

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Chamizal National Memorial
800 S. San Marcial
El Paso, Texas 79905
(915) 532-7273



NEWS RELEASE

September 13, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Information:
Michael Groomer, Chief of Interpretation
Office: (915) 532-7273, Ext. 124
Fax: (915) 532-7240
Email: Michael_Groomer@nps.gov

CHAMIZAL LAUNCHES FESTIVAL PLANNING SESSION

Calling all interested participants to assist in Cultural extravaganza

EL PASO, TX - Superintendent, Richard Harris, of Chamizal National Memorial, is requesting anyone interested in taking part in a planning session for a folk and cultural festival at Chamizal National Memorial, to come to the Memorial's Los Paisanos Gallery on Tuesday September 18, at 5:30 PM.

The Planning session is designed to give people around the area a chance to give their input on the planning and implementation of the upcoming festival.

When asked about the festival, Harris said, "El Paso is a culturally diverse city that has a lot to offer everyone. We would like to give area residents a chance to educate and share with other area residents the importance and contribution to the borderland of their particular cultural heritage". Harris further stated that, "I feel if we as a community can come together in the true spirit that El Paso is known for, we can collectively celebrate each others cultural roots."

As one of 391 units managed by the National Park Service, Chamizal National Memorial was established by Congress in 1966 to commemorate the signing of the Chamizal Convention Act of 1964, which peacefully settled a nearly 100-year border dispute between the U.S. and Mexico. Today, the Memorial commemorates that event through its education and interpretive programs, and also by serving as a cultural center where people from all nations can come together, set aside differences, and enjoy common interests such as history, the performing and fine arts. The concept for this new festival comes in response to the growing and pre-existing populations of different cultures throughout the borderland.

For more information, please contact Michael Groomer at (915) 532-7273, Ext. 124 or by email at Michael_Groomer@nps.gov.

-###-

