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## **Hector Barreto Awarded the Order of the Aztec Eagle for His Contributions to Improve US-Mexico Relations**

**Washington, D.C.** – Prominent U.S. Hispanic businessman Hector Barreto was honored last Friday by the Mexican government when he received the Order of the Aztec Eagle. The recognition was conferred by Mexican President Vicente Fox and presented to him by Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico Luis Ernesto Derbez in a ceremony in Mexico City.

“I am honored and humbled by this special honor bestowed by the Mexican government and people,” said Barreto. “Both in my private and public sector work I have dedicated myself to greater cooperation between the United States and Mexico. I look forward to doing my part to continuing to expand the relationship between two important neighbors and friends.”

The Order of the Aztec Eagle is the highest Mexican recognition presented to non-Mexican citizens who help to foster closer relationships with Mexico in their countries. According to the citation accompanying the decoration, Barreto received the order for his important contributions and dedication in promoting, understanding and diminishing the economic gaps between Mexico and the U.S.

Barreto is currently the national chairman of The Latino Coalition, a national advocacy organization based in Washington, DC. Prior to heading The Latino Coalition, Barreto served as administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) from 2001 until July of this year.

Before serving at the SBA, Barreto was an entrepreneur in Los Angeles and was chairman of the Latin Business Association in that city as well as the vice chairman of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

While Barreto was born in Kansas City, Missouri, his family has deep roots in Mexico. His father, the late Hector Barreto, Sr. was born in Mexico City, grew up in Guadalajara and eventually immigrated to the United States where he was a founder of the USHCC and the recipient of the prestigious OHTLI award from the Mexican government. His mother, Mary, is also of Mexican descent.

The Latino Coalition is a non-profit, non-partisan organization based in Washington, D.C. TLC was established to address policy issues that directly affect the well-being of Hispanics in the United States. TLC’s agenda is to develop and promote policies that will foster economic equivalency and enhance overall business, economic, and social development of Hispanics. For more information, please visit our website at [www.TheLatinoCoalition.com](http://www.TheLatinoCoalition.com).

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