



## From the President:

Hola ANSO familia! As I finish my fourth year as your National President, I first want to tell you how much I've enjoyed working with all of you to continue improving our vital organization. Your national board of directors has been actively working to make ANSO your first choice in professional organizations.

As many of you will recall, in August 2005 we developed our first-ever strategic plan, and updated our mission statement and core values. We've updated the plan each year since then and I hope you're seeing the results of the initiatives. Improved communications, new Chapters, increased membership, bigger and better Training and Professional Development Symposia each year -- including all Sea Service Chiefs and senior enlisted advisors' participation last year (and similar invitations for this year), increased Hispanic recruitment, more professional development, and increased community outreach are just some of the enhancements.

Speaking of the symposium, our next one is just around the corner, Apr 28-May 2<sup>nd</sup>, in San Diego. To give you an idea of what to expect if you haven't been to our Training and Professional Symposium lately, you'll see photos on the following pages from last year's event in Little Creek, VA. Pictures show BG Angie Salinas with Mr. Robert Bard, President and CEO of Latina Style Magazine (and avid ANSO supporter), and me. The next photo shows the Hispanic Flag Officer Panel. The following pictures were taken during the youth day event with our NJROTC cadets, the one following shows MCPON Joe Campa, the first Hispanic Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, as he speaks during the Senior Enlisted Advisors' panel. The final picture shows the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James T. Conway, addressing the audience.

I hope to see you in San Diego as we continue to demonstrate to the Services that ANSO should be their "go to" organization when they need such things as answers about Hispanic issues, or would like assistance with establishing relationships with the Hispanic "centers of influence," or our critical role in Hispanic recruitment and retention. You can go to [www.ANSOMIL.org](http://www.ANSOMIL.org) to see the most current updates to the symposium agenda.

Best regards, CAPT Kathy Contres, USN

## 28th ANSO Annual Symposium

Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Va.



## 29th ANSO Annual Symposium

The Association of Naval Services Officers (ANSO) will hold its twenty-ninth annual training and professional development symposium, 28 April - 2 May 2009, at the Admiral Kidd Club, FASWTC Point Loma, San Diego, California. This year's symposium theme is: "Getting Involved: Our Families, Our Community, Our Nation"

The ANSO Annual Symposium is a professional development and training opportunity on topics such as leadership, career development, mentorship, current initiatives affecting Hispanics, and a myriad of other subjects. Both civilian and high ranking military speakers who have first-hand experience in these areas facilitate the discussions. Although these topics are of special interest to Hispanics serving in the naval services, they are useful to officers and enlisted personnel of any background.

To register for the symposium and view the agenda, please visit: [www.ansomil.org](http://www.ansomil.org)



## Appreciation to David Benton

Retired after 24 years of service to the federal government



David Benton retired from the U.S. Coast Guard on Dec. 31, 2008, worked 24 years in the federal government; first for the U.S. Department of Transportation, followed by the Navy, Bureau of Mines, the IRS and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This was after eight years working in the Colorado Department of Highways and five years with the City of Denver. He began working for the Coast Guard in 1996.

Benton, an active member of ANSO and board of directors, says Diversity is really the best tool an organization can have in its arsenal for being the best at what it does as it relates to people to accomplish the mission. He believes people come first, then the building, equipment and other things.

Benton leaves a lasting legacy in ANSO!

## First Hispanic CO of Sector San Juan, PR

Capt. Eduardo Pino is the first Hispanic CO of Coast Guard Sector San Juan, PR. In his role as Sector Commander, he leads approximately 650 active duty, reserve and civilian men and women to conduct all Coast Guard missions in the Eastern Caribbean. He exercises a variety of statutory authorities as Captain of the Port, Officer in Charge – Marine Inspections, Federal Maritime Security Coordinator, Federal On-Scene Coordinator, and Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator. Capt. Pino is a native of Havana, Cuba who grew up in Miami, Fla.



## Senate youth Liaison:

Lt. Antonio Donis was selected to Military Mentors for the 2009 Senate Youth Program. Donis stood out among his peers in this highly competitive selection process. There were 13 applicants from the US Coast Guard and three were chosen, Donis being one of them. As a mentor, Donis interacted directly with high school student delegates, offering them a unique opportunity to gain a better understanding of the armed forces and personnel. Congratulations Antonio for doing such an outstanding job in representing ANSO and the Hispanic community.

## Hispanic Hero

**"I couldn't just cross my arms and turn away."**



EL PASO, Texas (CNN) -- El Paso native Maria Ruiz knows firsthand how different life can be a mere 30-minute drive south of her Texas home.

