

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 144

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a postage stamp should be issued commemorating César E. Chávez.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 20, 1999

Mr. LAMPSON (for himself, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Mr. BROWN of California, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ, Mr. FROST, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. FARR of California, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mr. BENTSEN, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. FILNER, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Mr. WU) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a postage stamp should be issued commemorating César E. Chávez.

Whereas César E. Chávez was born March 31, 1927, on a small farm near Yuma, Arizona, and died on April 23, 1993;

Whereas numerous holidays, schools, parks, libraries, and other structures and events have been named after César E. Chávez, internationally and in California, New York, Michigan, Indiana, Oklahoma, Arizona, Illinois, Min-

nesota, Colorado, New Mexico, Massachusetts, Texas, and Hawaii, with many more planned;

Whereas César E. Chávez was a recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Peace Prize during his lifetime and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Clinton on August 8, 1994;

Whereas, the grandson of a Mexican immigrant and settler, he grew up working with migrant farm workers, himself picking grapes, melons, beans, and other staple crops at low wages and for long hours, during which time he developed a strong work ethic and respect for the farm workers his father called “the children of God”;

Whereas at the age of 18 César E. Chávez entered the United States Navy and served his country with distinction for 2 years;

Whereas, as early as 1949, César E. Chávez committed himself to organizing farm workers to campaign for safe and fair working conditions, reasonable wages, decent housing, and the outlawing of child labor;

Whereas in 1962 César E. Chávez founded the National Farm Workers Association, predecessor of the United Farm Workers of America, which brought hope to farm workers that they might one day realize the basic protections and workers’ rights to which all Americans aspire;

Whereas, through his commitment to nonviolence, César E. Chávez brought dignity and respect to the farm workers who organized themselves, and became an inspiration and a resource to other Americans and people engaged in human rights struggles throughout the world;

Whereas César E. Chávez was an advocate for nonviolence at a time when violence penetrated every level of our society;

Whereas César E. Chávez and his family also dedicated themselves to the education of farm workers' children through migrant schools, many of whom graduated and worked as teachers, doctors, nurses, and in other professional occupations;

Whereas the legacy of César E. Chávez includes healthy working conditions that yield uncontaminated food for America's tables and the enforcement of employer sanctions for those who hire illegal immigrants;

Whereas César E. Chávez's influence extends far beyond agriculture and provides inspiration for those working to better human rights through his example of organizing voter registration drives in urban and farm areas, initiating complaints against mistreatment by police and welfare officials, and empowering everyday workers to seek advancement in education and politics; and

Whereas César E. Chávez lived alongside his campesino brothers and sisters in humble surroundings and upon his passing was laid to rest where he lived and worked for 23 years on the grounds of the headquarters of the United Farm Workers of America, known as Nuestra Señora de La Paz (Our Lady of Peace), located in the Tehachapi Mountains at Keene, California: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) the United States Postal Service should
4 issue a postage stamp commemorating César E.
5 Chávez; and

- 1 (2) the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
- 2 should recommend to the Postmaster General that
- 3 such a stamp be issued.

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