

National Hispanic Heritage Month

2022

Celebrated from September 15 to October 15.

National Hispanic Heritage Month traditionally honors the cultures and contributions of all Latin American countries, as we celebrate the roots of our common heritage.



Collaboration:
Eulísés Román, MBA
Dr. Luís Rodríguez

What does Hispanic mean?



While many people use Latino(a) and Hispanic interchangeably, these two words mean different things. A Hispanic person is someone who comes from or is a descendant of someone from a Spanish-speaking country. Latino(a) is used when referring to someone who comes from Latin America or is a descendant of someone from any Latin American country.

A person can be both Hispanic and Latino(a), but not all Latinos are Hispanic. Brazilians, for example, are Latinos, but their native language is not Spanish. Conversely, not all Hispanics are Latino(a). Spaniards are considered Hispanic, but not Latinos, since they are part of the European Union.

- **The List of Hispanic Countries includes:** Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain, Uruguay, and Venezuela.
- **The List of Latin American Countries includes:** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Martinique, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Martin, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Honoring The First....

2022



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Juana Inés de la Cruz

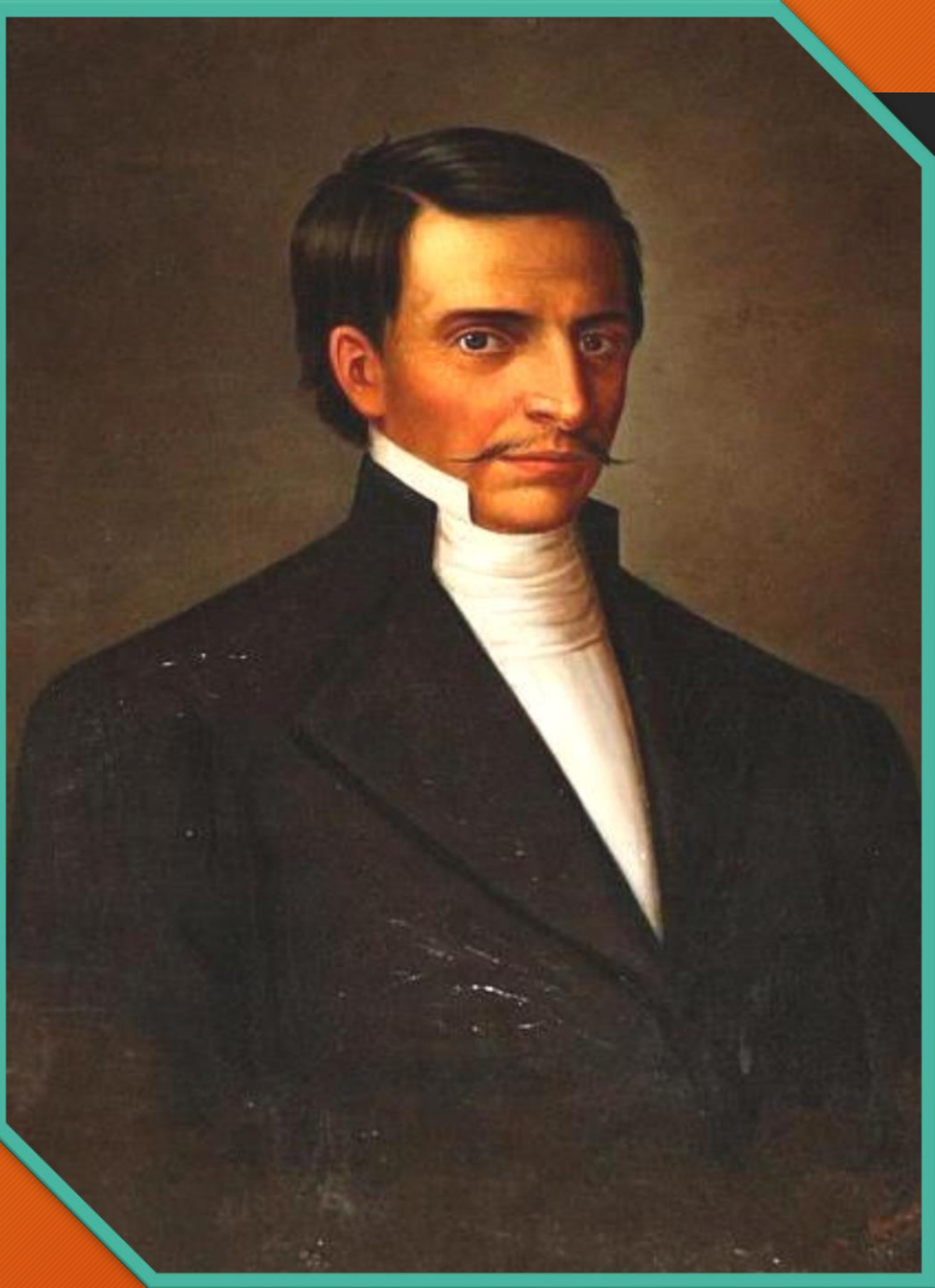
(1648 - 1695)



Born on November 12, 1648, in Nepantla de Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Mexico. Juana Inés de la Cruz was considered a pioneer of women's rights at a time when neither feminism nor gender equality had entered our lexicon. Juana Inês de la Cruz was a nun and 17th-century feminist writer and thinker.

She is best known for her work "Respuesta a Sor Filotea," which argued for a woman's right to an education. De la Cruz rose in prominence during the 20th century during the second wave of feminism and is now widely considered the first feminist author of the New World.





Eugenio Espejo

(1747 - 1795)



Born on February 21, 1747, in Quito, Ecuador. Francisco Javier Eugenio de Santa Cruz y Espejo was a medical pioneer, writer and lawyer of mestizo origin in colonial Ecuador. Although he was a notable scientist and writer, he stands out as a polemicist who inspired the separatist movement in Quito.

He is regarded as one of the most important figures in colonial Ecuador and was Quito's first journalist and hygienist. As a journalist he spread enlightened ideas in the Royal Audiencia, and as a hygienist he composed an important treatise about sanitary conditions in colonial Ecuador, that included interesting remarks about microorganisms and the spreading of disease.





