



## Press Release

### **The Secretary of the Navy Guest of Honor and Closing remarks during the Presentation of the Exhibition We the Spanish People-Nosotros los Españoles**

The Legacy Association inaugurates its first exhibition outside our borders, in Washington D.C. Its goal is to highlight the fundamental contribution of Spain to the American War of Independence.

The presentation of the exhibition "We the Spanish People" took place on March 20, in collaboration with the Embassy of Spain in Washington D.C. The inauguration was attended by Ambassador Ángeles Moreno and presented by Eva García, curator of the exhibition. The closing was led by Carlos del Toro, Secretary of the Navy.



El Secretary del Toro warmly congratulated Eva García, president and founder of The Legacy, for this important initiative, recognizing it as the first for the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War, an event that will be celebrated with great enthusiasm in the US in 2026. Del Toro highlighted some of the most significant milestones of the Spanish contribution, from supplying the soldiers to the victories in some of the most relevant battles like Mobila, Pensacola, and Yorktown. He mentioned high-caliber heroes such as General Bernardo de Gálvez and Admiral Luis de Córdova, who holds a privileged place in the exhibition.

During his presentation he commitment to bring the exhibition to some of the most emblematic facilities of the US Navy, including the Naval Academy at Annapolis and the Naval War College.

During her presentation, Eva García, curator of the exhibition, emphasized that in 2026 we have the opportunity to tell and share the history that has not been told about the importance of Spain in the development of this great nation. The revolt of the Thirteen Colonies achieved a victory that would not have been possible without Spain. Referring to her project *No Without Spain*, she quoted the words of General Washington in a letter to Governor Morris in October 1778, where he made his opinion clear, "if the Spanish fleet does not join the French to counterattack the English, there are serious doubts that this war will be won..."

All The event was attended by a large number of civil and military personalities, among them West Point graduate and famous NFL player Alejandro Villanueva, who was named Sports Ambassador of The Legacy. Villanueva is the son of a Spanish navy admiral, born at the Naval Air Station Meridian in Mississippi. During his time at the prestigious West Point Academy, from which he graduated, he played on the US Army's football team, the Black Knights. In 2010, he was deployed to Afghanistan where he stayed for 12 months, rescuing wounded comrades under enemy fire. As a result of his heroic actions during deployment, he was awarded a medal, the Bronze Star, which adds to a long list of decorations. In 2015, the NFL hired him and he began his successful sports career. The Legacy paid an emotional tribute to his career and legacy in those lands





At the closing of the event, Eva García introduced the new Honorary Partner of the association, Juan Carlos Iturregui, recently appointed by President Biden as the nominee for ambassador to the Dominican Republic. Iturregui is a prestigious lawyer with a long professional career and is also the Vice President of the board of directors of the Foundation of Interamerican States. Iturregui has been supporting the mission and objectives of The Legacy for years, promoting and recognizing the historical and cultural ties that unite both countries, even before their Declaration of Independence.

The exhibition can be visited at 2801 16th Street NW, the Former Residence of the Ambassadors of Spain, which serves as the headquarters for Spanish arts and culture. This magnificent building, constructed in 1922, now offers a unique space for this exhibition in the former residence.

The exhibition will remain open until April 12th.

This is the first time that such an ambitious traveling exhibition is presented in the United States of America, with the goal of touring all the states across its territory before July 2026. The exhibition is inspired by traditional postcards, with simple messages, on a journey that invites us to travel through the unknown milestones of the landscapes of our common history. As a novelty, various videos made by The Legacy using video game technology will be displayed, historical capsules of great appeal that have had a significant impact on social networks, reaching more than seven million views.

The journey begins in the 15th century, the era of the first discoverers and explorers who contributed to the history and culture of the USA as we know it today and extends to the 20th century with quotes from various presidents, including J.F. Kennedy, who regretted that the cultural contribution of Spain, long before the English arrived with the Mayflower, had not been acknowledged.

Spain's contributions to the War of Independence went beyond the disputed territory. Victories from Lexington to Yorktown required the participation of thousands of Hispanics fighting in other areas of the conflict; the Caribbean, Central America, and the Mediterranean. Spanish soldiers; among them, Cubans, Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Mexicans, Guatemalans, Hondurans, and Nicaraguans fought by sea and land. It is estimated that about 3000 died in battle.

In the words of curator García, "it is a matter of justice, it is a matter of honor to pay tribute to those who gave their lives for this cause. In 2026 we have a unique opportunity to achieve this... Spaniards wish to stop being a secret.."

We the Spanish People, is the ambitious project of The Legacy. This relevant exhibition is undoubtedly a must-visit for all who wish to expand their knowledge and support in spreading the Spanish legacy, its presence and its footprint in the United States of America, from 1513 to the end of the 19th century. This exhibition is supported by the Ministry of Defense of Spain.

NBC, the prestigious American television network, has echoed the news, which has already been broadcast on several occasions with national coverage. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Kg6f3aeOyQ>



The Legacy Association was founded in 2016 with the firm goal of reaching the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the U.S. with broad dissemination and understanding of Spain's fundamental contributions to the War of Independence. Moreover, The Legacy aims, through its statutory purposes, to value the significance of the historical and cultural contribution of Spain to the United States of America to foster and promote the ties of union between both countries.

The objective is the recovery and study of Spain's history, in general, its leaders, and in particular, its Royal Navy and Royal Army, and the contributions and historical milestones achieved in past centuries in the U.S. as the backbone of what they represent today. A legacy that should be disseminated and known by current and future generations.