"Just by crossing the border, you're in a Third World country," Ruiz said. For 12 years, she's traveled several times a week to the outskirts of Juarez, Mexico, bringing aid to hundreds of impoverished children and their families. Ruiz's family has roots in Juarez, but it wasn't until 1996 that she ventured outside the city. There, for the first time, she saw poverty in the extreme. People lived in homes made of wooden pallets. The elementary school was built of makeshift materials and had no running water or electricity. Teachers told her that many children

were failing because they were hungry. "My heart went out to those kids," Ruiz recalled. "I couldn't just cross my arms and turn away from it. I needed to do something." Ruiz got donations from El Paso businesses, and within one week, she was running a food program out of her home. She cooked meals in her kitchen and drove the food south to the Juarez school. She fed approximately 1,200 children every day for three and a half years, until the businesses she depended on for donations shut down in 1999. But that didn't stop Ruiz from helping the children in Juarez. Now, working with her husband and two children, she gathers donations from around El Paso -- food, clothing, toys, even furniture -- and distributes them at local "giveaways" a couple of times a month. This is no easy task. The Mexican government charges customs fees when large amounts of goods are brought across the border. To avoid this, Ruiz makes several trips every week. "You bring the stuff little by little, like the ants," she said. Although the trip south can be just 30 minutes, long lines coming back into the U.S. mean the return trip can take a couple of hours. On top of that, Juarez is at the center of a drug war, so Ruiz needs to take precautions to ensure her safety. But for her, helping kids in need is worth the effort. "When you make a child smile," she said, "it's awesome."

Although conditions have improved, most families that Ruiz helps still live in poverty, so the Ruiz family has plans to do even more.

They're building a community kitchen with space to feed 500, an orphanage for 100 residents and a trade school. They work on the complex every weekend, and although there's more to do, they're hoping to be open this summer.

The very thought of seeing the orphanage up and running makes Ruiz smile "It'll be a dream come true when it happens," she said. "I pray that it is soon."

Strong religious beliefs help keep Ruiz motivated, and her family's efforts are part of their ministry, called JEM (Jesus es Mana) Ministries. Their Juarez complex even includes a small sanctuary where her husband preaches every Sunday. But Ruiz stresses that they're happy to help anyone, regardless of their beliefs.

"We are open to the community as a whole," she said. "It's equal for everybody."

Ruiz says the children have kept her coming back to Juarez. When she reflects on her work, she doesn't consider herself a hero.

"I know I can do much more."

Although Maria Ruiz was not selected as the CNN Hero of the Year this past November, I was just informed that she was nominated and selected by Extreme Makeover Home Edition to receive a new home for her contributions to the people of Juarez, MX.

## Congratulations to Esteban Morales:

Esteban Morales was selected for the Executive Potential Program. The Executive Potential Program (EPP) is a competency-based leadership development program that provides training and developmental experiences for high potential GS13-15's, and prepares them for leadership positions in the Federal government.

"This program will not only allow me to grow and expand professionally but it will also allow me to improve on figures that have been dwindling here at the Coast Guard and across the federal government," said Morales.

According to the Office of Personnel Management's Seventh Annual Report to the President on Hispanic Employment in the Federal Government, Hispanic representation stands at 7.7 percent compared to the Hispanic civilian labor force which is at 14 percent. The Coast Guard's Hispanic representation as of 10/30/08 according to the Coast Guard's Office of Civilian Personnel is at 4.0 percent.



## USCG Holiday Ball Coin

The 2008 Coast Guard Holiday Ball coin was designed by LTJG Herbert Narvaez-Vazquez, a Hidalgo Washington ANSO Chapter member. LTJG Herbert Narvaez-Vazquez served on the WCGA Coast Guard Holiday Ball planning committee and was tasked with designing the coin. In an effort to bring visibility to ANSO, LTJG Narvaez-Vazquez convinced WCGA leadership that utilizing the ANSO logo on one side of the coin would be appropriate. Over one thousand coins were given to attendees.

Bravo Zulo to LTJG Herbert Narvaez-Vazquez for his effort in marketing ANSO!



## Congratulations:

Congratulations to RDML Joseph Castillo. He will be transferring this summer to D11 where he will be the First Hispanic District Commander!

Our very own LT Xochitl Castañeda participated in President's Obama inauguration Parade. Bravo Zulo to Castañeda for her outstanding representing the Hispanic Community in such an outstanding way!



## Drama on the Hudson

**ANSO Member Coordinates US Air plane rescue**

(CNN) -- Everyone aboard US Airways Flight 1549 survived when the plane crash-landed into the Hudson River, and that may be due as much to diligent rescue training as luck. Passengers and crew line up outside the plane as boats move in to rescue them.

"We, the Coast Guard, we do train for these type of events and these type of situations, scenarios, and one thing we do try to do is try to coordinate with our other maritime agency partners [so] that incidents like this go off without a hitch or as safely as possible," said Coast Guard Lt. C.K. Moore, who helped coordinate the response.

To read the entire story: <http://www.cnn.com/2009/US/01/15/plane.crash.rescue/>

## Charity:

LT Xochitl Castañeda raised approximately \$500 dollars for the Washington Hidalgo Chapter during the Holiday Season! This donation made the holiday very special for Ms. Ross and her 5 children. In addition, Castañeda was able to coordinate with Toys for Tots, who donated 15 wonderful toys for the 5 kids!



ANSO Website: [www.ansomil.org](http://www.ansomil.org)

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ADELANTE CON ANSO