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The American GI Forum To Join Forces with National Hispanic Business Information Clearinghouse

Agreement Equips Veterans with Information to Start a Business

DENVER -- Supplying veterans with vital information on launching a new business or expanding an existing one is the objective behind a new accord between the American GI Forum (AGIF) and the National Hispanic Business Information Clearinghouse (NHBIC).

NHBIC is a bilingual web site featuring online business information on how to start, market and manage a business. As an NHBIC network partner, AGIF members have free access to business information in English and Spanish, plus local and national business resources and NHBIC's network of Latino organizations. To connect to this robust Internet tool, go to www.agif.us and click the NHBIC button.

"The American GI Forum is proud to form this strategic alliance with NHBIC because it puts powerful business resources in the hands of Hispanic veterans," says AGIF National Commander Antonio Gil Morales. "It fits our motto that 'Education is our freedom and freedom should be everybody's business.'"

NHBIC founder Sal Gomez, a U.S. Army veteran, agrees. "In this great nation that Hispanic veterans have served with honor, starting your own business gives you the freedom to build economic stability for your family, community and country," says Gomez, owner of Source One Management, an information management company directing NHBIC operations.

"The GI Forum is celebrating 60 years of delivering important services to Hispanic veterans, and it is keeping stride with the latest advances in business technologies through its alliance with the NHBIC," adds Gomez.

The American GI Forum, commemorating its 60th anniversary this year, is announcing the AGIF/NHBIC joint venture to its general membership during its 2008 national conference July 22-26 at the Denver Grand Hyatt, 1750 Welton St. In addition, Gomez will moderate the "Veteran's Entrepreneurial Seminar," presented by AGIF and NHBIC, Wed., July 23, 2008.

The American GI Forum was founded in 1948 by Dr. Hector P. Garcia to address discrimination against Mexican-American soldiers after World War II. More than 500,000 Hispanics served during WWII, but many were denied basic veterans' rights, including burial in their hometowns, veteran pension payment, educational benefits, and proper medical treatment. AGIF has since grown into a national organization advocating improved conditions for Hispanic veterans,

NHBIC, a not-for-profit organization, launched its bilingual web site in 2007 to provide information to Hispanics starting or expanding a business. Its purpose is to empower new and established entrepreneurs, build wealth in the Latino community, and boost Hispanic contributions to the U.S. economy.

NHBIC's lead sponsor is Western Union, to date contributing \$2 million through its "Our World, Our Family" global economic opportunities program. NHBIC is also funded by a \$3.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor.

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