

TRIBUTE TO CESAR CHAVEZ

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an individual of great significance to the history of our country. He provided a voice for those that could not be heard and hope for those that no longer believed.

Above all, Cesar Chavez was a man who fought for those that could not fight for themselves. Through his nonviolent struggle for economic and social equality, Cesar touched the lives of millions of people and inspired a generosity of spirit and love for our fellow man.

Born of a Mexican immigrant, Cesar Chavez grew up working with migrant farm workers, toiling in the fields while receiving below average wages.

His firsthand knowledge of the plight of the farm worker helped shape Cesar's beliefs and led him to become an advocate for the migrant working community.

He committed himself to organizing these workers to campaign for safe and fair working conditions, reasonable wages, decent housing, and outlawing child labor.

As the founder of the National Farm Workers Association, he provided hope that farm workers may one day realize the basic protections and rights deserved by all Americans.

His influence, however, extends far beyond agriculture.

He organized voter registration drives in urban areas, initiated complaints against mistreatment by police and welfare officials, and empowered workers to seek advancement in education and politics.

To gain national attention to the growing civil rights movement, Cesar frequently staged non-violent strikes, boycotts, and pickets.

He also used fasting as a way to peacefully protest without resorting to the violence that existed throughout our society.

However, many in his community refused to accept his notion of equality and resorted to killing and beating of many of his workers.

Yet through it all, Cesar never wavered in his commitment to La Causa.

He was a dedicated champion of equal rights; not just for farm workers, but for all Americans.

This was recognized in 1994 when he became only the second Mexican-American to be honored with the highest civilian award in the United States: the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

This is why I stand here today on his birthday. I have previously introduced a resolution urging Congress and the President to declare this day a national holiday to honor this great Latino visionary.

But today, I want to further honor this great leader by introducing a bill that awards him the Congressional Gold Medal.

With faith, discipline, and soft-spoken humility, Cesar Chavez led a very courageous life.

His tremendous passion and resolve to fight for civil rights was an exhibition in selflessness and love.

By awarding him the Congressional Gold Medal, we are saying that we understand these sacrifices that Cesar Chavez made for our country.

He has left an enormous legacy that has provided hope for the hopeless, inspiration for the uninspired, and the prospect of a better life for all.

For those of us that have ever lost faith, Cesar Chavez teaches us never to give up.

With hard work and the belief that all men and women are indeed created equal, we can aspire to greater things.

I urge all my colleagues to honor Cesar Chavez and his legacy, not only on this day, but every day.

His inspirational words will always ring true: Si, se puede! Yes, we can!

HONORING THE 77TH ANNIVERSARY OF CESAR CHAVEZ'S BIRTHDAY

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we honor Cesar Chavez on the anniversary of his 77th birthday, and ask the Members of the House to join us in paying respects to a man who brought awareness of labor injustices to national light. His efforts made a path for all those who came after him, so that they would be able to continue his fight for justice.

Cesar Chavez grew up in the fruit and vegetable fields, working the land with his own hands from dawn to dusk. He knew the injustices that faced labor workers on a daily basis, and understood the need for change.

From those fields, Chavez rose to be the head of the United Farm Workers of America (UFW) instilling in the UFW the principles of non-violence practiced by Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

When the UFW began striking in the 1960's, to protest the treatment of farm workers, the strikers took a pledge of non-violence, determined not to detract from the message of improved labor conditions.

For those of us who lived through this tumultuous time period, we heard of the great odds Chavez faced as he led a successful five-year strike-boycott. Through this boycott, Chavez was able to forge a national support coalition of unions, church groups, students, minorities, and consumers.

By the end of the boycott everyone knew the famous inspirational chant "Si se puede!" — "Yes we can". The chant unified diverse groups by encouraging them to become active participants, by taking pride in with what is just and fair while all along preserving the dignity of their efforts.

Chavez also spoke out in other areas and helped communities to mobilize by assisting them with voter registration drives and insisting that minority communities had just as much a right to have equitable access to educational opportunities.

To this day Chavez's legacy lives on. His influence can be seen in the legislation that comes to this very floor. Legislation that aims to provide for our children's education, improve healthcare in our community, and ensure our civil rights and liberties are respected.

We must also continue the fight to ensure that in today's world, the rights of workers are still protected. Whether it's working in the

fields, in the kitchens, or in our factories, the blue-collar worker is an invaluable resource to America and to the American economy.

