



CRUZ M. BUSTAMANTE

Lieutenant Governor

State of California

*Michele Serros
Achievement in Arts and Letters
2004 Latino Spirit Awards*

Members of the Legislature, Distinguished Guests, Honorees...

It is my honor to be here today, to participate in commemorating Cinco de Mayo... and celebrating the Latino Spirit Awards.

Both are recognition of the human spirit. Cinco de Mayo is recognition of the indomitable spirit of the citizen and the soldier in the struggle against oppression. It is only in the noble actions of both... that each can co-exist.

The soldier is an extension of the citizen, who sacrifices for the betterment of the people. And the citizen, who is able to enjoy the benefits of freedom, is beholden to the soldier.

So today, as we honor distinguished citizens who have endeavored to excel in literature, entertainment and journalism... their achievement... symbols of the gift of freedom...

Let's remember the men and women who are serving our country and who sacrifice for our liberty.

Our honorees are impressive individuals who have improved our lives by their talent and perseverance... role models for the next generation.

Our honorees come from dusty back roads of rural California... others from the streets of the inner city... and others come from other countries. Regardless of their journey, they had the desire... the "ganas"... to achieve.

We thank each of you for your poetry, your music, your writing, your performances and your insight. You have furthered the cause of understanding between our cultures... and we are a better place for your contributions.

In the cherished tradition of Cinco de Mayo... let us celebrate the human spirit and the noble actions, found in the history of global cultures... which make California such a special place.

Congratulations to the eight recipients of the 2004 Latino Spirit Awards

Remarks by Lieutenant Governor Cruz M. Bustamante