Carlos Juan Finlay

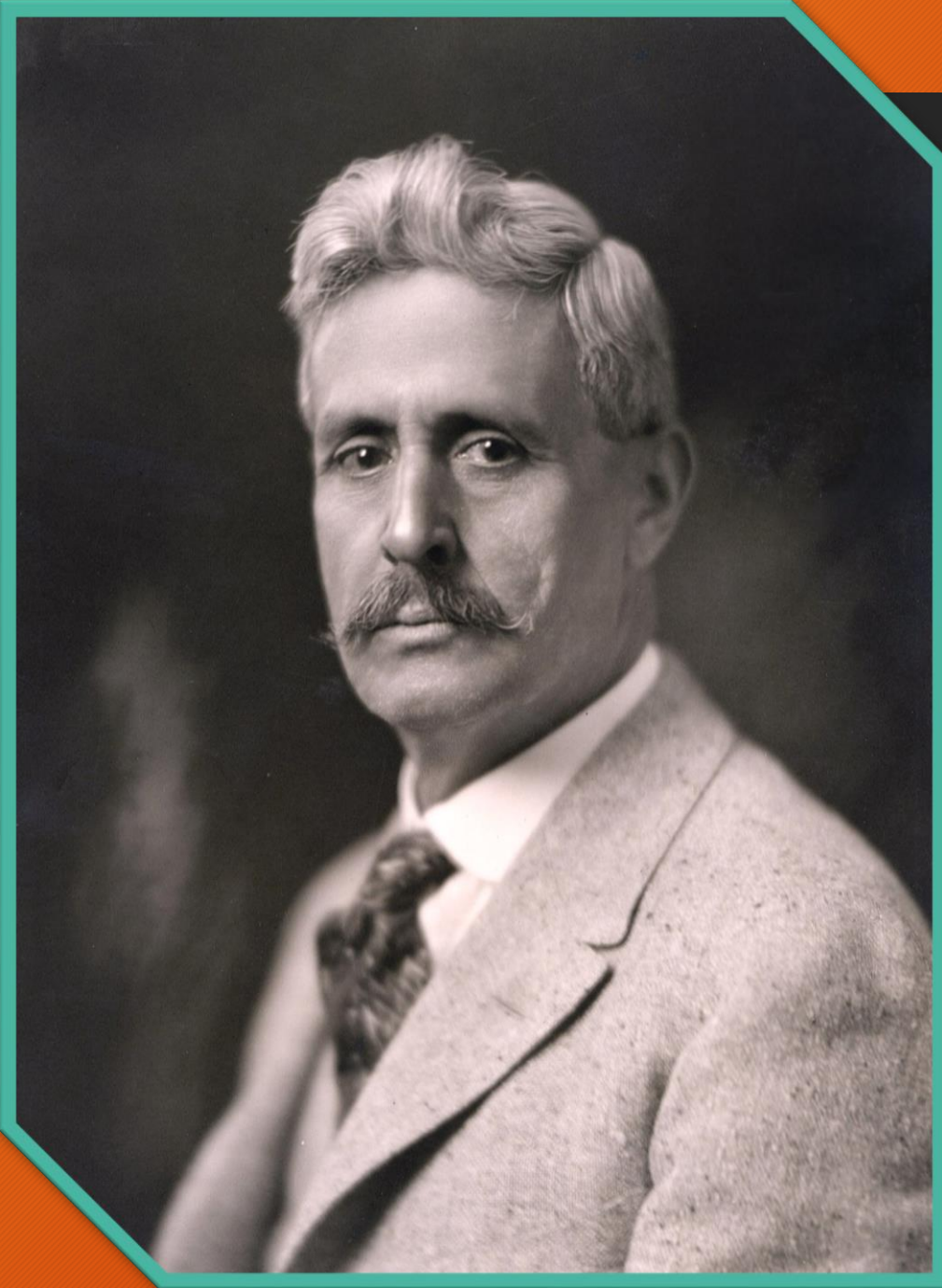
(1833 - 1915)



Born on December 3, 1833, in Puerto Príncipe, Cuba. Carlos Juan Finlay was a Cuban epidemiologist recognized as a pioneer in the research of Yellow Fever. He had determined Yellow Fever was transmitted through mosquitoes *Aedes aegypti*.

In 1881, Finlay became the first person to theorize that a mosquito was a carrier, now known as a disease vector, of the organism causing Yellow Fever. He presented his theory at the International Sanitary Conference, which was well received. His theory recommendations were followed to control the mosquito population and the spread of the disease.





Octaviano A. Larrazolo

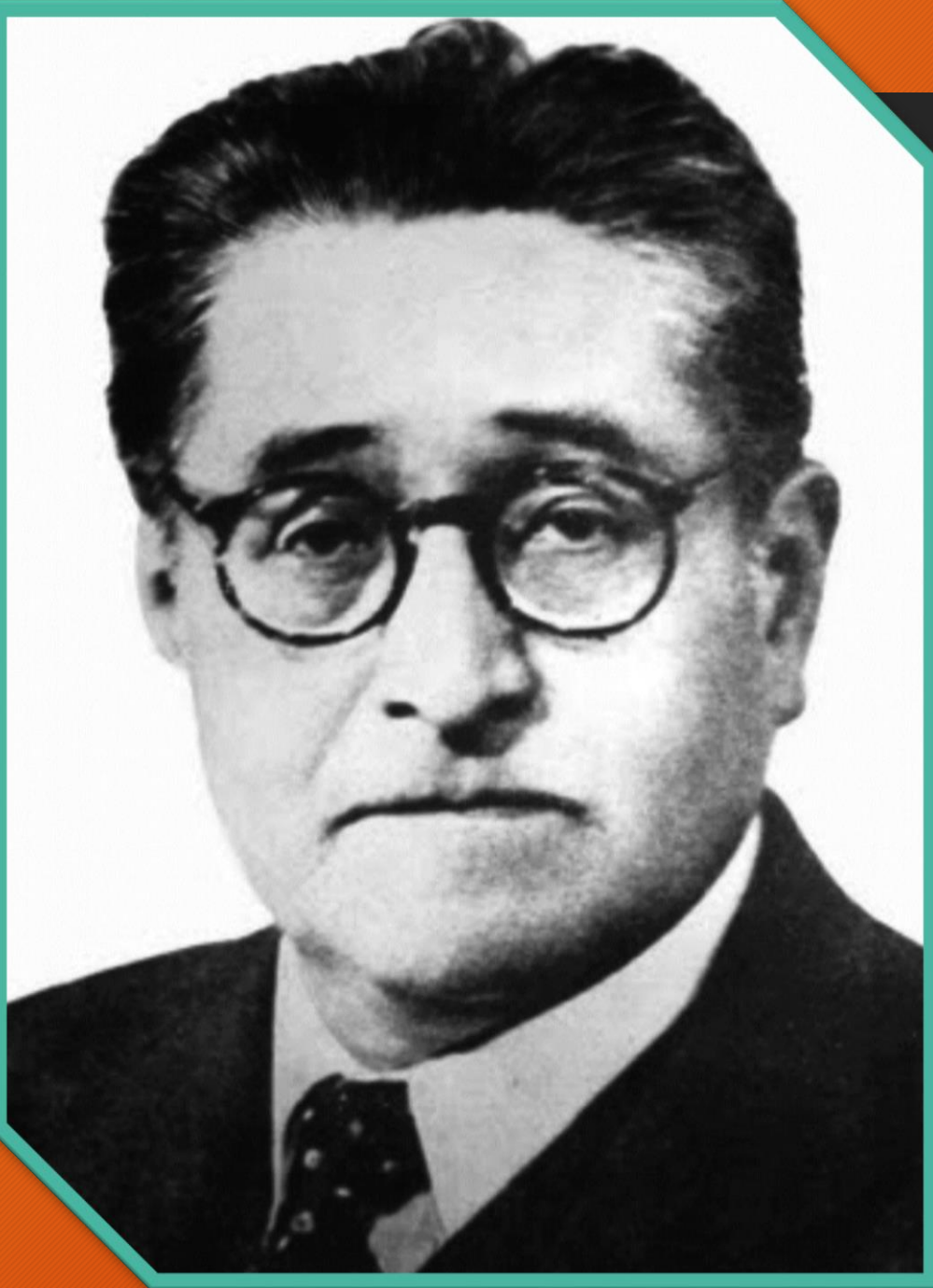
(1859 - 1930)



Born on December 7, 1859, in El Valle de Allende, Chihuahua, Mexico. Octaviano A. Larrazolo immigrated to the U.S. in 1870. As a champion of civil rights for Hispanic Americans, he began his political career in 1886. In 1910, Larrazolo attacked the machine politics in New Mexico that was exploiting Hispanic voters across the state. He feared New Mexico was becoming like the South where Jim Crow laws stripped African Americans of their rights.

In a milestone speech, he forced both Republicans and Democrats to acknowledge the concerns of Hispanics in New Mexico. He became the most vocal leader of his generation. In 1918 Larrazolo was elected the fourth governor of New Mexico. Ten years later was elected as the first Hispanic American to serve as a U.S. Senator.





Julio C. Tello

(1880 - 1947)



Born on April 11, 1880, in Huarochirí Province, Peru. Julio César Tello was a Peruvian archaeologist. Tello is considered the “Father of Peruvian Archeology” and was the first indigenous archaeologist in South America. He made the major discoveries of the prehistoric Paracas culture, including nearly 400 textiles associated with mummified burials.



