

## Tony (The Marine) Santiago



**Tony (The Marine) Santiago (left)  
aboard the Civil War Vessel “USS Constellation”**

**Tony Santiago** a.k.a. “**Tony the Marine**” is a writer and historian who has written hundreds of articles about the contributions of Hispanics to the United States. His work can be found in Wikipedia, the world’s largest free Internet encyclopedia. He is also the Editor of the Puerto Rican Military History Channel of "**El Boricua**" a monthly cultural magazine, a Staff writer in "**Somos Primos**" an internet magazine dedicated to "Hispanic Heritage and Diversity Issues" and as of March 2008, the Official Historian of the **Association of Naval Service Officers**.

Santiago’s parents moved to New York City in the 1940’s where he was born. He was raised in the South Bronx where he received his primary education and in his teens years he moved to the borough of Queens where he completed his high school education. Santiago, who was a gang leader, joined the United States Marine Corps in 1969. He served with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division as Gunner in the 81 MM and later in the Military Police.

After being honorably discharged from the Marine Corps, Santiago moved to Puerto Rico and married Milagros Rivera. He enrolled in the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico and as a Magna Cum Laude student majored in Business Administration and accounting. He also studied in the Puerto Rico Real Estate Academy, the American Banking Institute and the Polytechnical Institute of Caguas, Puerto Rico.

In 1990, Santiago moved to Phoenix, Arizona with his wife and three children. Santiago would always visit the college libraries , while his children attended classes and research information in regard to the contributions which Hispanics have made to our nation. Santiago remembers that when he went to school the contributions made by the minority’s of this nation were never mentioned in our history books. Therefore, he began researching and decided to share what he discovered with others. He believes that by writing about the contributions which Hispanics have made in the fields of science, education, the military and so on, that he would be able to provide positive role models for our youth to follow and at the same time he would be educating the public in general to this respect. He choose Wikipedia as a means to reach millions of readers.

His work has been acclaimed by educators, historians, government officials and various Hispanic organizations. On Sept. 7, 2006, he was featured in "Claridad" as the "Puerto Rican who has made the most Contributions to Wikipedia". He has also been featured in the "Arizona Republic" and the "Phoenix Republic". On August 1, 2006, President George W. Bush signed Public Law 109-253 which contains the biography of Dr. Jose Celso Barbosa which he wrote. On September 2005, I was named Editor of the Puerto Rican Military History Channel of "El Boricua" a monthly cultural magazine and later joined "Somos Primos", an internet magazine dedicated to "Hispanic Heritage and Diversity Issues, as a Staff writer. On November 28, 2007, The Senate of Puerto Rico paid Santiago tribute and when he was honored by the Senate of Puerto Rico with a Resolution # 3603 in recognition of his work on behalf of Puerto Rico in Wikipedia. The resolution was presented by the President of the Puerto Rican Senate, Honorable Kenneth McClintock on behalf of the people of Puerto Rico. Santiago has worked on various Hispanic related projects with Rear Admiral Jay DeLoach, who recommended for the position of Historian at ANSO.

Among Santiago's Naval and Marine related written works are the following:

Military history of Puerto Rico, List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients, 2nd Battalion 9th Marines, Puerto Rican women in the military, Puerto Rican recipients of the Navy Cross, Puerto Rican recipients of the Medal of Honor, Puerto Ricans in World War II, Hispanic Admirals in the United States Navy, Hispanics in the United States Naval Academy, Expeditionary Strike Group Three, Expeditionary Strike Group, Hispanics in World War II and Hispanics in the United States Marine Corps.

Among the short biographies of Hispanics in the Navy and the Marine Corps are the following:

PFC Domingo Arroyo, Jr., Rear Admiral Rafael Celestino Benitez, Rear Admiral Jose M. Cabanillas, Rear Admiral Alberto Diaz, Jr., Lieutenant General Pedro Del Valle, CWO3 Rose Franco, Rear Admiral Edmund Ernest García, PFC Fernando Luis Garcia, Vice Admiral Diego E. Hernandez, Rear Admiral George E. "Rico" Mayer, Sgt. Angel Mendez, PFC. Ramon Nuñez-Juarez, Captain Marion Frederic Ramirez de Arellano, Rear Admiral Frederick Lois Riefkohl, Capt. Manuel Rivera, Jr., Admiral Horacio Rivero, Sergeant Major Jose Luis Santiago, MGySgt. Frankie Segarra, Seamen Philip Bazaar (U.S. Navy MoH), Seaman John Ortega (U.S. Navy MoH), Rear Admiral Jay A. DeLoach (U.S. Navy), Brigadier General Joseph V. Medina (USMC), PFC Guy Gabaldon (USMC)(11-5-07), Corporal Ramona M. Valdez (USMC) and Rear Admiral Patrick H. Brady (USN)

Santiago currently resides in Phoenix, Arizona with his wife Milagros and three children Antonio Jr., Jose, Nilda and two granddaughters Isabel and Nina.