

# PRESS RELEASE

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## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual HISPANIC HERITAGE AWARDS TO HONOR LATINO LEADERS DURING STAR-STUDED CEREMONY ON CAPITOL HILL

**WASHINGTON, DC- September 24, 2009** . The Hispanic Heritage Foundation (HHF) and Presenting Sponsor ExxonMobil will present the 22<sup>nd</sup> **Annual Hispanic Heritage Awards on Capitol Hill on September 29, 2009**, as seven Latino leaders in various categories will be celebrated for their achievements in their field and in the community. A dynamic stage production will feature top Latino artists performing and members of Congress presenting the awards.

The 2009 Hispanic Heritage Honorees include:

- ~ Rock superstars **Maná**, presented with the **first “Green” Award**
- ~ Artist **Romero Britto**, presented with the **Humanitarian Award**
- ~ Animation Figure **Dora the Explorer**, with the **Education Award**
- ~ Boxer **Oscar de la Hoya**, with the **Sports Award**
- ~ Mathematician and Professor **Richard A. Tapia** with the **Math and Science Award**
- ~ Singer **Olga Tañón** with the **Arts Award**
- ~ Senator **Robert Menendez** with the **Leadership Award**

In addition, **National Recipients of the Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards** will take their place onstage as young leaders. After the ceremony, the guests of the Hispanic Heritage Awards will attend a stage production hosted by **Heineken** at the New Hogateş on the Washington Waterfront featuring performances by **Olga Tañón, Chichi Peralta, Don Omar, Cristian Castro, and La Quinta Estación**. During the Honorees Reception, Mexican cuisine will be prepared by **America’s Top Chef Winner Rick Bayless**.

“We are privileged to pay tribute to the 2009 Honorees who will certainly carry on the great tradition of past Honorees,” said HHF Chairman Dr. Pedro Jose Greer, Jr., who received the Presidential Medal of Freedom last month and the Hispanic Heritage Award for Leadership in the nineties. “The Honorees represent the tremendous contributions Latinos make in America and the Youth Awardees the great promise of whatş to come. The Honorees serve as role models not only for Latinos but for all Americans. And we are grateful to ExxonMobil for their support not only for the Hispanic Heritage Awards but to the Hispanic Heritage Foundationş mission.”

The Hispanic Heritage Awards were created in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan and the White House to commemorate the creation of Hispanic Heritage Month. The Hispanic Heritage Awards will take place at the **Senate Russell Building, Russell Caucus Room, Washington, DC, on Capitol Hill**. The event will serve as a culmination of the year-round mission of HHF, which identifies, inspires, prepares and positions Latino leaders in the classroom, community and workforce.

Current sponsors of the Hispanic Heritage Awards include **ExxonMobil, Heineken, Viacom, Nickelodeon, US Army, Amgen, Time Warner, Hewlett-Packard, PhRMA, US Navy, UPS, University of Phoenix, M&T Bank, Washington Hispanic, Green Depot, National Education Association, Onyx Media, The Raben Group, Exito Music & Entertainment, Erwin Gomez Salon**, among others. Sponsorship opportunities are still available for Hispanic Heritage Awards.

Youth Awards sponsors include **ExxonMobil, NBC Telemundo, Southwest Airlines** (also the Official Airlines of the Youth Awards), **NSHMBA, Staples Foundation for Learning, Hewlett Packard, Subway, Sprint/Nextel Foundation, Astra-Zeneca, US Army, UPS**, among others.

Please visit [www.HispanicHeritage.org](http://www.HispanicHeritage.org) for more information.

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