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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. Announces 2023 Hispanic Woman and Hispanic Man of the Year Honorees

Tampa, Fla. (August 7, 2023) – The Board of Directors of Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. is pleased to announce the selection of Catalina Botero Lovett as the 2023 Hispanic Woman of the Year and Dr. Ray Ortiz as the 2023 Hispanic Man of the Year.



Catalina Botero Lovett



Dr. Ray Ortiz

Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. will honor and recognize Catalina Botero Lovett and Dr. Ray Ortiz for their outstanding contributions to our community at the 35th Annual Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. Gala on Friday, October 27, 2023 at Tampa Armature Works.

To buy tickets and corporate tables to the Gala, or inquire about sponsorships, visit www.tampahispanic.org or contact Maribel Garrett, Co-Chair of Gala Committee; or Maria Bermudez-Torres, Co-Chair of Gala Committee.

The Gala is one of Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc.'s signature events held during Hispanic Heritage Season, bringing people in the Tampa Bay area together to celebrate the region's rich Hispanic heritage while simultaneously raising funds towards higher education scholarships for deserving Hispanic students.

The Hispanic Woman and Man of the Year Award is a lifetime achievement award that honors Hispanics who have contributed significantly to the success of our community. These Hispanic women and men have excelled in their endeavors to advance, promote,

maintain, and enhance our Hispanic heritage and who, by their outstanding contributions, have improved the quality of life for Hispanics in the Tampa Bay area.

ABOUT CATALINA BOTERO LOVETT:

Catalina has been recognized for the dedication, tenacity, and her community work in Tampa Bay. Her influence is seen in her professional and her community service. At Spectrum Reach, she leads the multicultural efforts in Tampa and Orlando educating, incorporating, and elevating the Hispanic Community internally and with business partners. At HPWA, she continues to support the board and grows an organization focused on education. At the USF Latin Community Advisory Council, Catalina Co-chairs the Presidential advisory with close ties to the President of USF and the Latin Scholarship Program.

Catalina has received the following awards, including:

- 2022 USF Diamond Award from Delta Tau Lambda Sorority
- 2021 and 2019 Spectrum Reach Elite Winner for outstanding sales results
- 2021 Leadership Class Winner in the Business Category from Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc.
 - 2021 Spectrum Multicultural Initiatives Thought Leader
 - 2021 Leadership Choice Award Recipient from Spectrum Reach
 - 2019 Employee of the Quarter at Bright House Networks
 - 2008 Best Application of Research from the Cable Advertising Bureau 2008
 - 2002 Class winner at the University of Florida of Pfizer campaign 2002

Community Contributions: Catalina continues to lead, mentor, and impact the lives of many! HPWA continues to thrive with no signs of slowing down. The USF Latino Scholarship is an amazing program for our Latino students with a lot of opportunity. And Spectrum Reach leads the marketing efforts with powerful first part data to be the best partner with our community.

Her community service includes many other organizations, as listed here:

- Mayor Commission of Status of Women of Hillsborough County Board member - Representing HPWA
- Prospera - Leader of Statewide Business Accelerator
- USF Latin Community Advisory Council - Vice Chair
- USF Latin Community Advisory Council - Secretary
- Hispanic Professional Women's Association - Past President and Active Mentor
- Colombian Student Association University of Florida - Outreach Chair

ABOUT DR. RAY ORTIZ:

Dr. Ortiz has been a respected dentist in the Tampa Bay community for 31 years and is fully qualified to practice all disciplines of dentistry. Prior to that he practiced in the US Air Force for 20 years and retired as a Full Colonel O-6 in 1992. He has maintained an Active Florida Dental License for the past 51 years. Currently, he serves as a VA Dental Disability Examination Provider once a week seeing veterans leaving service or seeking VA compensation for dental disability from prior service.

After receiving his DMD from the University of Puerto Rico in 1972, he pursued advanced dental training and received an MS Degree from the University of Indiana School of Dentistry in 1976. His Thesis "Effectiveness of Acid Etching and Bonding with Composite Dental Resins" is still referred to in the Dental Literature today. In 2000-01, Dr. Ortiz served as the President of the Florida Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) and continues as a LifeTime member. In 2017, Dr. Ortiz received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Florida Academy of General Dentistry. He has been a steadfast volunteer for the Florida Dental Association's annual Mission of Mercy and a Pro-Bono dentist with the Pinellas County Dental Association. He was also recently honored by the University of Puerto Rico Phi Sigma Alpha Fraternity with their 2023 Medal for Distinguished Community Service.

Community Contributions:

Dr. Ortiz has demonstrated stellar character depicted by integrity, responsibility, forgiveness, and compassion in his dedicated service to the Hispanic Community. He has accomplished many great achievements by being a virtuous leader with a cheerful attitude and abundant and tireless energy devoted to worthy causes.

He was born in the Panama Canal Zone on September 10, 1946, while his father was serving with the US Army and claims Puerto Rico as home. Dr. Ortiz's well-rounded professional and community involvement is demonstrated by his travel experiences around the world. Internationally, he has lived in Puerto Rico, Panama, Turkey, Germany, and Madrid, Spain. He even drove from the US to Panama via Mexico and all the Central American countries. While assigned to the then Panama Canal Zone, served as President of the Canal Zone Military Dental Society and was the USAF dentist assigned to address dental needs of USAF attaches assigned to all South America US Embassies.

Stateside, he has lived in Monterey and San Francisco, California, Colorado, Kentucky, Georgia, South Carolina, Washington DC, and Florida.

Ray has been an active member of the Krewe of the Knights of Sant' Yago for over 25 years, served on their Board of Directors, and achieved Knighthood in 2003. Dr. Ortiz has been actively involved in the Sant' Yago Education Foundation since 2002 where he served as Vice President and currently as President of the organization since 2015. This

valued community foundation is focused on helping underprivileged Latino students complete their college education by providing scholarships and mentorship at the University of South Florida, the University of Tampa, and Hillsborough Community College. To date, the Sant' Yago Education Foundation has donated close to Five Million Dollars to help further the education of Hispanic students at these three Tampa community educational institutions. This has benefitted 1,093 scholarship recipients and currently, 114 recipients during the 2023-24 academic year, making the Sant' Yago Education Foundation the number one scholarship donor for Latino students in the Tampa Bay Area.

Dr. Ortiz has also served the community in countless other ways, among which are the following: Volunteers on an annual basis to distribute food at Tampa's Metropolitan Ministries and Feeding Tampa Bay during holidays as a Spanish Speaking Liaison. Participated in costume with the Krewe of Sant' Yago Knights with a Heart initiative visiting local hospitals to bring Joy on Valentine's Day to children, adults, and veterans who are hospitalized at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital, Moffitt Cancer Center, and the Tampa Veterans Hospital.

Dr. Ortiz is married to Esther Ortiz, has one daughter Stephanie, son-in-law Jamie Appel, and two grandchildren living in South Tampa.

About Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. (THHI)

Our mission is to promote, preserve, and celebrate Hispanic heritage in Tampa Bay. THHI has been serving the community for more than 40 years (1979-2021) and is the oldest non-profit Hispanic cultural organization in Tampa Bay. THHI raises higher education scholarship funds for deserving students of Hispanic descent. Follow us on [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

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