

# 30 Outstanding Hispanics

- ✓ Life highlights
- ✓ Contribution
- ✓ Photo



## PAPA FRANCISCO

**Name:** Jorge Mario Bergoglio

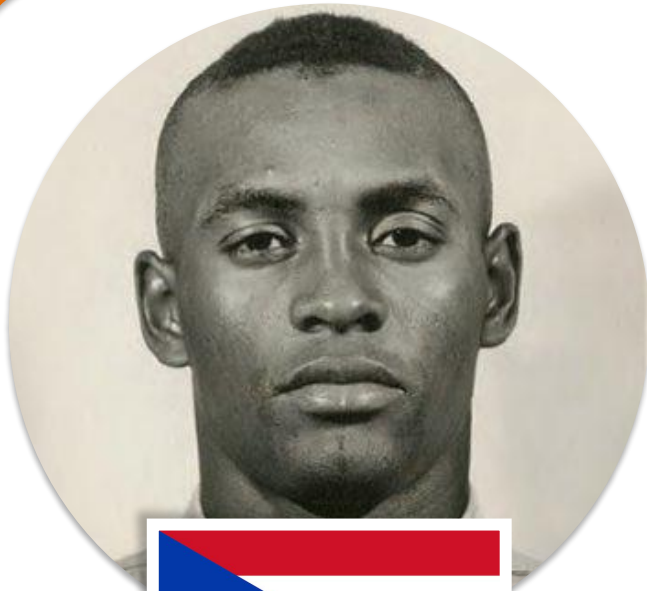
**Country:** Argentina

**Date of Birth:** December 17, 1936

**What does he do?:** He is the leader of the Catholic Church

He is the first Latin American Pope and is best known for being humble and accessible. He breaks the rules when he rejects the luxury items traditionally received by Popes, such as religious clothes and accessories, services, splendid rooms, and nice cars. Pope Francis stirs religious and political sectors with his daring positions on controversial issues such as abortion, respect for nature, capitalism, immigration, and gay marriage.

***Pope Francis identifies with the humble people, and he shows it by living simply and without frills.***



## ROBERTO CLEMENTE

**Name:** Roberto Clemente Walker

**Country:** Puerto Rico

**Date of Birth:** August 18, 1934

**What does he do?:** He is a baseball player

A professional Major League Baseball player from the United States who played for the Pittsburgh Pirates and won many awards during his career. Roberto Clemente was the first Latin American to connect 3,000 hits and enter into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Ready to help Nicaraguans, he died in an airplane crash when taking supplies to Nicaragua after an earthquake.

*Roberto Clemente fought against prejudice, defended the image of Latin American players, and promoted sports education for the youth of his country.*



## DESI ARNAZ

**Name:** Desiderio Alberto Arnaz y de Acha III

**Country:** Cuba

**Date of Birth:** March 2, 1917

**What does he do?:** He is an actor and musician

He worked in various professions to help his family. He lived in Miami until he was accepted as a guitarist for the Siboney group. He participated in films and joined the army in World War II. He was responsible for entertaining the troops. He also developed and participated in numerous episodes of the series *I love Lucy*, the most successful TV show in history. He then retired from show business and moved to Baja California.

*He introduced the conga to Miami, and he was a pioneer of television studio filming techniques.*



## ELLEN OCHOA

**Name:** Ellen Ochoa

**Country:** United States

(Mexican Descent)

**Date of Birth:** May 10, 1958

**What does she do?:** She is an astronaut

NASA chose her in January 1990, and she became an astronaut the very next year. She studied optical systems to process information and was the co-inventor of three patents for optical systems. She made her first trip on the space shuttle Discovery in 1993. She made a total of four space flights, and she is currently the director of the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center.

*She is the first Latina in the world to travel to space.*



## ANTONIA COELLO DE NOVELLO

**Name:** Antonia Coello de Novello

**Country:** Puerto Rico

**Date of Birth:** August 23, 1944

**What does she do?:** She is a doctor

She began her public health career when she joined the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, a unit of doctors and health professionals working in low-income areas, Indian reservations, and locations where there is a shortage of medical personnel. She now works on AIDS research and fights to raise awareness about AIDS.

