

Washington D.C., 31 de mayo de 2022

PALABRAS DEL PRESIDENTE DE LA FUNDACIÓN CONSEJO ESPAÑA – EE.UU., JUAN LLADÓ, EN ENTREGA DEL IX GALARDÓN BERNARDO DE GALVEZ A BIBLIOTECA CONGRESO EE.UU.

(Thanks)

Thanks Mr. Ambassador for hosting this reception. Your support, and the support of your team, is invaluable, and we are very happy to count you as an active member and a friend of our Foundation.

Thanks to the Library of Congress for accepting the Bernardo de Galvez Award.

And thanks specially to the Librarian of Congress, Doctor Carla Hayden, for taking the time to come to this reception, and to receive the Award in person. We are proud that your Library, one of the most important cultural centers in the world, has accepted to receive our Award. This is a milestone in our mission of building stronger ties between Spanish and American persons, and institutions.

(Our Fundacion, and our video)

I have the honor to represent the Fundación Consejo España-Estados Unidos which combines private and public capabilities, to establish closer connections between Spain and the United States. We do this in cooperation with our friends of the US Spain Council, chaired by congressman Joaquin Castro

We also work to share and to spread important stories, among Spaniards and Americans who are interested in our mutual connections. This is precisely the audience that we wanted to reach with the video you just watched.

Probably all of them know that the Library of Congress is the largest and one of the most important libraries in the world. This a fact that needs little publicity (if any!)

But, maybe, they are not aware that one of the biggest collections in your Library, your Hispanic Division, is dedicated to Iberian and Latin American civilizations. We hope that the Award and the video will make more people aware of the fact that the Hispanic Division has been very important in advancing and disseminating knowledge about Hispanic and Latin culture in the world. This fact deserves further publicity, in my mind.

(Library of Congress, the US Congress, and Spain)

Doctor Hayden, we are grateful that your Library dedicates considerable space and resources to Spanish and Hispanic culture.

I would also like to mention that, very near the Library, at the US Capitol (in the very building where the US Congress sits!) some of the most important areas remind visitors about the historical connections between Spain and the United States.

The Columbus Doors on the East entrance to the US Capitol, for instance. Or several scenes in the short history of America shown in the Capitol Rotunda.

Those are reminders that Spanish and Hispanic history are an integral part of the history of the Americas, and of the history of the United States. And they also point to the fact that Hispanics are essential players for the future of the United States.

(Reference to US Hispanics)

For me, and for many in Spain, we would like to see that US Hispanics take an important role in the relations between the civil society of Spain and the civil society of the United States.

In fact, Fundación Consejo has paid a special attention to the Hispanic or Latino community in the United States since the foundation was created 25 years ago, in 1997. The potential and the diversity of this community are impressive. They are writing every day new, bright pages of excellence and achievement. This is the reason why reaching out and connecting with them remain part of the core missions of our Foundation.

It is our hope that this Award serves, in part, as a message for US Hispanics. We would like to show to them the relevance and the practical value of the Hispanic heritage in the world.

Also, we would like to invite them to become familiar with the larger Hispanic culture in the World - precisely what the Hispanic Division of the Library of Congress studies and is dedicated to.

(Galvez, and Spain-US relations)

Our Award is named after Bernardo de Galvez, a hero in the American war of independence, and one of the most famous characters in the history that we share with the United States. Galvez is the best example (but not the only one!) of the great contribution made by Spaniards to the independence of the United States.

Galvez embodies values that inspire us: courage, vision, leadership... And with his brilliant and very brave attack in Pensacola, and his other military victories, Galvez shows that concrete achievements, and real deeds, are the best foundation of a lasting friendship.

(Archer Huntington, and Spain-US relations)

In more recent times, and in a very different sphere, Mr. Archer Huntington contributed enormously to the friendship and to the mutual knowledge between Spaniards and Americans. His vision and his generosity still inspire us today.

And by his philanthropy in creating and sustaining the Hispanic Division, Huntington added a new, concrete and extraordinary contribution to the friendship between Spaniards and Americans.

(Final)

Dr. Hayden, Mr. Ambassador, I would like to end on this note of admiration for those two great men. This is appropriate because remembering and honoring both of them is an excellent way to push us to continue working to build useful bridges and meaningful connections between Spain and the United States.