



American Latino Heritage



LORETA JANETA VELÁZQUEZ

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In her memoirs, Cuban immigrant Loreta Janeta Velázquez wrote of enlisting in the Confederate Army, against her soldier-husband's wishes, fighting in several battles disguised as a man. As "Lt. Harry Buford," she claimed to have fought at First Manassas, Ball's Bluff, and Fort Donelson. Even after being discovered and discharged, Loreta rejoined the fight as a spy. The movie "Secret Solider" is based on her life experiences.