

Hispanic Leaders Group Celebrated 25 Years

ST. LOUIS , Missouri – October 7, 2008 – The Hispanic Leaders Group of Greater St. Louis (HLG) celebrated its 25th anniversary while honoring its founders and presenting the Premio Esperanza. The event took place at Sunset Country Club in Sunset Hills , Missouri . The event coincided with the national celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Ms. Haniny Hillberg was honored as she was the first chair of the board of the HLG after its incorporation. Mr. Anthony B. Ramirez, also one of the founders was also honored as the chair of the board with the longest tenure as he served for seven consecutive years. Other chairs of the board honored included Jaime Torres and Al González. The presentations were made by current chair, María Teresa Maldonado.

Special Recognition Awards were presented to Outstanding Volunteers, HLG supporters since it's early days in 1983. These individuals included: Dinorah & Joseph Bommarito, Elena Garcia-Kenyon, Martha Castellanos , Hector Barron, Dr. Ann Rynearson and Shari Aguilar (posthumous).

The 2008 Premio Esperanza was presented to Representatives Maria Chappelle-Nadal and Timothy Flook in recognition of their significant contribution to the Hispanic community. Chappelle-Nadal, a Democrat, represents part of St. Louis County (University City , Wellston and Pagedale) in the Missouri House of Representatives (District 72). Rep. Tim Flook, a Republican, represents part of Clay County near Kansas City (District 34) in the Missouri House of Representatives.

The Hispanic Leaders Group was presented with two proclamations in recognition of the organization's valuable contribution. Mr. Charles Bryson represented Mayor Francis G. Slay of the City of St. Louis and Ms. Joanne Gladney represented St. Louis County Executive Charlie Dooley. Both of them read the proclamations which made October 5, 2008 the Hispanic Leaders Group Day in the city and county respectively.

Mr. Gilbert Bailón , editorial pages editor at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch served as master of ceremonies and the musical entertainment for dancing was provided by The Rhythm Masters. The event was a total success.

The Mission of the Hispanic Leaders Group of Greater St. Louis is to be a representative, strong, and supportive voice of the Hispanic community in the regional St. Louis area, by keeping informed and abreast of local and national issues that impact the Hispanic community, to promote views on issues to help in the development of a harmonious and diverse St. Louis community. HLG is a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation. For more information, please visit our website at www.hlgstl.org.