

September 2023 Diversity Message

September is **National Hispanic Heritage Month**, and I found an amazing site that does this month far better than I ever could. The San Diego Air & Space Museum at Balboa Park has put together 4 pages, (you have to scroll to the next pages), please take a moment and check out this site.

[San Diego Air & Space Museum at Balboa Park](https://sandiegoairandspace.org/exhibits/online-exhibit-page/hispanic-americans-in-aviation)

<https://sandiegoairandspace.org/exhibits/online-exhibit-page/hispanic-americans-in-aviation>

September 21st is the **International Day of Peace** and **World Gratitude Day**.

From the United Nations: "Each year the International Day of Peace (IDP) is observed around the world on 21 September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. Never has our world needed peace more.

This year's theme is Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals. It is a call to action that recognizes our individual and collective responsibility to foster peace. Fostering peace contributes to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals will create a culture of peace for all.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said, "Peace is needed today more than ever. War and conflict are unleashing devastation, poverty, and hunger, and driving tens of millions of people from their homes. Climate chaos is all around. And even peaceful countries are gripped by gaping inequalities and political polarization."

2023 marks the mid-point in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2023 observance of the International Day of Peace coincides with the SDG summit (18 – 19 September) to mark the midpoint milestone.

The SDGs aim to bring us closer to having more peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, free from fear and violence. But without the buy-in and contribution of a wide range of actors including the 1.2 billion young people alive, the goals will not be achieved. We invite you to join the United Nations' call to take action for peace: fight inequality, drive action on climate change, and promote and protect human rights.

2023 is also the 75th anniversaries of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide. IDP 2023 encourages all youth to be ambitious in their engagement as positive and constructive social agents, to join the movement to reach the SDGs and contribute to building sustainable peace. Together we can help to lead our world towards a greener, more equitable, just, and secure future for all."

AND

From National Today: "World Gratitude Day is celebrated on September 21 annually. This day aims to remind us of the importance of expressing gestures of thanks and appreciation.

Understandably, sometimes we can get caught up in our busy lives and neglect to show how grateful we are for the people around us.”

Please mark September 21st on your calendar, and with intentionality have peace in your heart in your interactions. Say thank you to your husband, wife, kids, parents, or friends for something small that day. Or even, go big, and spread thanks to your community in some way different.

I thank each of you for being a part of the Arkansas Wing Civil Air Patrol. It's a great organization because of you!

I'd love to hear how it goes and appreciate your feedback.

Major Podgurski