



NATIONAL TEACH SPANISH DAY

WHEREAS, Spanish is the official language in twenty countries as well as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, Spanish is the third most widely-spoken language in the world with over half-a-billion speakers; and

WHEREAS, Spanish continues to be the second-most spoken mother language in the world; and

WHEREAS, Spanish is the second-most spoken language in the United States with 13 percent of U.S. residents being Spanish-English bilinguals; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau that by 2050, the United States will have over 130 million Spanish speakers; and

WHEREAS, Latin American countries are our most important trading partners; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Hispanics have become not only a powerful group in terms of buying power, but also represent a key demographic group for national, state and local politics; and

WHEREAS, nine out of ten business owners in the United States prefer employees who can speak Spanish fluently and state that second language skills are very important for professional success in the current business environment; and

WHEREAS, not only does learning a second language improve brain function, but research shows that being bilingual improves cognitive skills unrelated to language; and

WHEREAS, teachers and professors of Spanish recognize the unique and influential cultural and literary contributions of Spanish-speaking people within our humanistic tradition; and

WHEREAS, the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese shares a priority with language teachers nationwide to engage students with Spanish, improve intercultural competence, and strengthen global communities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Sheri Spaine Long, Executive Director of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, do hereby proclaim September 30th, 2019, as National Teach Spanish Day, and encourage all Spanish teachers and U.S. citizens to recognize the positive impact of Spanish language education in our nation; to thank those who teach; and to find ways to support multilingualism and multiculturalism in the United States of America.