*She is the first woman and first Hispanic to occupy the position of Surgeon General of the United States.*



## JOSEPH ACABA

**Name:** Joseph Michael "Joe" Acaba

**Country:** United States (Puerto Rican descent )

**Date of Birth:** 17 de mayo de 1967

**What does he do?:** He is an astronaut

He is the first Puerto Rican to be chosen as an astronaut. He serves as a flight engineer aboard the International Space Station. In 2012, Acaba made his second trip into space where he become the first Hispanic who spent the most time outside of Earth.

*He was a former middle and high school science and math teacher, and he promotes the study of science and mathematics among young people.*



## CELIA CRUZ

**Name:** Úrsula Hilaria Celia

Caridad Cruz Alfonso

**Country:** Cuba

**Date of Birth:** October 21, 1925

**What does she do?:** She is a singer

She is known as "The Queen of Salsa." She started her career in Cuba when she won a talent contest. She taught literature classes, worked at a Cuban radio station, and sang at the Tropicana Nightclub. Throughout her career, Celia made many tropical rhythms famous, but the genre that made her famous was salsa. She popularized the expression "Azúcar!" which is her legendary catchphrase.

*She was one of the most influential female figures in the history of Latin music. After the Cuban revolution, she became a symbol of artistic freedom for Cubans in exile.*





## TITO PUENTE

**Name:** Ernesto Antonio Puente

**Country:** United States

(Puerto Rican Descent)

**Date of Birth:** April 20, 1923

**What does he do?:** He is  
percussionist

He received a strong musical training and started his career in mambo. He became a great musician of this genre and developed a fusion of jazz and rhythm that had a profound influence on the success of salsa. They call him the King of the Timbales for his ability with this instrument. He composed the mambo "Oye cómo va," recorded 198 albums, and even has a star on the Walk of Fame in Hollywood.

*He helped to bring African-American and Caribbean rhythms, such as mambo and cha cha cha, to a mainstream audience.*





## SELENA

**Name:** Selena Quintanilla Pérez

**Country:** United States

(Mexican Descent)

**Date of Birth:** April 16, 1971

**What does she do?:** She is a singer

She was one of the most important figures of the Latin genre and was a great proponent of Latin music. She is known as the Tex-Mex Queen, and was the most influential and best-selling Latin artist from the 90s. She was also a singer, businesswoman, model, actress, and fashion designer.

*She promoted the Tex-Mex genre to popular audiences.*



## CARLOS SANTANA

**Name:** Carlos Humberto Santana Barragán

**Country:** México

**Date of Birth:** July 20, 1947

**What does he do?:** He is a rock guitar player

He is considered the 20th best guitarist of all time, according to Rolling Stone magazine. He founded the Santana Blues Band and triumphs at the 1969 Woodstock Festival with his fusion of rock and Latin rhythms. He received a Grammy in 1988 for the best instrumental show and the honor of having a star on the Walk of Fame in Hollywood. Today he has a solo career.

***Pioneer of fusion of rock and Latin music. Creates the Milagro Foundation to help children and young people in the areas of arts, education and health.***



## RITA MORENO

**Name:** Rosa Dolores Alverío

**Country:** Puerto Rico

**Date of Birth:** December 11, 1931

**What does she do?:** She is an actress, singer and dancer

She lends her voice to Spanish-language versions of American films. She had her first Broadway role at the age of 13, and her career has spanned for more than 70 years. She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor of the United States.

*In 1977, Moreno was the first Latina to win an Oscar, a Grammy, a Tony, and an Emmy.*



## SHAKIRA

**Name:** Shakira Isabel Mebarak Ripoll

**Country:** Colombia

**Date of Birth:** February 2, 1977

**What does he do?:** She is a singer

She composed songs and attended child music competitions from a very young age. Her Lebanese grandmother taught her the art of Arab belly dancing. She is fluent in Portuguese, Italian, English, Spanish, and Arabic. Shakira is the singer of Waka Waka, the official song of the 2010 FIFA World Cup and one of her greatest musical successes. In 2000, the Colombian government named Shakira a Goodwill Ambassador.

