

## Statement Commemorating the Birthday of Cesar Chavez March 31, 2009

Today, on what would have been his 82d birthday, Cesar Chavez's legacy as an educator, environmentalist, and as a civil rights leader who struggled for fair treatment and fair wages for America's workers is important for every American to remember.

Having begun as a farm worker, Cesar Chavez eventually cofounded the United Farm Workers and struggled to provide hundreds of thousands of people with better working conditions and the chance to live a better life. The cause of fair treatment and fair wages

for America's workers lives on today through the work of countless others.

Chavez's rallying cry, "*Si se puede*"—"Yes we can," was more than a slogan, it was an expression of hope and a rejection of those who said farm workers could not organize and could not take on the growers. Through his courage, Cesar Chavez taught us that a single voice could change our country, and that together, we could make America a stronger, more just, and more prosperous nation.

## Statement on House of Representatives Passage of Legislation to Promote Voluntarism March 31, 2009

I congratulate the House on passing the bipartisan "Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act." This is legislation that will usher in a new era of service in America, and I look forward to signing it into law when I return to Washington.

Because of this legislation, millions of Americans at all stages of their lives will have new opportunities to serve their country: from improving service learning in schools to creating an army of 250,000 Corps members a year dedicated to addressing our Nation's toughest problems; from connecting working Americans to a variety of part-time service opportunities to better utilizing the skills and experi-

ence of our retirees and baby boomers. This legislation will help tap the genius of our faith-based and community organizations, and it will find the most innovative ideas for addressing our common challenges and helping those ideas grow.

But while our Government can provide every opportunity imaginable for us to serve our communities, now it is up to each of us to seize those opportunities. I call on all Americans to stand up and do what they can to serve their communities, shape our history, and enrich both their own lives and the lives of others across this country.

## The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Gordon Brown of the United Kingdom in London, England April 1, 2009

*Prime Minister Brown.* The whole of the United Kingdom welcomes President Obama and the First Lady on your first official visit to our country. President Obama, you have given renewed hope not only to the citizens of the United States of America, but to all citizens in all part of the world. And I want to thank you

for your leadership, your vision, and your courage, which you've already shown in your Presidency, and congratulate you on the dynamism, the energy, and indeed, the achievements that you have been responsible for.

Your first 70 days in office have changed America, and you've changed America's