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RNDC Work Location: Florida

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Why is Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM) important to you?

Many of us are offered advice during our life by our family, peers, and mentors to blend in, to conform, follow what others are already doing, or find common interest with others, to help us transition into new schools, jobs, relationships, etc. This is well intentioned advice for sure but Hispanic Heritage Month gives us the opportunity to show some of our differences and show that not all Hispanic culture is the same. For example, Hispanic culture in the Caribbean is different than Hispanic culture in Central and South America and in Europe. The food, music, customs, and accents are different. Moreover, and just as important, Hispanic Heritage Month also gives us the opportunity to show others that Hispanic Heritage is also American Heritage.

What would you like our RNDC family to know about you? Briefly tell us your story – personal and/or professional?

I was born in Puerto Rico and moved to Florida in 1980. I had what I would consider a typical childhood. I joined the Army Reserves as a combat engineer during my freshmen year of college and later worked in law enforcement for 10 years. Five of my years in law enforcement were spent working for the Florida Division of Alcohol



Beverages and Tobacco as an agent and agent supervisor. I later decided to attend law school full-time while my wife and I raised two small children. They were fun and terrifying times. After law school, I worked in a large law firm in Orlando, and I had the privilege of having RNDC as one my clients. After 12 years at the firm, I left and began my career in RNDC's legal department right as the initial pandemic lock down started, again, a fun and terrifying time. For fun I like

saltwater fishing, surfing, and working with my John Deere tractor (go Deere!). I also volunteer often with GROW Central Florida (www.growcentralflorida.org) supporting local schools and law enforcement agencies. I love working at RNDC because my coworkers are true professionals and care a lot about people.





Why is having the VIDA Associate Resource Group important and why did you volunteer to be one of the group leaders?

At my prior employer, we had various associate resource groups and I found them to offer an excellent way to network within the company, engage in issues effecting various groups, develop leadership skills, and have fun. These are some of the reasons why having associate resource groups at RNDC is important and why I want to be involved.