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Gabriela Mistral

(1889 - 1938)

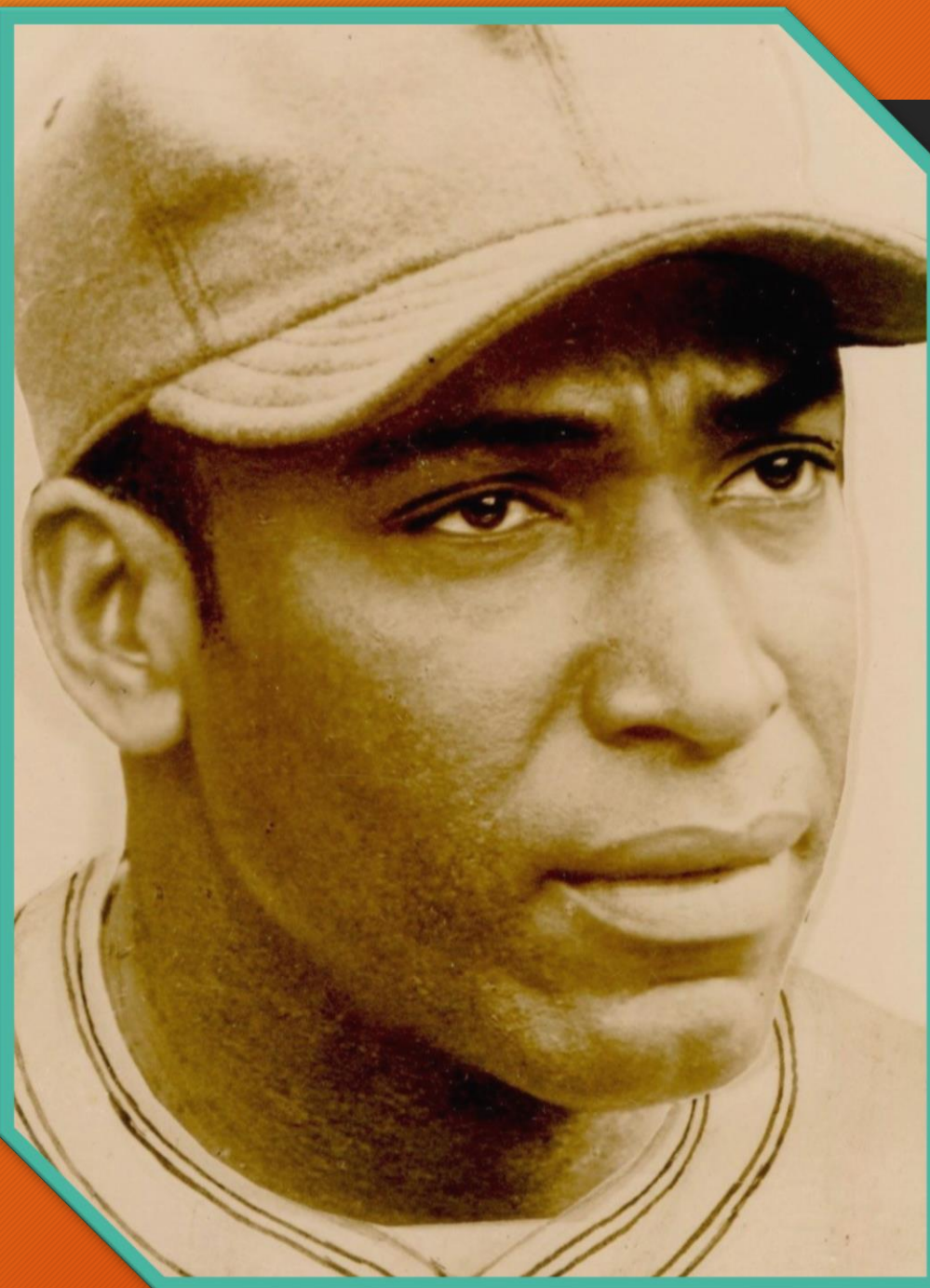


Born on April 7, 1889, in Vicuña, Chile. Lucila Godoy Alcayaga known by her pseudonym Gabriela Mistral was a Chilean poet-diplomat, educator and humanist. In 1945 she became the first Latin American author to receive a Nobel Prize in Literature, "for her lyric poetry which, inspired by powerful emotions, has made her name a symbol of the idealistic aspirations of the entire Latin American world."

Some central themes in her poems, formed from a mixture of Native American and European influences, are: nature, betrayal, love, a mother's love, sorrow and recovery. They also include travel, and formation of a Latin American identity. Her portrait also appears on the 5,000 Chilean peso bank note.



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Martín Magdaleno Dihigo Llanos

(1906 - 1971)



Born on May 25, 1906, in Matanzas, Cuba. Martín Magdaleno Dihigo Llanos also known as “The Immortal,” was a professional baseball player. He was the first Cuban to play in the Negro Baseball League from 1923 to 1936 as a two-way player, both as pitcher and second baseman. Over the course of his career, Dihigo eventually played all nine positions.

Dihigo compiled a lifetime .302 career batting average with 130 home runs, although eleven seasons of home run totals are missing. As a pitcher, he compiled a 252-132 win-loss record.

In 1977, Martín Dihigo was inducted into the American Baseball Hall of Fame. Dihigo was also inducted into the Hispanic Heritage Baseball Museum Hall of Fame.





Horacio Rivero, Jr.

(1910 - 2000)



Born on May 16, 1910, in Ponce, Puerto Rico. Admiral Horacio Rivero, Jr. was the first Puerto Rican and Hispanic four-star admiral, and the second Hispanic to hold that rank in the modern United States Navy.

After retiring from the Navy, Rivero served as the U.S. Ambassador to Spain (1972-1974) and was also the first Hispanic to hold that position.



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Carmen Contreras-Bozak

(1919 - 2017)



Born on December 31, 1919, in Cayey, Puerto Rico. Tech4 Carmen Contreras-Bozak, was the first Hispanic to serve in the U.S. Women's Army Corps (WAC), where she served as an interpreter and in numerous administrative positions. In 1942, Contreras joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) and was sent to Fort Lee, Virginia for training.

Contreras volunteered for the 149th WAAC Post Headquarters Company, the first to go overseas. It set sail from NY Harbor for Europe in January 1943. She was the first person of Hispanic heritage and the first of about 200 Puerto Rican women who served in the Women's Army Corps during World War II. Contreras achieved the rank of Technical Sergeant. In today's Army, it would equal the rank of Sergeant (E-4).





Ildaura Murillo-Rohde

(1920 - 2010)



Born on September 6, 1920, in Panama. Ildaura Murillo-Rohde was a nurse, professor, academic, tennis instructor, and organization administrator. In 1971, Murillo-Rohde was the first Hispanic nurse awarded a Ph.D. from New York University (NYU).

Murillo-Rohde became an Associate Dean at the University of Washington and was the first Hispanic Dean of Nursing at NYU. Murillo-Rohde founded the National Association of Spanish-Speaking Spanish-Surnamed Nurses (NASSSN), known as the National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) after 1979. She served as its first president. In 1991, David Dinkins appointed Murillo-Rohde to a commission that examined the quality of care at New York City hospitals. In 1994, she was named a Living Legend of the American Academy of Nursing.





Alicia Alonso

(1920 - 2019)



Born on December 21, 1920, in Havana, Cuba. Ernestina de la Caridad del Cobre Martínez del Hoyo, Alicia Alonso, was the first Cuban Prima Ballerina Assoluta, and Choreographer of the Alicia Alonso Ballet Company.

From age nineteen, Alonso was afflicted with an eye condition and became partially blind. During her performances, her partners would have to be placed in specific locations. In addition, she also used lights in different parts of the stage to guide herself.

Alonso would become the first dancer of the Western Hemisphere to perform in the Soviet Union and the first American representative to dance with the Bolshoi and Kirov Theaters of Moscow and Leningrad.



