

# Hispanics in the Civil War



LACECA First Vice President Carlos Portillo holds a copy of *Vaqueros in Blue and Gray* by Jerry D. Thompson.

## ■ LACECA co-sponsors event honoring Hispanics in the Civil War.

LACECA — On Saturday, Sept. 17, in honor of September being Latino Heritage Month, the Los Angeles City Employees Chicano Association (LACECA) will co-sponsor the dedication of an exhibit at the Drum Barracks Civil War Museum. The exhibit will illuminate the role that Hispanics played in the Civil War.

The event will include historical lectures, printed copies of Spanish-surnamed muster rolls from the National Archives, dedication of a photo exhibit, Mexican/Spanish folk dances, Civil War soldiers in bivouac and participation by local chapters of veterans groups. Guests will be taken by horse-drawn trolley from the nearby Banning Mansion to the Drum Barracks Civil War Museum.

The Drum Barracks Civil War Museum is at 1052 Banning Blvd. in Wilmington.

It is a little known fact that Hispanics played a significant role in the American Civil War. From the Mexican-Americans of the First Battalion of the Native California Cavalry who served the Union, to the Tejanos of Confederate Texas, to the Spanish-Americans who served in militias in New Mexico and Louisiana, it is estimated that as many as 9,500 men of Hispanic heritage served and fought in the American Civil War— in both blue and gray uniforms.

Guests are encouraged to arrive in Civil War-era attire—men in either Union or Confederate uniforms, or vaquero and frontiersman apparel. Women may wear any style dated from the 1860s.

LACECA is seeking co-sponsors to make this special event a success. For further information contact Carlos Portillo, LACECA First Vice President at (310) 547-4610 or email at portillo2339@sbcglobal.net

# Holmes Marks 35



## ■ Michael Holmes celebrates 35 years with the City.

**PUBLIC WORKS** — Michael Holmes, Public Works proudly displays his 35-year service award in the photo above. Board of Public Works Commissioners recognized Holmes for his outstanding service in a recent Board meeting at Los Angeles City Hall.

A Lot Cleaning Superintendent in the Bureau of Street Services, Holmes says he does not plan to retire from City service anytime soon. The Lot Cleaning Division is responsible for cleaning and removing illegally dumped materials, weeds, dirt and waste on privately and publicly owned parcels. Work is performed on unimproved vacant properties, unimproved streets, unimproved median islands, alleys, and grade separations using power equipment and/or hand labor. The Division also manages issues associated with the Citywide Weed Abatement Ordinance.

Public Works is responsible for the construction, renovation and operation of public facilities and infrastructures, ranging from refuse collection and graffiti removal to maintenance of sidewalks, bridges, sewers and streetlights; and management of wastewater treatment plants and building design.

Congratulations, Michael!

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# Hope for Firefighters



Here's another photo from the fantastic Hope for Firefighters event that took place June 2 downtown. The event included food, games and skill challenges. *Alive!* covered the story in last month's issue. In this photo are, from left: Fernando Pattison, OCD, 911 Dispatch Center; Julio Maldonado and Captain Marino.