It is important that these workers be treated with the respect and dignity that they deserve and that all the rights afforded to those working in air conditioned offices is also extended to those working in the sun heated fields and the like.

America has seen few leaders like Chavez. He is in a rare group of people who made their life mission count. His life and his deeds have left a lasting imprint on American history.

We can only hope to continue to fulfill his vision as we walk through the halls of Congress to create a better tomorrow for the Hispanic community and all Americans.

HONORING NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor National Women's History Month. The National Women's History Project was founded in 1980 and is a non-profit educational organization committed to recognizing and celebrating the diverse and significant historical accomplishments of women. The legacy of others who shaped society inspires one's own longings to contribute. For young women, role models can inspire their sense of what is possible. Knowledge of women's strengths and contributions builds respect and nourishes self esteem.

During Women's History Month, our nation celebrates the many accomplishments of women. Women are leaders in business, government, law, science, medicine, the arts, education, and many other fields. As bosses, mothers, sisters, daughters, wives and friends, they bring compassion and integrity to our work spaces and community settings and teach our children the values that make our country great.

Thousands of outstanding Kansas City women have left their mark on our community by blazing new trails; by being the first woman to make a significant contribution in the greater metropolitan area. A beloved woman in Kansas City, known as the matriarch, is the late Lucille Bluford. Always a voice of conscience and reason, a woman of influence and great moral character, she began her career in 1930 as a reporter for The Kansas City Call. After owner Chester A. Franklin died in 1955, Ms. Bluford became managing editor, publisher and the first woman owner of a newspaper in the community. Her leadership, guidance and direction raised the consciousness of the African American community to the struggles of the Civil Rights Movement in the 60s and 70s and rallied the readers to call for political action. In 1990, the University of Kansas awarded her it's Distinguished Service Citation, the highest honor to be bestowed upon a KU graduate for service to humanity. She was the second African American student to major in journalism at KU. Among her many countless awards, she received an honorary doctorate from the University of Missouri, which years earlier denied her admission. In 1939, she bravely sued MU, but lost the case.

While she may have lost that battle, her action prompted a series of legal challenges that ultimately led to the abolishment of the "separate but equal" doctrine in education.

Ms. Bluford's career accomplishments opened doors for another female entrepreneur in journalism, Clara Reyes, who started Kansas City's first bilingual newspaper, *Dos Mundos*, in 1981 in her basement. She had sold real estate to people from different countries who often asked where to find bilingual professionals. Reyes took it upon herself to fill the void. She did not know much about the publishing world, but thought that if she could sell real estate, she could surely sell advertising.

For more than 20 years, Clara Reyes has been a strong voice in the Hispanic community who wrote about issues important to Latinos in the Greater Kansas City area. Clara Reyes has helped "*Dos Mundos*" grow to become one of the leading bilingual newspapers in the Midwest dedicated to serving the community through daily news and information.

Martha W. Gilliland, Ph.D., Chancellor of the University of Missouri-Kansas City holds a doctorate in environmental engineering/systems ecology from the University of Florida. On August 30, 2002, she received a prestigious national honor from the Policy Studies Organization: "Top Public Policy Practitioner."

Under her leadership, UMKC, has established a progressive and ambitious agenda for the urban campus of 14,000 students. Chancellor Gilliland and her leadership team are poised to transform UMKC into a 21st century institution and a national model in scholarships and creative activity by attracting and nurturing responsive community leaders while providing the resources to achieve the University's vision of creating a vibrant environment of learning and campus life experience.

Today, the vision of these Kansas City women: Lucille Bluford, Clara Reyes and Martha Gilliland, inspire women in our community to blaze new trails and seek their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring National Women's History Month, as we celebrate the many ways women strengthen and enrich America. Their lives and work provide guideposts of hope for our future and for our children, and remind us all of what the human spirit can achieve when our collective eyes are fixed upon helping reach our greatest potential. I salute them one and all in honor of National Women's History Month.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3550

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker. I rise today in support of H.R. 3550, the Transportation Act—A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU). I am pleased that my good friends Chairman DON YOUNG and Ranking Member JIM OBERSTAR of the House Transportation Committee have agreed to increase transportation funding for the Territories.

Congresswoman MADELEINE BORDALLO (Guam), Congresswoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN (VI) and I have worked on this issue for the past year and Congressman NICK RAHALL, Ranking Member of the House Resources Committee, has supported our efforts.

