one else spoke Spanish, she said.

Now there are signs around the county in Spanish and English, school children can be taught in both languages and Latinos are the largest ethnic group in Oregon.

In Marion and Polk counties, Hispanics made up 15.6 percent of the population when the 2000 Census was taken.

The Hispanic population is much

denser in some areas.

Jessie Ayala Collazo said that it's important to honor the area's pioneers because they opened many doors for those who came afterward. His father, Epifanio, who was honored Sunday, helped build the first Salud Medical Clinic in Woodburn. He also helped others get into college through his volunteer work.

Hispanic people have given a lot to the state, and it's time that their contributions were recognized, said Linda McKim-Bell of Portland, who attended the Sunday event.

McKim-Bell taught English as a second language for about 25 years, and she said she learned a lot from her students, including the importance of family and of building a connected community.

Reunión de pioneros Mexicanos



Woodburn, OR., 6 de junio de 2004. La *Coordinadora del IME Estela García* participó, a invitación del *Consejero de Oregon ante el Consejo Consultivo Miguel Salinas*, en la Tercera Reunión de "Pioneros" en la cual se rindió homenaje a 40 personas de origen mexicano-texano que en los años cuarentas migraron a Oregon. Algunos de ellos tuvieron oportunidad de convertirse en los primeros profesores bilingües, y han unido esfuerzos con el IME para aprovechar los recursos educativos y

extender oportunidades de instrucción a las nuevos migrantes.