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Carmen Lozano Dumler

(1921 - 2015)

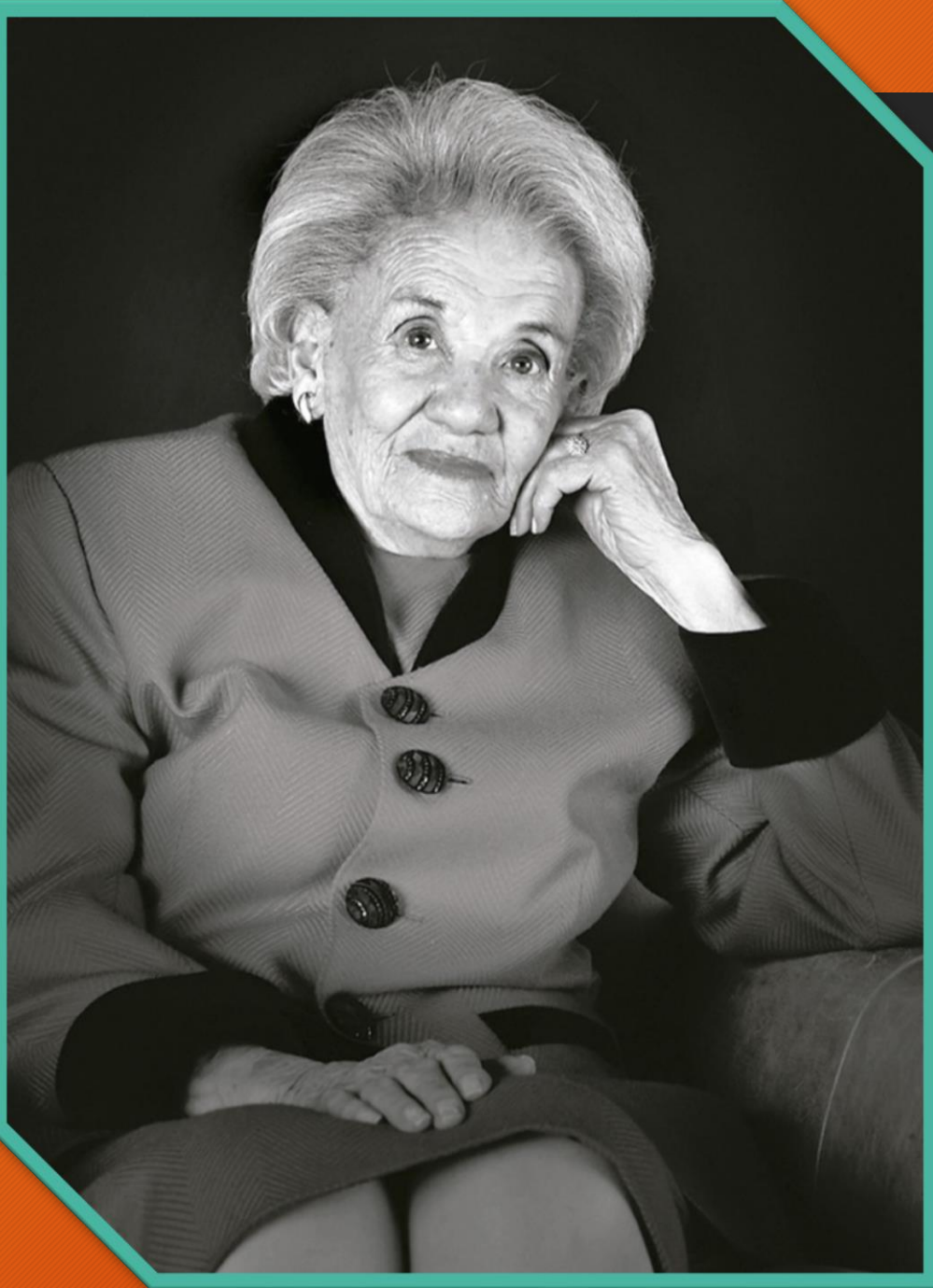


Born on September 18, 1921, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Second Lieutenant Carmen Maria Lozano Dumler, RN, was one of the first Puerto Rican women to become a United States Army officer.

During World War II, she served as a nurse and interpreter, and provided support for Spanish speaking patients. Lozano Dumler has since been featured in promotional and recruitment materials that celebrate diversity in the US military.



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PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Lidia Gueiler Tejada

(1921 - 2011)



Born on 28 August 1921 in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Lidia Gueiler Tejada was the first female President of Bolivia, serving in an interim capacity from 1979 to 1980. She was Bolivia's first female Head of State, and the second in Latin American history. Gueiler was involved in various Bolivian feminist organizations throughout her life.

Additionally, she authored two books publishing *La Mujer y la Revolución* ("The Woman and the Revolution") in 1960. The second, her autobiography, *Mi Pasión de Lideresa* ("My Leadership Passion"), was published in 2000. In June 2009, Gueiler accepted the role of Honorary President of the Human Rights Foundation in Bolivia.





Romana Acosta Bañuelos

(1925 - 2018)



Born on March 20, 1925, in Miami, AZ. Romana Acosta Bañuelos was the thirty-fourth Treasurer of the United States. Appointed by President Richard Nixon on September 20, 1971, she served from December 1971, to February 1974 as the first Hispanic to hold this Cabinet position.

Born into a poor Mexican-American family , Acosta also became the owner of a multimillion-dollar business, Ramona's Mexican Food Products, Inc. It was headquartered in Gardena, California. She also co-founded the Pan-American National Bank in East Los Angeles.





César Milstein

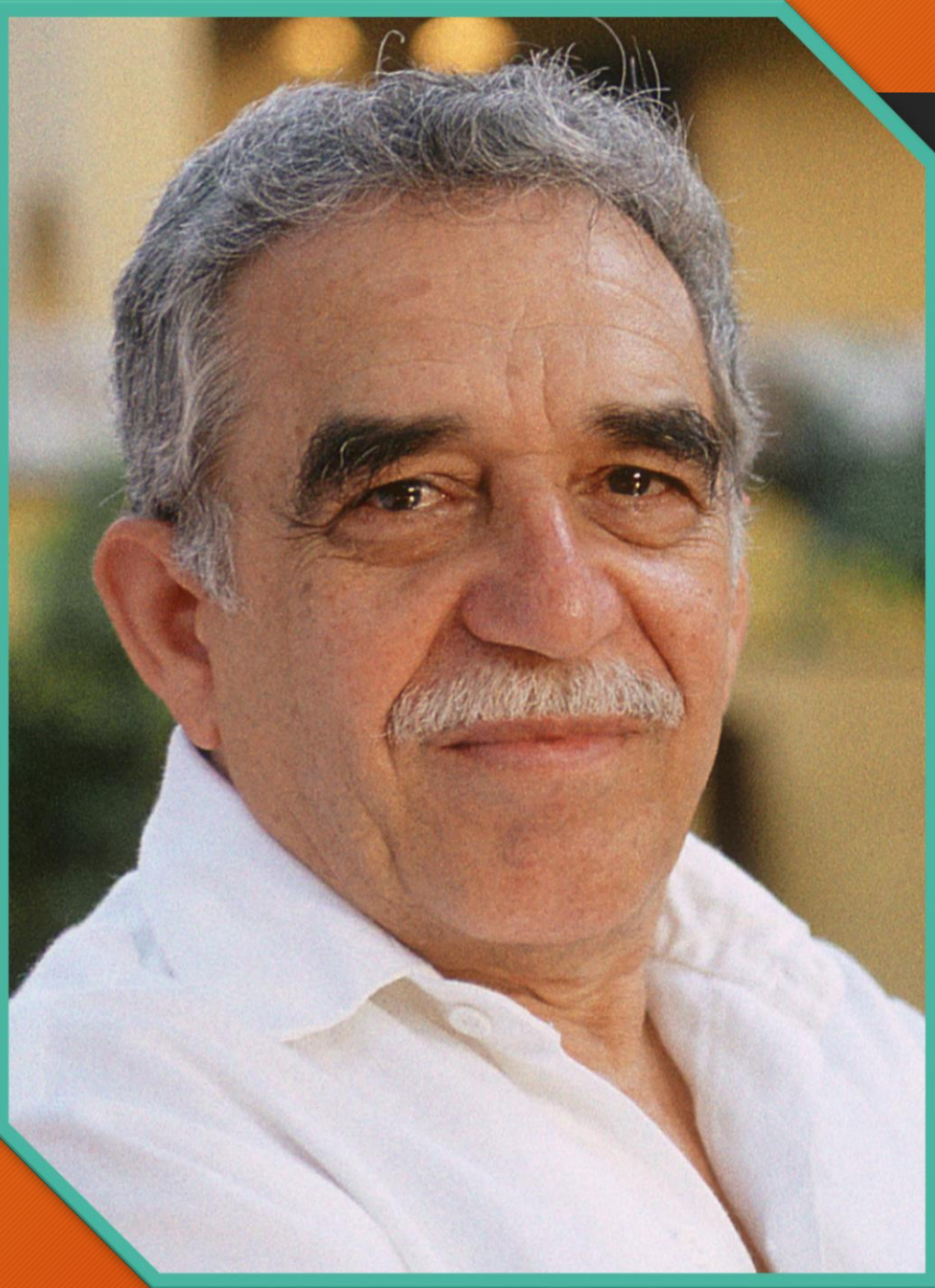
(1927 - 2002)



Born on October 8, 1927, in Bahia Blanca, Argentina. César Milstein was a biochemist in the field of antibody research. In 1975, César Milstein was the first to produce a monoclonal antibody.

