

La Voz Colorado

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Local Latino businessman included in White House celebration



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Staff

Wheat Ridge business owner Frank Sandoval recently attended the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month in the historic East Room at the White House. A selected group of Latino business and community leaders from across the nation gathered on Friday, Oct. 6, 2006, to recognize and celebrate the significant contributions Latino Americans have made in our culture and society.



Local businessman Frank Sandoval and his wife Virginia were in Washington, D.C. for the White House commemoration of Hispanic Heritage month.

It is an honor to be a guest of the President at this event that celebrates not only our rich heritage as Mexican-Americans, but recognizes the fact we, as business owners and community leaders, are cornerstones to the foundation of this country," Sandoval said. "Being in the room with so many others who have the same passion and dedication to serve their local and extended communities, and who really want to make a difference, is both energizing and humbling."

Sandoval, a Wheat Ridge resident and president of the Clara Corporation, owns 15 McDonald's restaurants in the Denver metro area. Sandoval's career in the restaurant industry began at McDonald's in 1965 when he was a high school student earning eighty-five cents an hour. In 1978, he became the first Hispanic owner/operator in Denver and one of the company's youngest franchisees. Today, Sandoval is the largest single franchisee in Colorado.

As a result of his efforts to help young people in need across our area, Sandoval

has earned a reputation for leadership and community service. Most notably, Sandoval is the capital campaign chairman for Ronald McDonald's House and is helping lead efforts to raise \$15 million in funds to open a second Ronald McDonald House in the Denver area. He received the highest honor given to a franchisee in the McDonald's system called the iRonald Award.i

Through his business, Sandoval has partnered with the Adams County School district to start a mentoring program to help young people break the cycle of poverty, school drop-outs and teenage pregnancy. He also helped launch McDonald's Hispanic American Commitment to Educational Resources Scholarship program (HACER) in Colorado, which has awarded about \$1 million in scholarship funding in the Colorado area \$19 million nationally since it was first created in 1985.

(Source: Timi Aguilar/Aguilar Public Relations)