2020 Hispanic Heritage Month Command Message

During National Hispanic Heritage Month celebrated each year from September 15th thru October 15th, Eighth Army recognizes the outstanding contributions Hispanic and Hispanic-Americans have made to our nation and Eighth Army. Their contributions to the defense of this nation, the arts, sports, public service, research and development, non-profit organization management, civil rights, politics, business, agriculture, and the service industry enable America to maintain its competitiveness, relevance, and position in the global landscape as the leader of the free world.

In keeping with this tradition, Eighth Army takes great pride in recognizing Command Sergeant Major Eliseo Garcia, one of the many Hispanic-Americans who served with distinction with the United States Army during the Korean War. Eliseo Garcia was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico February 13, 1931; joined the Army – with his father's permission – at age 14; and by age 19, became one of the most decorated Soldiers of the Korean War.

On the morning of 16 September 1950, while participating in a drive to the Naktong River, then Sergeant Garcia's platoon came under vicious fire from two hostile machine gun emplacements, pinning his men down. With complete disregard for his own safety, Garcia instantly leaped to his feet, pushed across the fire-swept area to the enemy's emplacement on the left flank, successfully silenced the gun, and killed the crew with his grenades. Ignoring a painful wound sustained in this same action, he again rushed through withering fire to the emplacement on the right flank of his platoon and neutralized the second gun and its crew with grenades. As a result of his heroic action, eight of the enemy were killed and their defense were broken, and his inspired comrades continued the advance with such intensity that the objective was expeditiously taken with a minimum of casualties to his unit. Because of his heroism that day, Garcia received the Distinguished Service Cross. Eliseo Garcia retired as a Command Sergeant Major from the US Army in 1972; served in both Korea and Vietnam. His many decorations include three Silver Stars, four Bronze Stars, five Purple Hearts and two Combat Infantry Badges. Command Sergeant Major Garcia passed away on June 10, 2013 at 82 years.

We encourage everyone to take part in Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrate the outstanding contributions Hispanic Americans have made to our great nation and Eighth Army.

[Signatures]

ROBERT H. COBB
CSM, USA
Command Sergeant Major

MICHAEL A. BILLS
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

Soldier On!