



Hon. Pedro R. Pierluisi
Statement on Introduction of 23rd Edition of Hispanic Yearbook
Tuesday, July 28, 2009

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to today's unveiling of the 23rd edition of the Anuario Hispano—Hispanic Yearbook.

Most of us here in this room know the value of networking. For a Member of Congress, it is critical to make connections with potential voters, volunteers, and donors. Indeed, we spread our message and attract support primarily through networking.

What is necessary for those of us in Congress is equally necessary for others who seek to affect politics and public policy. It is also important for those who have no interest in politics, but simply want to connect with like-minded individuals and organizations.

As Hispanics become a larger and larger segment of the U.S. population, it is important that we recognize organizations that help our community succeed. Hispanic Yearbook performs a valuable service for all Hispanics by providing information on a wide range of organizations, publications, radio stations, and government organizations.

I also want to recognize Acting Deputy Undersecretary Clarence Johnson and thank him for the support the Department of Defense has provided to Hispanic Yearbook. The military is an important institution in Puerto Rico. In fact, Puerto Rico has the second highest rate of military service of any jurisdiction in the country. I am glad to see the

Defense Department's support of the Hispanic Yearbook, and I know that the Hispanic Yearbook is very grateful for this support as well.

Thank you all for joining us today, and I will now turn it over to my good friend from Texas, Congressman Silvestre Reyes.