*In 2011, President Obama elected Shakira for the Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics.*



## SALMA HAYEK

**Name:** Salma Hayek Jiménez

**Country:** México

**Date of Birth:** September 2, 1978

**What does she do?:** She is an actress

At the end of the 80's, she achieved fame in her country for her roles in soap operas. In 2002, she played Frida Kahlo in a biographical film about the famous Mexican painter, and it is considered to be one of the best-known roles of her career. She is one of only a few Latin actresses to be nominated for an Oscar for Best Actress.

***She campaigns against violence against women and discrimination against immigrants.***



## MARC ANTHONY

**Name:** Marco Antonio Muñiz Ruiz Rivera

**Country:** United States  
(Puerto Rican descent)

**Date of Birth:** September 16,  
1968

**What does he do?:** He is a singer  
and actor

He is one of the most successful singers of salsa, ballad, bolero, and pop. His father is a bolero guitarist and taught him music. His album "Otra Nota" is his first production that has achieved great international success and is one of the bestselling albums ever in the history of salsa. He personifies music legend Héctor Lavoe in the film "El Cantante."

*He is one of the most influential Latino artists. He is an ambassador to Latin culture worldwide.*



## OSCAR DE LA RENTA

**Name:** Óscar Arístides de La Renta Fiallo

**Country:** Dominican Republic

**Date of Birth:** July 22, 1932

**What does he do?:** He is a fashion designer

He achieved international fame for being one of the clothing designers of First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy. He was in charge of designing the uniform for the Boy Scouts in 1978, donating his time to redesign the olive and brown uniform that is still in use today. Several famous celebrities wear his designs.

*He is one of the most outstanding representatives of American fashion in the last decades, and he is the designer for the current uniform of the Boy Scouts of America.*





## CÉSAR CHÁVEZ

**Name:** César Estrada Chávez

**Country:** United States

(Mexican Descent)

**Date of Birth:** March 31, 1927

**What does he do?:** He is a civil rights activist

He was the founder of the United Farm Workers Union that organizes immigrants, mostly Hispanic, to fight to improve their working conditions. He was a leader in restricting the immigration of illegal field workers and a protector for better wages and rights for the unionized American farm workers.

*He contributed to the American labor movement in favor of Latinos.*



## GLORIA ESTEFAN

**Name:** Gloria María Milagrosa Fajardo García

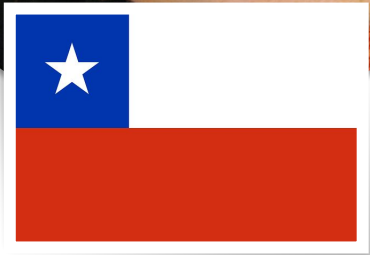
**Country:** Cuba

**Date of Birth:** September 1, 1957

**What does she do?:** She is a singer

She studied at a Catholic school in Miami where she learned how to play guitar. She's a member of a band called Miami Sound Machine, created by Emilio Estefan Jr. She is one of the bestselling musical artists of all time and is considered the Mother of Latin pop music.

*She took the risk of singing in Spanish, and the results were excellent. She has sold millions of albums worldwide, helping the United States surrender to the powerful growth of Latin culture. She has received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her influential contributions to Latin music.*



## ISABEL ALLENDE

**Name:** Isabel Allende Llona

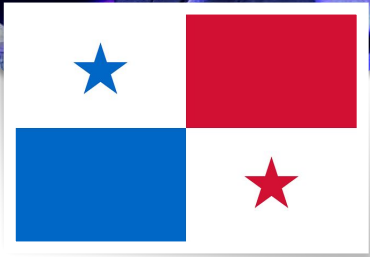
**Country:** Chile

**Date of Birth:** August 2, 1942

**What does she do?:** She is a writer

She is the daughter of a Chilean diplomat who taught her love for the written word. She studied journalism. While writing plays and children's stories, she works as a writer and columnist for newspapers and television. Isabel Allende's first great novel was *The House of Spirits*.

