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HON. BRIAN HIGGINS OF NEW YORK IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Hispanic Heritage Council of WNY and their celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.
- Hispanic Heritage Month was first introduced by President Lyndon Johnson in 1968 as National Hispanic Heritage week and later expanded by Congress in 1988.
- Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to celebrate the numerous contributions that Latinos have made to this nation.
- According to the 2010 Census, 50.5 million people or 16% of the population are of Hispanic or Latino origin.
- Western New York has a rich and diverse Hispanic heritage. Initially attracted to the region by jobs in manufacturing and farming; today members of WNY's Hispanic community are important leaders in the public and private sector.
- Throughout the United States, Hispanic-owned business grew between 2002 and 2007 by 44%-- and these businesses generated \$345.2 billion in sales in 2007 alone.
- Today there are 30 Hispanic Members of Congress. President Obama appointed Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court, making her the first Hispanic to serve on the highest court in the land. In addition, Hispanics have also played a key role in our military, with approximately 1 million Latino veterans who fought for our freedom.
- As Members of Congress, we must work for a stronger United States—a nation that recognizes diversity and embraces it.

