

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: The Pete Perez Award

The City of Aurora Hispanic Heritage Advisory Board (AHHAB) continues to celebrate the memory of Peter J. Perez by recognizing an adult (18+ years) who exemplifies leadership and commitment to the Aurora Hispanic community.

We are seeking nominations for the Pete Perez Award, an annual award recognizing someone at the AHHAB Community Breakfast. This year's Breakfast will be held on Thursday, January 28, 2010.

The Aurora Hispanic Heritage Advisory Board will continue to celebrate the memory of Pete Perez by awarding someone who has made a real difference to our community. Nominees must:

- 1 Volunteer within the Aurora Hispanic community,
- 1 Demonstrate dedication to the Aurora community,
- 1 Serve as a positive role model to youth and others, and
- 1 Make a difference through his/her involvement.

Please attach a letter indicating *why* you would like to nominate someone to receive the Pete Perez Award. Nomination letters must be submitted by Friday, December 4, 2009. Please mail letters to: Mayor's Office of Special Events, 5 E. Downer Place, Suite A, Aurora, IL 60507, **OR** Fax it to (630) 844-4797. Please remember to include your name and contact information in the letter.

For more information about the Hispanic Board or the Pete Perez Award, please call Cindy Hernandez, Board Chairman, at (630) 768-2027.

About *Pete Perez* **1925-1999**

Born in the Boxcar community of primarily Mexican railroad workers just outside Aurora, Pete Perez went to Marmion Military Academy and the University of Illinois, where he excelled in football and went on to play for the Chicago Bears. After his days as a football player, Perez joined the Aurora Police Department, where he served for 21 years, retiring as a lieutenant in 1979. He then served as Kane County's Undersheriff for 13 years.

Perez was a highly respected officer who was named the Aurora Exchange Club's Policeman of the Year in 1966 and was the first recipient of the Hector Jordan Lifetime Achievement Award by the Hispanic Illinois State Law Enforcement Association in 1990. After his retirement, Pete Perez continued to serve the community on the Kane County Merit Commission, which conducts testing for correctional officers and sheriff's deputies.

Perez passed away after a courageous battle with cancer in February 1999 at the age of 74.