Milstein shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology for Medicine in 1984 with Niels Kaj Jerne and Georges Köhler for developing the hybridoma technique for the production of monoclonal antibodies.





Gabriel García Márquez

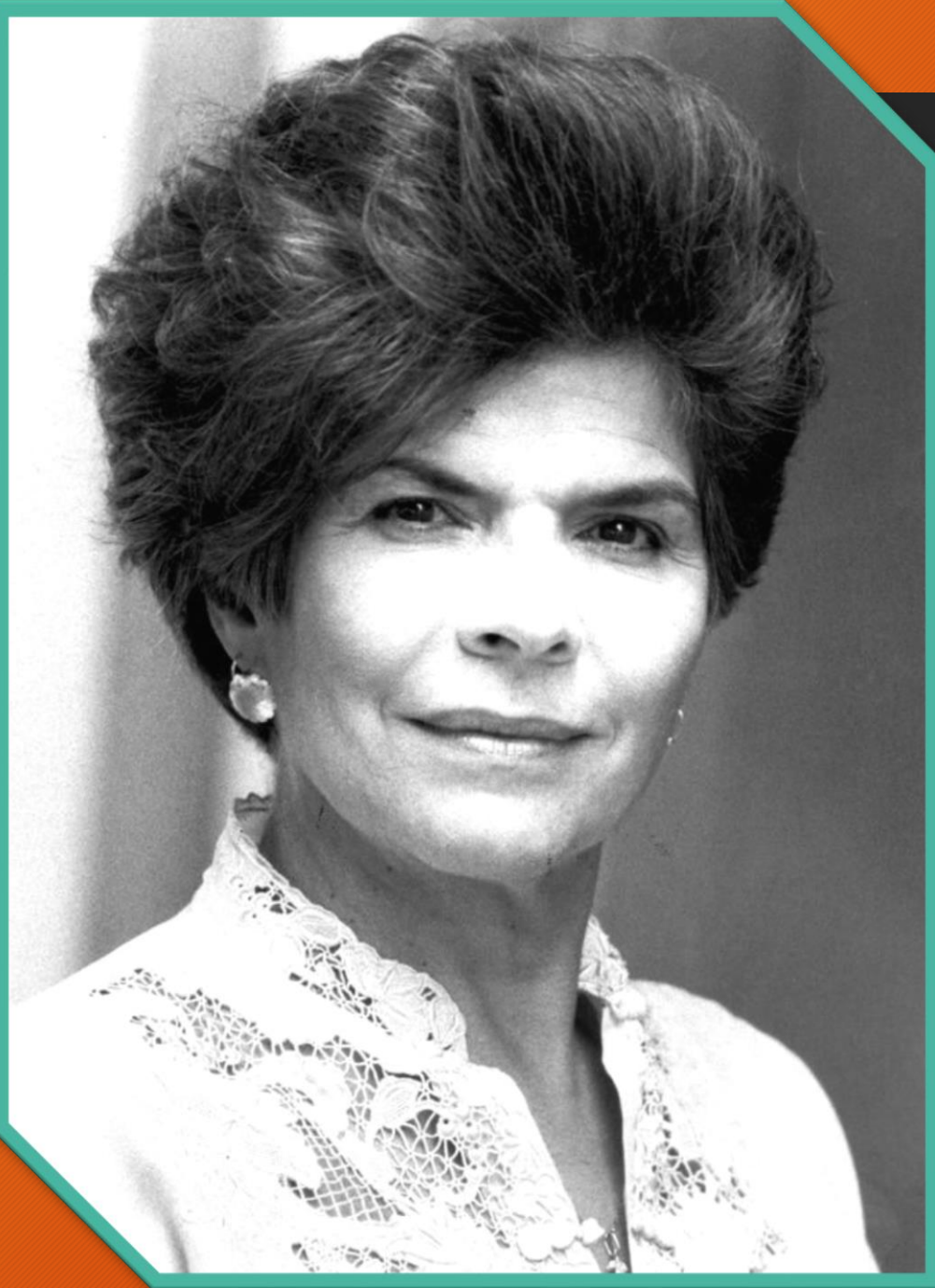
(1927 - 2014)



Born on March 6, 1927, in Aracataca, Colombia. Gabriel García Márquez was a Colombian novelist, short-story writer, screenwriter, and journalist. He was known affectionately as Gabo or Gabito throughout Latin America.

Considered one of the most significant authors of the 20th century, particularly in the Spanish language, he was Colombia's first to be awarded the Neustadt International Prize for Literature in 1972 the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1982.





Helen Rodríguez Trías

(1929 - 2001)



Born on July 7, 1929, in New York City. Helen Rodríguez Trías was a Puerto Rican pediatrician, educator and women's rights activist. In 1993 she became the first Latina President of the American Public Health Association (APHA), a founding member of the Women's Caucus of the APHA, and a recipient of the Presidential Citizens Medal.

Dr. Rodríguez Trías is credited with helping to expand the range of public health services for women and children, in minority and low-income populations, around the world.



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Martha E. Bernal

(1931 - 2001)



Born on April 13, 1931, in San Antonio, TX. Martha Bernal was a Mexican American Clinical Psychologist. Dr. Bernal was educated in Texas, receiving her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Texas at El Paso.

She earned her master's degree from Syracuse University and completed her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology in 1962 at the University of Indiana., the first Latina to receive this credential from a U.S. university.

Dr. Bernal helped with the treatment and assessment of children with behavioral problems and worked to develop organizations that focused on behavioral characteristics of ethnic groups.



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Rita Moreno

(1931 -)



Born on December 11, 1931, in Humacao, Puerto Rico. Rosa Dolores Alverio (Rita Moreno) is best known as Anita in *West Side Story* in 1961. This role earned her an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress, making her the first Latina actress to win the honor.

Moreno also appeared on the children's shows *Sesame Street* and *The Electric Company* and is one of only 11 people to have received the four major entertainment honors – Emmy, Oscar, Tony and Grammy Awards (EGOT). In 2019, she added another letter to her list of accolades when she became the first Latino honored with a Peabody Award, making her a PEGOT.