As a result of our work, the Territorial Highway Program (which includes American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and CNMI) will be increased from \$33 million to \$40 million for FY 04, FY 05 and FY 06. For FY 07, FY 08 and FY 09, funding will increase to \$50 million. Despite the Transportation Act (now known as TEA-LU) being \$100 billion less than what was originally proposed, the Territorial set aside will increase by 23.6%.

Moreover, I have worked closely with Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member OBERSTAR to include \$14 million for high priority projects in American Samoa. This funding is in addition to American Samoa's annual federal highway funds and will be used for village road improvements, drainage mitigation, shoreline protection and upgrades and repairs of the Ta'u ferry terminal facility.

In consultation with the Honorable Togiola Tulafono, Governor of American Samoa, I have asked the Committee to set aside \$9.4 million for village road improvements in the Eastern, Western, Central and Manu'a districts of American Samoa.

In further consultation with Senator Tuaoilo Fruean and High Paramount Chief Mauga and members of the Pago Pago council of chiefs, we have also set aside \$1 million for drainage mitigation for Pago Pago village roads.

In consultation with Senator Tago Suilefaiga, Representative Fagasoia Lealaitafea and Representative Mary Taufete'e and members of the Nuuli council of chiefs, we have set aside \$1 million for shoreline protection and drainage mitigation for Nuuli village roads.

In consultation with Senator Faamausili Pola and members of the Ta'u village council of chiefs, we have set aside \$1.6 million to upgrade and repair the Ta'u harbor facility.

Finally, in consultation with Senator Faiivae Galea'i, Senator Lualemaga Faoa and members of the Leone and Malaeloa councils of chiefs, we have set aside \$1 million for drainage mitigation for Malaeloa-Leone village roads.

Again, I thank my colleagues, both Democrat and Republican, and I also thank the local leaders of American Samoa, including Governor Togiola, for working closely with me to make sure that American Samoa's needs are addressed in this historic and important initiative.

I urge passage of this bill and I again commend Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member OBERSTAR for their leadership and support.

HONORING JEFFEREY OBLER

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jeffrey Obler, longtime professor of political science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He lost his battle with pneumonia last Saturday at the age of 62.

I, knew Jeff as a fellow educator and colleague, and several members of my staff who attended Carolina also knew him as a mentor, one with an extraordinary talent for teaching. It is at their request—and utilizing their thoughts, words, and memories—that I rise today in his honor.

Dr. Obler started his path in education at New York University and earned his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin before landing at the UNC Department of Political Science. A teacher of international relations and political philosophy, he was a leading academic voice on campus and an outstanding citizen in the greater community. For more than 25 years of his life, Dr. Obler served the university with distinction, touching the lives of countless students and leaving an indelible mark on the community.

Dr. Obler's work, which focused on the link between moral theory and public policy, has been published in many prestigious academic journals, including *Political Theory*, *Comparative Politics*, and the *British Journal of Political Science*. He received numerous awards and distinctions during his tenure at UNC, including two Tanner Teaching Awards and a Students' Undergraduate Teaching Award. Yet Dr. Obler's most meaningful legacy was built through his unparalleled dedication to teaching.

In the classroom, Dr. Obler displayed an intellectual curiosity that never waned, inspiring his students to join him in the pursuit of knowledge with a style of teaching that was more engaging conversation than lecture. He could explain complex moral and political arguments with depth and conviction, while always encouraging students to arrive at their own conclusions and beliefs. This accessible style made Obler a favorite among undergraduates, who regularly lined up outside his door during office hours to seek his mentorship on issues large and small.

His abilities also won him great respect among his peers in the UNC faculty, many of whom have described him as the best classroom professor in the department. This respect was so great that Dr. Obler was selected from among the entire political science faculty to lead a course about teaching methods for graduate students. He also served the department as Director of Undergraduate Studies and Director of Internships and Awards.

Dr. Obler is survived by his two children, a long-time companion, and students like my staffers who will forever treasure the lessons he has taught them. His legacy is one that will be treasured for generations.

ARTS ADVOCACY DAY

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and support Arts Advocacy Day. I would like to thank the artists who have come to Capitol Hill to visit with members of Congress regarding support for arts education as essential to the creative ingenuity of the cultural fabric of our society. We appreciate their extraordinary talent and we welcome them to Washington.

The Congress must provide sufficient funding for arts education in our schools and the National Endowment for the Arts. These programs are vital to supporting the creation, preservation and presentation of the arts and humanities in America. In my district, numerous schools have taken essential steps toward