

# LATINAStyle

A NATIONAL MAGAZINE FOR THE CONTEMPORARY HISPANIC WOMAN

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## LATINA Style Inc. Recognized Latina Heroes at 13th Annual National LATINA Symposium

Washington, D.C. – September 15, 2016 – On September 8th, LATINA Style Inc., the premier company addressing the needs of Latina professionals, civic leaders, entrepreneurs, college students and members of the Armed Forces, in partnership with Parents Step Ahead (PSA), a non-profit community outreach initiative designed to increase parental involvement in a child's educational development, celebrated the **13<sup>th</sup> Annual National LATINA Symposium and the Distinguished Military Service Award Ceremony**, honoring Latina military and civilian personnel who through their service have enhanced the role of Latinas in their organizations.

Sulema Salazar of Telemundo started the program by introducing Robert Bard, President and CEO of LATINA Style Inc., who delivered welcome remarks to the enthusiastic audience. Remarks were also delivered by Apoorva N. Gandhi, VP, Multi-Cultural Affairs, Marriott International Inc., Susan Santana, and AVP Federal Relations at AT&T, Michele C. Meyer-Shipp, VP and Chief Diversity Officer, Prudential Insurance. The 2016 Honorary Chair was Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL 27) who was last to welcome everyone and said "Thank You" to all the men and women in uniform for their outstanding courage and leadership.

Presenting the only national awards program honoring Latina military and civilian personnel, the National LATINA *Symposium* serves as a platform for Latina professionals to address the most pressing issues affecting the Hispanic woman in the United States. The Symposium featured cutting edge workshops that allowed participants to learn about issues such as: advancement in the workplace, successful leadership, global public service, applying military skills to everyday life. Speakers included panelists from the U.S. State Department, CIA, FBI, Prudential, Shell, Walmart, Nationwide, AT&T, USAA, Verizon, ETS, and General Officers from Armed Forces.

The highlight of the program was the ***Distinguished Military Service Award Luncheon***, co-hosted with the Department of Defense.

**The 2016 Honorees are:**

**U.S. Army:** Sergeant Major Linda Kessinger

**U.S. Marine Corps:** Staff Sergeant Christina Mota-Aguiar and Mrs. Maritza Carrillo

**U.S. Navy:** Legalman Second Class Evelin-Yanet Garcia and Mrs. Belia Cook

**U.S. Air Force:** First Lieutenant Karen Rubin-Santos; Master Sergeant Sonora Vasquez and Mrs. Rosa Marlin

**U.S. Coast Guard:** Lieutenant Katrian Hernandez and Mrs. Lushens K. McNamara

**U.S. National Guard Bureau:** Chief Warrant Officer Three Darysabel Lopez and Mrs. Dania Aponte

**U.S. Military Academy (West Point):** Cadet Gabriela Barrera-Gutierrez

**U.S. Naval Academy:** Midshipmen First Class Isabel Krause

**U.S. Air Force Academy:** Cadet First Class Leslie Perez

**U.S. Coast Guard Academy:** Cadet First Class Ruth T. Salvatori

The keynote speaker for the ***Distinguished Military Service Award Luncheon*** and the recipient of the President's Achievement Award for continued service to the Hispanic community was The Honorable Gabriel O. Camarillo, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

For further information, please visit [www.nls.latinastyle.com](http://www.nls.latinastyle.com), or contact Johnny Quezada at [johnny.d@latinastyle.com](mailto:johnny.d@latinastyle.com) at (214) 357-2186.

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### About LATINA Style, Inc.

LATINA Style Inc., headquartered in Dallas, TX, is the publisher of LATINA Style Magazine, a national magazine for the professional Hispanic woman. The magazine has been published for 22 years and has a national circulation of 150,000 and a readership of nearly 600,000. The company is host of the LATINA Style Business Series, the LATINA Style 50 Report, the National LATINA Symposium and the LATINA Style Hero Initiative. For further information about the LATINA Style 50 Report visit [www.latinastyle.com](http://www.latinastyle.com) or call (214) 357-2186.