*She is one of the most outstanding, living writers of Hispanic-American literature.*



## RUBÉN BLADES

**Name:** Rubén Blades Bellido de Luna

**Country:** Panama

**Date of Birth:** July 16, 1948

**What does he do?:** He is a singer

In addition to being a singer, Rubén Blades is a composer, a musician, an actor, a lawyer, and a politician. From the 70's until now, he has recorded more than 20 albums. He was also an actor in several diverse Hollywood and independent films. In recognition of his work, he received six Grammy Awards. In 1994, he was a presidential candidate in the Panama elections.

*He is the perfect example of an artist who uses the arts as a means of expression. He's a great representative of Latin music.*



## JOSÉ FELICIANO

**Name:** José Monserrat Feliciano  
García

**Country:** Puerto Rico

**Date of Birth:** September 10,  
1945

**What does he do?:** He is a singer  
and composer

He is blind from birth, and from a very young age he became interested in music. He stood out by singing boleros and ballads and playing the Spanish guitar. His song *Feliz Navidad* is one of the most listened to melodies in the world during the Christmas season. In 2013, he entered into the Latin Songwriters Hall of Fame.

***He is considered the first Latin American to enter the English music market, opening the doors to other artists.***



## ÓSCAR DE LA HOYA

**Name:** Óscar de la Hoya

**Country:** United States  
(Mexican descent)

**Date of Birth:** February 4, 1973

**What does he do?:** He is a boxer

He is the only American boxer to have won a gold medal at the Olympics, which is why he's known as the Golden Boy. He then entered professional boxing and became a champion in six different divisions. He is one of the best boxers in history.

*He is the only American boxer to have won a gold medal at the Olympics.*



## OSCAR HIJUELOS

**Name:** Oscar Jerome Hijuelos

**Country:** United States

(Cuban descent)

**Date of Birth:** August 24, 1951

**What does he do?:** He is a writer

He is the first Hispanic to have won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, for his novel "Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love." This novel was later adapted for cinema.

*He is the first Hispanic to win a Pulitzer Prize.*



## RAÚL JULIÁ

**Name:** Raúl Rafael Carlos Juliá y Arcelay

**Country:** Puerto Rico

**Date of Birth:** March 9, 1940

**What does he do?:** He is an actor

He worked in theater, film, and television. He played dramatic, comedy and musical roles. He achieved international fame in the 90s by playing Gomez in The Addams Family. He leaves behind more than 30 theatrical works, around 36 films, and the memory of his commitment for a better society through his involvement in The Hunger Project.

*Received the National Council of La Raza Award for promoting a good image of Latinos.*





## RICKY MARTIN

**Name:** Enrique Martín Morales

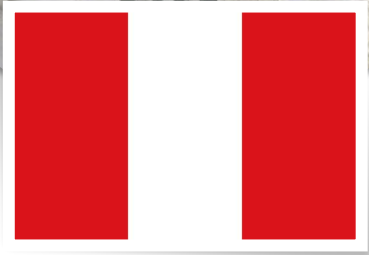
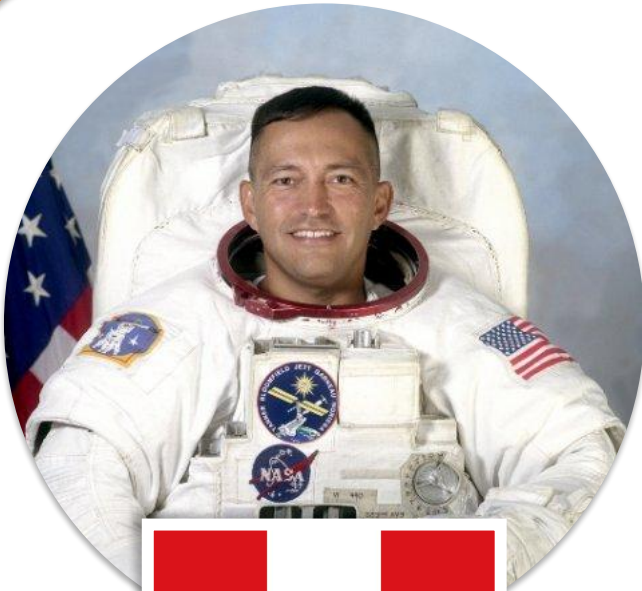
**Country:** Puerto Rico

