



**Remarks by Catherine Cortez Masto
Latino Leaders Luncheon Series
Eagle Leadership Award**

**August 13, 2020
Virtual**

Catherine Cortez Masto: Hello. I'm Catherine Cortez Masto, and I am grateful that the Latino Leaders Network has brought us all together virtually today. I want to thank my good friend, Mickey Ibarra, for the hard work that went into pulling this event together, as well as everyone else who contributed to make today possible. And I'd also like to thank a very good friend, Representative Gallego, for those kind words.

You know, I am absolutely delighted to receive the Eagle Leadership Award, and I am very conscious of the weight of this honor, particularly now and what's happening in our country. This is a crucial time for our communities right now, and we all know Latinos are woven seamlessly into the fabric of America with achievements in the fields of science and politics, sports and the arts, from food to music to literature. Latino culture is an essential facet of American culture. Our contributions to

the melting pot of America have helped form our identity since the beginning of the republic.

And over the past decades, Latinos in the United States have made major gains in homeownership, entrepreneurship, and educational attainment, but we all know there's so much more work to be done. At the same time, I don't have to tell all of you that Latinos in my home state of Nevada continue to face barriers, and this coronavirus pandemic has only exacerbated those challenges. This coronavirus has devastated Nevada's vibrant hospitality and travel industry, and it is endangering the health of so many Latinos in the silver state who, quite frankly, are on the frontlines of helping others in this pandemic right now. We all know Latinos across the nation are facing a critical moment, from issues like immigration to education to healthcare to police reform, you name it. That's why their leadership in communities throughout the nation is critical and we all have work together to do to come up with new approaches to solving the problems that we have in common. I am so grateful for the partnership of organizations like the Latino Leaders Network and others working for positive change.

You know, I have benefited and I say this all the time. My whole life from the work of those who helped me open doors and break barriers. That's why, like so many of you, I feel the responsibility to open the door that much wider for those who

come after me. You never pull up the ladder. We keep ensuring that others have that opportunity to go through that door as well.

So, I just want to thank you again for this tremendous honor and thank you for your dedication and hard work in every walk of life for our communities. We are so much better for all of your hard work, so thank you again.