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Roberto Clement

(1934 - 1972)

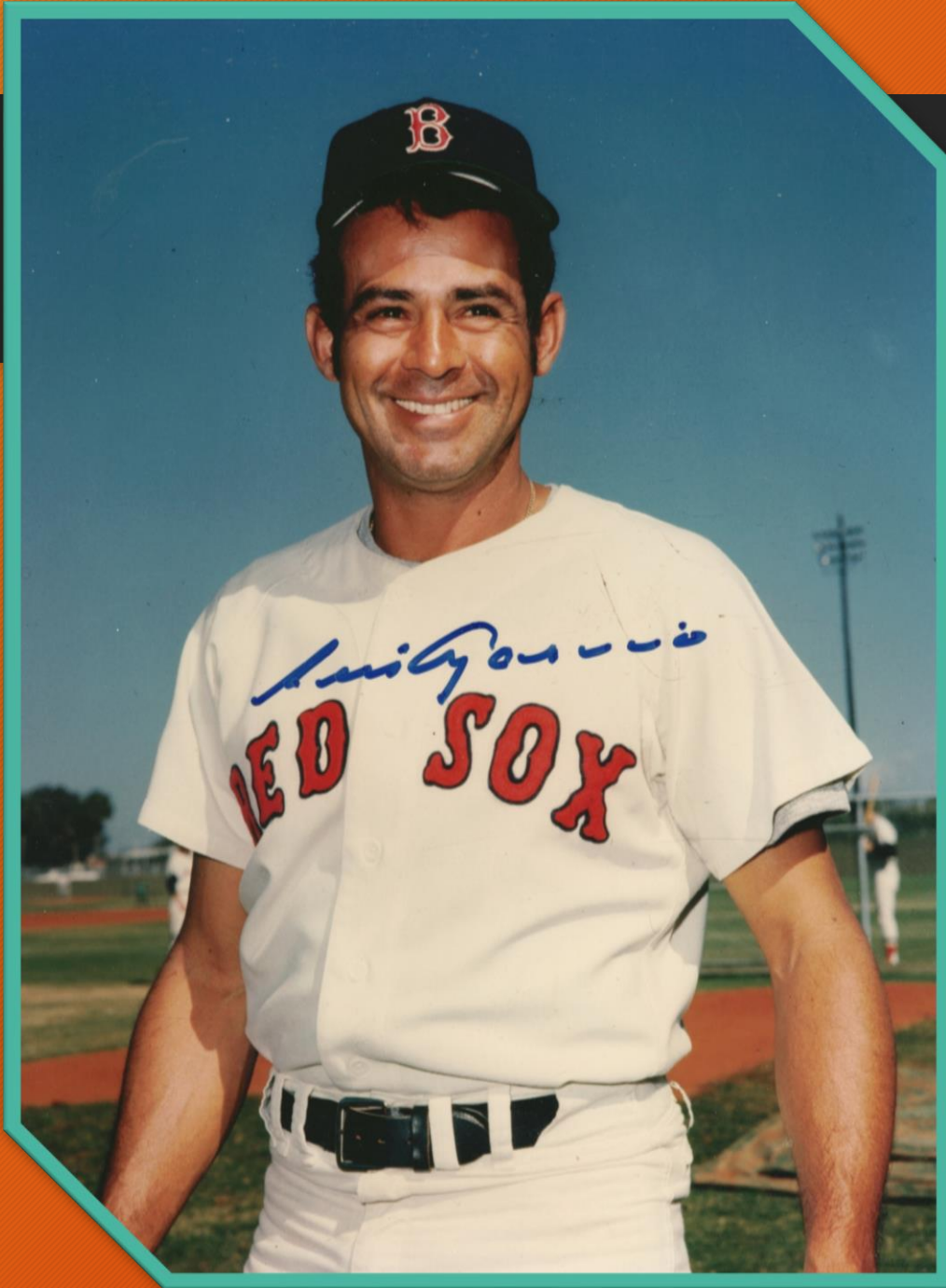


Born on August 18, 1934, in Carolina, Puerto Rico. Roberto Enrique Clemente became the first Latin American player to collect 3,000 career hits. Clemente played with the Brooklyn Dodgers' minor league team before making his major league debut with the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1955. He led the National League in batting four times during the 1960s and starred in the 1971 World Series.

Renowned for his humanitarian work, Clemente died in a plane crash on December 31, 1972, enroute to bringing much-needed supplies to survivors of an earthquake in Nicaragua. The following year Roberto Clemente was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. He became the first Latino inducted into the Hall.



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Luis Aparicio

(1934 - 1984)



Born on April 29, 1934, in Maracaibo, Venezuela. Luis Ernesto Aparicio Montiel, nicknamed "Little Louie," is a former shortstop in Major League Baseball (MLB) who played for three American League (AL) teams from 1956 to 1973. Most prominently, Aparicio played with the Chicago White Sox.

During his ten seasons with the team, he became known for his exceptional defensive and base stealing skills. A 10-time All-Star, Aparicio made an immediate impact on the team, winning the Rookie of the Year Award in 1956. Aparicio also led the league in stolen bases and AL shortstops in putouts and assists. He was the first Latin American player to win the award.





Rose Franco

(1934 -)

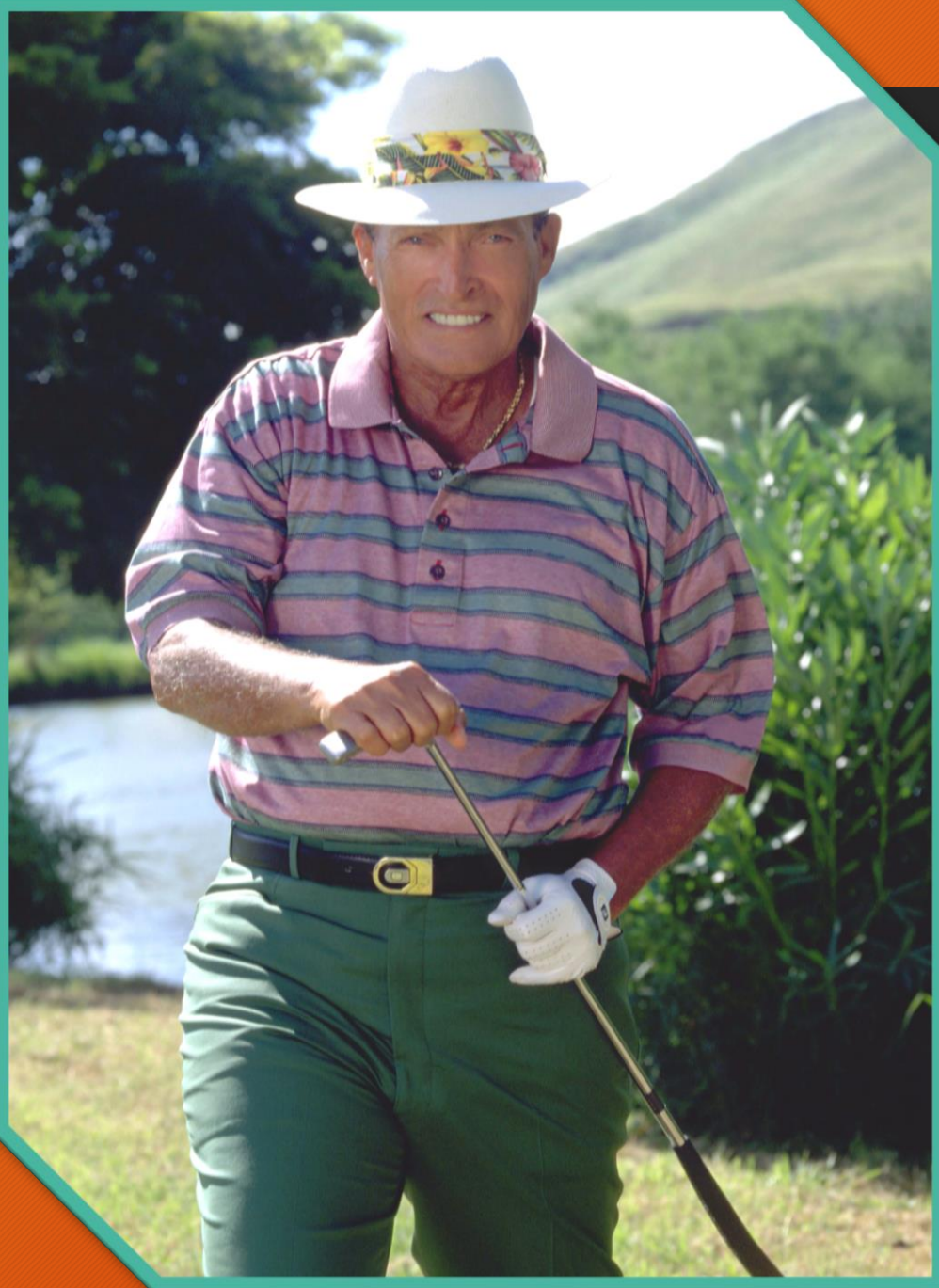


Born on January 22, 1934, in Guánica, Puerto Rico. Rose Franco holds the distinction of being the first Hispanic woman in the U.S. Marines Corps to become Chief Warrant Officer. She was in college when the Korean War began. Franco felt it was her patriotic duty to serve her country and left college, though Franco's family strongly objected, believing that women were to marry and raise a family.