**Date of Birth:** December 24,  
1971

**What does he do?:** He is a singer

He began his musical career in the mid-80s, as a vocalist for the boy band Menudo. In 1991, he launched his solo career. He also participated in the soap opera General Hospital and in the musical Les Misérables. He has sold more than 60 million albums and has received many awards.

*He established the Ricky Martin Foundation in 2002, and created the People For Children project to combat child trafficking and sexual exploitation.*



## CARLOS NORIEGA

**Name:** Carlos Ismael Noriega Jiménez

**Country:** Peru

**Date of Birth:** October 8, 1959

**What does he do?:** He is an astronaut

After joining the US Marines, NASA selects him in 1994. On his first mission into space, he carried several symbols from his country: the flag and the drink "chicha morada."

*He helped set up the International Space Station.*



## EDWARD JAMES OLMOS

**Name:** Edward James Olmos

**Country:** United States

(Mexican descent)

**Date of Birth:** February 24, 1947

**What does he do?:** He is an actor and movie director

Known in the 1980s for playing Lieutenant Castillo in the Miami Vice series. He was nominated for an Oscar for Best Actor for playing Jaime Escalante, a Bolivian math teacher, in the film Stand and Deliver. He is the founder and director of Latino Public Broadcasting.

*The Latino Public Broadcasting Foundation focuses on making public television programs that deal with the Hispanic-American community.*



## CHI-CHI RODRÍGUEZ

**Name:** Juan Antonio "Chi-Chi" Rodríguez

**Country:** Puerto Rico

**Date of Birth:** October 23, 1935

**What does he do?:** He is a golf player

He is the first Puerto Rican to enter the Golf Hall of Fame. As a child, he practiced improvised golf using a branch as a golf club and a metal can as a ball. At age 19, he joined the United States Army. He has won eight PGA Tour titles and 22 PGA Tour victories.

*He helped to raise more than \$4 million for his Youth Foundation in Clearwater, Florida, where he annually receives more than 600 children from poor families and broken homes to teach them about responsibilities and discipline at work.*



## SONIA SOTOMAYOR

**Name:** Sonia Sotomayor

**Country:** United States  
(Puerto Rican descent)

**Date of Birth:** June 25, 1954

**What does she do?:** She is a justice of the US Supreme Court

She obtained the position of Assistant District Attorney in New York. She participated in cases related to robberies, assaults, murders, police brutality, and child pornography. After years of experience, she established herself as a private lawyer in New York, and in 1991 became nominated for a position in the Southern District Court of New York. She became the youngest judge in that district as well as the first Hispanic federal judge in all New York.

***On May 26, 2009, President Barack Obama nominated her to the position of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.***



## JUAN LUIS GUERRA

**Name:** Juan Luis Guerra Seijas

**Country:** Dominican Republic

**Date of Birth:** June 7, 1957

**What does he do?:** He is a singer

He is one of the most recognized international Latin artists from the past decade. His music is influenced by Dominican Caribbean rhythms, such as merengue and bachata. He has sold more than 30 million records and has won numerous awards.

*He made bachata popular on a global level.*



## JUAN PABLO MONTOYA

**Name:** Juan Pablo Montoya  
Roldán

**Country:** Colombia

**Date of Birth:** September 20,  
1975

**What does he do?:** He is a race  
car pilot

He participated in the World Cart Championship in the Junior category in Italy when he was 15 years old. He is also a member of the select group of Formula 1 drivers. He ended his Formula 1 career in 2006 to join NASCAR in the United States.

*He is the only driver to win the CART series, the Indianapolis 500, and the Daytona 24 Hours, all on the first try.*



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