



Crowley resident John Diaz, second from left and his wife Avelina, far right, were present at the White House Friday as Diaz was honored for his community service following Hurricane Katrina. Shown are Colorado Sen. Wayne Allard, John Diaz, Colorado Rep. Marilyn Musgrave and Avelina Diaz.

(Courtesy Photo)

John Diaz Honored At White House

By Susan Pieper

As part of Hispanic Heritage month, John Diaz of Crowley was recognized for his community service in assisting victims of Hurricane Katrina. Diaz and his wife Avelina made the trip to Washington, D.C. to receive the Presidential Voluntary Service Award.

Diaz volunteered with the Salvation Army.

He was one of six people recognized Friday.

In acknowledging Diaz's receipt of the award, Colorado Rep. Marilyn Musgrave said, "Coloradans have a tradition of loving their neighbors and helping them in times of need.

"For John Diaz, this means even helping neighbors in another region. He has touched the lives of hurricane victims in the Gulf Coast, helping them return to a sense of normalcy

amongst the devastation.

"I am encourage by Mr. Diaz and pleased to have a chance to honor a hero from our region of Colorado."

Pres. George Bush said of Diaz and the five others, "Their efforts are helping children to learn to read, improving fire safety in schools and communities and helping more Hispanics achieve the dream of a college education.

"In the wake of the hurricanes, they've helped set up emergency clinics, provided spiritual counseling to the displaced, just simple acts, such as reading stories to children whose families had lost their homes.

"Today, we're here to honor your service, and we appreciate so very much what you have done to help lift the spirit of the country."

Diaz and his wife Avelina also are therapeutic foster parents.



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In a 15-minute ceremony as part of Hispanic Heritage month, John Diaz of Crowley was recognized for his community service in assisting victims of Hurricane Katrina. Diaz and his wife Avelina made the trip to Washington, D.C. to receive the Presidential Voluntary Service Award, the highest level of commendation a President can give in recognition of those who have contributed their time and energy to helping others.

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In making the presentation to Diaz, Pres. George W. Bush said of him and the five others receiving the commendation, "Their efforts are helping children to learn to read, improving fire safety in schools and communities and helping more Hispanics achieve the dream of a college education.

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Diaz and his wife Avelina also are therapeutic foster parents and Diaz lends his musical talents to many church services in the area.