In 1965, Franco was named Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy, Paul Henry Nitze by the administration of President Lyndon Johnson. Recommended by the Secretary of the Navy, Franco was promoted to Warrant Officer. She retired from the Marine Corps in 1977, with the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 3 and returned to Puerto Rico.



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Juan Antonio Rodríguez

(1935 - 1964)



Born on October 23, 1935, in Río Piedras, Puerto Rico. Juan Antonio "Chi-Chi" Rodríguez is a Puerto Rican professional golfer. In his early years, Rodríguez would take a branch from a guava tree and turn it into a golf club. Using a metal can as a "golf ball," he would practice what he had seen the "real" golfers do, teaching himself how to play golf.

By the time he was nine years old, Chi Chi was proficient at golf, and in 1947, at the age of 12, he scored a 67. In 1954, when Rodríguez was 19, he joined the United States Army. During his breaks, he would visit whichever golf course was nearby, where he continued to perfect his game. The winner of eight PGA Tour events, he was the first Puerto Rican to be inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame.



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Ritchie Valens

(1941 - 1959)



Born on May 13, 1941, in Los Angeles, CA. Richard Steven Valenzuela known professionally as Ritchie Valens, was an American guitarist, singer and songwriter. A rock and roll pioneer and a forefather of the Chicano rock movement. Valens had several hits, most notably "La Bamba", which he had adapted from a Mexican folk song.

Valens transformed the song into one with a rock rhythm and beat, and it became a hit in 1958 making Valens a pioneer of the Spanish-speaking rock and roll movement. Ritchie Valens became the first Hispanic rock star with his hit recording of Come On, Let's Go. He is also the first Mexican American rocker to be featured on American Bandstand. Valens is considered the first Hispanic to successfully cross over into mainstream rock.



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Arnaldo Tamayo Méndez

(1942 -)



Born on January 29, 1942, in Guantánamo, Cuba. Arnaldo Tamayo Méndez is a Cuban military officer, legislator, former cosmonaut.

In 1980, as a member of the crew of Soyuz at the age of 38, Méndez became the first Cuban citizen, the first Latin American, the first person of African descent, and the first person from a country in the Western Hemisphere (other than the United States) to travel into Earth orbit.



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Mario José Molina-Pasquel Henríquez

(1943 - 2020)



Born on March 19, 1943, in México City, México. Mario José Molina-Pasquel Henríquez played a pivotal role in the discovery of the Antarctic Ozone Hole. He was a co-recipient of the 1995 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his role in discovering the threat to the Earth's ozone layer from chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) gases.

Pasquel Henríquez was the first Mexican-born scientist to receive a Nobel Prize in Chemistry and the third Mexican born person to receive the Nobel award. In 2013, President Barack Obama awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom.



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Dr. Antonia C. Novello

(1944 -)



Born on August 23, 1944, in Fajardo, Puerto Rico. Dr. Novello earned her M.D. degree from the University of Puerto Rico. In 1978, Dr. Novello was a Vice Admiral in the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and served as 14th Surgeon General of the United States from 1990 to 1993.

Dr. Novello was the first woman and first Hispanic to serve as Surgeon General. Dr. Novello also served as Commissioner of Health for the State of New York from 1999 to 2006. Dr. Novello has received numerous awards including more than fifty honorary degrees, was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2000, She has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.





Franklin Chang-Díaz

(1950 -)



Born on April 5, 1950, in San Jose, Costa Rica. Chang-Díaz moved to the United States when he was in high school. He later earned a Doctorate in Applied Plasma Physics from MIT in 1977. Dr. Chang-Díaz eventually achieved his dream of becoming an astronaut.

He entered space for the first-time aboard Columbia in January 1986. Dr. Chang-Díaz was the first Costa Rican astronaut. He is also the Director of the Advanced Space Propulsion Laboratory at NASA's Johnson Space Center, where he has been developing a plasma rocket.





Alberto Juantorena

(1950 -)



Born on December 3, 1950, in Santiago, Cuba. Alberto Juantorena is a distinguished runner. In 1976 Alberto Juantorena became the first man to win both the 400m and 800m titles at the same Olympic Games. No man has been able to summon the necessary mix of speed and stamina to duplicate the feat at any Olympic Games or major championships since.

Juantorena was ranked as the world's best runner in the 400 m in 1974 and 1976-1978, and in the 800 m in 1976-77. He was chosen as the Track & Field News Athlete of the Year in 1976 and 1977.





Sonia Sotomayor

(1954 -)

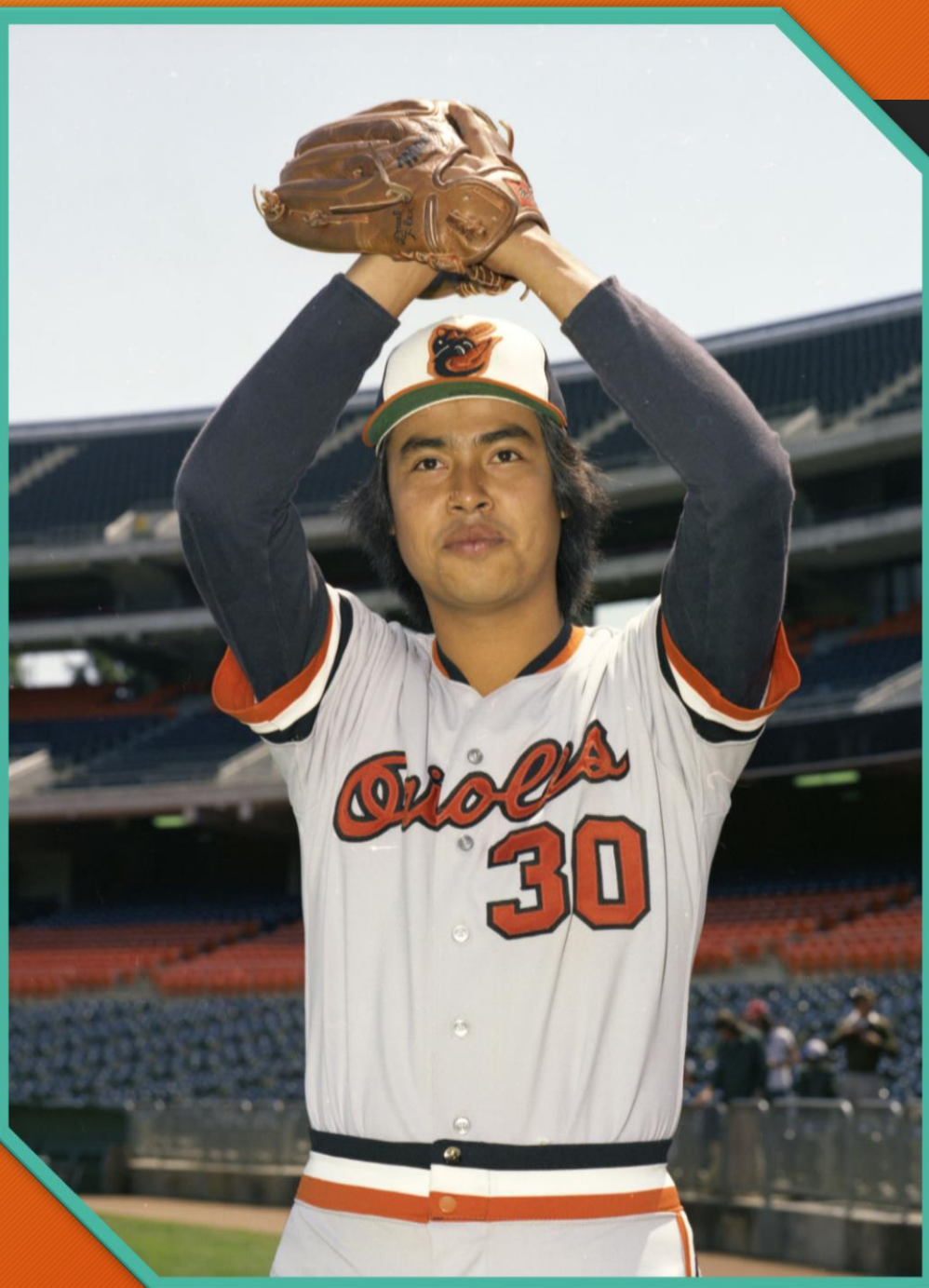


Born on June 25, 1954, in the South Bronx of New York City. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor is the elder of two children from parents of Puerto Rican descent. Sotomayor entered Yale Law School, where she was an editor for the Yale Law Journal.

She received her J.D. in 1979, passed the bar in 1980 and immediately began work as an Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan. In 1992, Sotomayor became a U.S. District Court Judge and was elevated to the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals in 1998.

On May 26, 2009, President Barack Obama announced his nomination of Sotomayor for Supreme Court justice. The nomination was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in August 2009 by a vote of 68 to 31, making Sotomayor the first Latina Supreme Court Justice in U.S. history.





Dennis Martínez

(1955 -)



Born on May 14, 1955, in Granada, Nicaragua. José Dennis Martínez Ortiz, nicknamed "El Presidente," is a Nicaraguan professional baseball pitcher.

Martínez played in Major League Baseball for the Baltimore Orioles, Montreal Expos, Cleveland Indians, Seattle Mariners, and Atlanta Braves from 1976 to 1998. He was the first Nicaraguan baseball player to play in the majors.



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Dr. Ellen Ochoa

(1958 -)



Born on May 10, 1958, Los Angeles, in California. Dr. Ellen Ochoa paternal grandparents immigrated from Sonora, Mexico to Arizona, and later to California, where her father was born.

Astronaut Ellen Ochoa received her Master of Science and Doctorate degrees from Stanford University. She was selected by NASA in 1990 and in 1991 became the world's first Hispanic female astronaut. A mission specialist and flight engineer, Ochoa is a veteran of four space flights, logging more than 950 hours in space.



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Irene Cara

(1959 -)



Born on March 18, 1959, in the Bronx, New York, NY. Irene Cara Escalera is an American singer and actress of Puerto Rican decent. In 1983, Cara won the Academy Award for Best Song (Oscar). Cara's Oscar win made her the first Hispanic-Black woman to win an Oscar in a category other than acting.

Cara sang and co-wrote the song "Flashdance... What a Feeling" (from the film Flashdance), for which she won an Academy Award for Best Original Song and a Grammy Award for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance in 1984.

1984 Grammy Award for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance, 1984 Golden Globe Award for Best Original Song, and American Music Awards for Best R&B Female Artist and Best Pop Single of the Year.





Jorge Abner Drexler Prad

(1964 -)



Born on September 21, 1964, in Montevideo, Uruguay. Jorge Abner Drexler Prada is a Uruguayan musician, actor and doctor specializing in otolaryngology.

In 2004, Drexler won wide acclaim after becoming the first Uruguayan to win an Academy Award. This honor was conferred for composing the song "*Al Otro Lado del Río*" from *The Motorcycle Diaries*.



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Carlos Franco

(1965 -)



Born May 24, 1965, in Asunción, Paraguay. Carlos Daniel Franco is a Paraguayan professional golfer. Franco turned professional in 1986 and has played in many parts of the world. He has won more than twenty tournaments in Latin America, and from 1994 to 1999 he won five times on the Japan Golf Tour.

Franco also won the 1994 Philippine Open title on the Asia Golf Circuit and claimed the Order of Merit title that season. He first played on the U.S.-based PGA Tour in 1999. Franco was the first rookie to surpass \$1 million in earnings in a season and won the PGA Tour Rookie of the Year title. Franco has won the PGA Tour four times. He was featured in the top 20 of the Official World Golf Rankings.



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Javier Sotomayor

(1967 -)



Born October 13, 1967, in Limonar, Cuba. Javier Sotomayor is a retired track and field athlete who specialized in the High Jump.

In the 1992 Summer Olympics, Sotomayor won the gold medal in the High Jump and achieved the highest height during his first attempt.

During the 1990s, Sotomayor dominated the High Jump. His personal best of 2.45 m (8½ ft.) makes him the first and only person ever to have cleared eight feet (2.44 m) and remains the current world record holder.





Javier Bardem

(1969 -)



Born on March 1, 1969, in Las Palmas, Spain. Javier Ángel Encinas Bardem is a Spanish actor. Known for his roles in blockbusters and foreign films, he has received various accolades, including an Academy Award, BAFTA Award, a Golden Globe Award, Cannes Film Festival Award for Best Actor, two Venice Film Festival Best Actor Awards, and six Goya Awards.

Bardem is the first Spanish actor to be nominated for an Academy Award (Best Actor) for *Before Night Falls* [2000], as well as the only Spanish actor to win one (Best Supporting Actor) for *No Country for Old Men* [2007].



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Selena Quintanilla

(1971 - 1995)



Born on April 16, 1971, in Lake Jackson, Texas. Selena Quintanilla simply known as Selena, was an American singer and fashion designer. Called the "Queen of Tejano Music," her contributions to music and fashion made her one of the most celebrated Mexican-American entertainers of the late 20th century.

Selena was the first Latina to Grace the Cover of People Magazine and recorded the first predominately Spanish album to debut and peak at #1. In 1993 she won Best Mexican/American Album at the 1994 Grammy Awards, becoming the first recording by a female Tejano artist to do so.





Pedro Zamora

(1972 - 1994)



Born on February 29, 1972, in Diezmero, Cuba. Pedro Pablo Zamora was a Cuban-American AIDS educator and television personality. He was one of the first openly gay men with AIDS to be portrayed in popular media. Zamora brought international attention to HIV/AIDS and LGBT issues and prejudices.

Through his appearance on MTV's reality television series, *The Real World: San Francisco*, he was an outspoken advocate for LGBT rights. U.S. President Bill Clinton credited Zamora with personalizing and humanizing those living with HIV—especially to Latino communities—with his activism, including his testimony before Congress.



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Cristina López

(1982 -)



Born on September 19, 1982, in Ozatlán, El Salvador. Cristina Esmeralda López is a Salvadoran race walker. When she won the gold medal at the Pan American Games, she made history by winning the first ever gold medal for El Salvador at the games

She triumphed, despite the fact that Lopez also had the worry of having her 3-year-old daughter Monica Michelle, back in El Salvador, undergoing medical treatment for cancer. Lopez crossed the finish line in 1:38:59, a full minute and 4 seconds ahead of the second place.



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Amelia Vega

(1984 -)



Born on November 7, 1984, in Santiago De Los Caballeros, Dominican Republic. Amelia Vega Polanco is a Dominican musician, model and beauty pageant title holder. In 2003, she became the first Dominican woman to be named Miss Universe. At the age of 18, she was the youngest winner since 1994.

Vega's father, Otto Vega, is a general medical practitioner with offices in New York City and Miami. Her mother, Patricia Polanco Álvarez, is a licensed Pilot and was also a previous national titleholder who represented the Dominican Republic in 1980 at the Miss World Pageant.





Raffi Freedman-Gurspan

(1987 -)



Born on May 3, 1987, in Intibucá, Honduras. Raffi Freedman-Gurspan is a transgender rights activist and the first openly transgender person to work as a White House staffer.

She was also the first openly transgender legislative staffer to work in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Freedman-Gurspan served as Director of External Relations at the National Center for Transgender Equality, in Washington, DC. She is a longtime advocate and public policy specialist on matters concerning human rights, gender, and LGBT people.



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Érick Barrondo

(1991 -)



Born on June 14, 1991, in San Cristobal Verapaz, Guatemala. Erick Bernabé Barrondo García is a Guatemalan racewalker who competes in the 20 km walk and 50 km walk events.

Barrondo made his international debut at the 2011 Pan American Race-Walking Cup, where he claimed the silver medal in the 20 km race, with a time of 1:25:56 hours, earning the first Olympic medal in Guatemalan history.



YONKERS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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