



UNITED FARM WORKERS

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE AFL-CIO



CESAR CHAVEZ
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GEORGE MEANY
PRESIDENT

WM. F. SCHNITZLER
SECRETARY-TREASURER

WILLIAM L. KIRCHER
DIRECTOR OF ORGANIZATION

MARCH 3, 1972

CESAR

*Here is The check that NAN FREEMAN
GAVE US, for The STRIKE 2 days later
she was killed by A scab of William D.
Pawleys, For Dog*



UNITED FARM WORKERS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, AFL-CIO
P.O. Box 62 • Keene, Ca. 93531 (805) 822-5571

March 21, 1972

Dr. Philip Mason
Labor Archives
144 Central Library
Wayne State University
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Phil,

This letter may arrive as you reach the West Coast, but I trust the matter can be cared for by your staff just as well.

I am enclosing something very precious to us: it is a check from Nan Freeman and a letter which accompanied it from Manuel Chavez. Nan was a volunteer with the Florida farm workers. Because of the tiny amount of money with which most volunteers operate, this gift from Nan was touching. Then two days later when she was accidentally killed on the picket line by a scab truck driver, her gift became immeasurable.

Now we would like her check to go into the Archives to represent the greatest gift anyone can give for another -- a life.

Thanks,

Susan Drake,
Secretary to Cesar Chavez

Enc. voided check for \$1.50
cc: Manuel Chavez

MWTC YOUR FULL SERVICE BANK

NAN C FREEMAN

No. 17

53-372

113

January 23 1972

PAY TO THE
ORDER OF

Manuel Chavez

\$ 1⁵⁰/₁₀₀ 00

One and ⁵⁰/₁₀₀

DOLLARS



Melrose • Wakefield

TRUST COMPANY

WAKEFIELD, MASS

⑆0113⑆0372⑆

202 970 711

Nan C. Freeman

MIDWESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
DIVISION FOR THE SPANISH SPEAKING
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
915 NORTH WASHINGTON, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48906

Newsletter

Volume V, Number 1
February, 1972

UNITED STATES
CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



CHAVEZ' STATEMENT ON THE DEATH OF NAN FREEMAN

Yesterday, January 25, 1972, Nan Freeman gave her life for farmworkers. She had joined with Cuban farmworkers in their struggle against the Talisman Sugar Company in Belle Glade, Florida.

Nan was hit by a truck on the picket line and was fatally injured. She was 18 years old when she died. To some, she is a young girl who lost her life in a tragic accident. To us, she is a sister who picketed with farmworkers in the middle of the night because of her love for justice. She is a young woman who fulfilled the commandments by loving her neighbor even to the point of sacrificing her own life.

To us, Nan Freeman, is kadosha (a Hebrew word) a holy person, to be honored and remembered for as long as farmworkers struggle for justice.

How can we measure the gift she has given to our cause? Will God give her another life to live? God has given Nan Freeman just one life and now that life is ended. Think on that, all who cherish our farmworkers' union. Nan Freeman, our young sister, has poured out her life so that farmworkers everywhere might be more free.

There is no way to repay her immeasurable gift. There are no words to thank her for what she has done. Some things we can do: Our whole movement is declaring a period of mourning decided upon by Nan's family.

We can remember Nan Freeman. We can honor her life and express our thoughts to her family.

We can give more of ourselves just because she has given everything. We must work together to build a farmworkers' union that was her love and her sacrifice.

Cesar Chavez 1/26/72

Telegram send by Cesar Chavez, January 25, 1972

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Freeman:

We are gathered here at our headquarters at La Paz to honor your daughter, Nan, who lost her life while serving farm workers. There are no words to say what we have on our hearts. We would lighten your pain if we could. We can only express our solidarity and promise to remember Nan's immeasurable gift and to work harder to make our farm workers' movement worthy of her love and her sacrifice.
"ZACHER TZADDIK L'VRACHA."

(Zacher Tzaddik l'Vracha = The memory of a righteous person is a blessing forever.)

Cesar Chavez and members
and staff: UFWOC

NAN FREEMAN

1953-1972

Her Life

Nan Freeman was born August 29, 1953. She graduated second in her class from Wakefield Memorial High School in Wakefield, Massachusetts. She participated in drama and American Field Service. She was a National Merit Scholar and in 1970 won the \$1K John F. Kennedy Award from the Massachusetts AFL-CIO for her knowledge of American Labor history. She was very active in her temple youth group and was a Shomeret Shabbat and Shomeret Kashrut (an observer of the Sabbath and of Jewish dietary laws).

Nan was a bright, inquisitive and thorough student who thought nothing of turning in 100 page papers for high school courses. The bibliography and footnotes for one of her high school reports were so extensive she turned them in a large brown paper bag.

Her interests were focused on the needs of her fellow human beings. She did papers on the struggles of working class people, Black Americans and Native Americans. As a teenager she worked with retarded children at the Fernald School in Massachusetts. In Sarasota, Florida, she volunteered her time at a day care center for black children. She helped with a self-help housing project for farm workers. In November and December of 1971, she worked at a half-way house in North Carolina. Upon returning home for the holidays, she proceeded to write a 200 page paper on the history of penal institutions.

Nan became interested in the struggle of farm workers in Florida through her professor, Marshall Berry, of New College. She did research on Florida citrus for the United Farm Workers. When the farm workers at the Talisman Sugar Company in Belle Glade Florida went on strike and asked for help, she was one of the first students to volunteer her time and energy.

Called "Morning Glory" by her friends, Nan was a happy person, full of fun and high spirits.

Her Death

On January 25, 1972, eighteen year old Nan Freeman was one of five New College students assisting workers with picketing and leafleting at the Talisman Sugar Plant's front gate. It was the second week of the strike.

Trucks hauling double trailers of sugar cane from the fields through the plant gates had been a source of concern to the striking workers. Overloaded to 70,000 lbs., the trucks were operated largely by inexperienced strikebreakers.

The pickets had complained to police of speeding that deliberately splashed mud and water on the striking workers, run stop signs and other violations. The local police took no action.

At 3:00 a.m. that morning, Nan was helping others in talking to the truck drivers and passing out leaflets, encouraging the drivers to join the strike.

At 3:15 a.m. a cane truck pulled off the highway onto the road leading to the plant gate. The driver stopped to talk with the pickets. When the truck started up and pulled away, the truck and trailer were not properly aligned. The side of the trailer loaded with cane hit Nan and knocked her into the guard railing. She fell to the ground, unconscious.

Palm Beach County Sheriff's deputies, who were parked a few hundred feet away, came quickly over and covered Nan with a blanket and called an ambulance. They commented that they could get no reflex responses and that her pulse seemed to be fading. The ambulance arrived about 25 minutes later. Nan Freeman was dead on arrival at Glades General Hospital in Belle Glade at 4:19 a.m. The truck driver was not prosecuted.

Drawn from document
produced by National Farm
Worker Ministry, L.A., CA

(EXERPT FROM STATEMENT BY CESAR CHAVEZ)

"To us Nan Freeman is "Kadosha", a Holy Person, to be honored and remembered for as long as farm workers struggle for justice. How can we measure the gift she has given to our cause?....There is no way to repay her immeasurable gift. There are no words to thank her for what she has done. Some things we can do: our whole movement is declaring a period of mourning that will correspond to the traditional seven day period of mourning. We can remember Nan Freeman. We can honor her life and express our thoughts to her family. We can give more of ourselves. Just because she has given everything. We must work together to build a farm workers' union that is worthy of her love and her sacrifice."

"In an age in which we and our children sorely need the inspiration of the morally inspired act, as distinct from the soaring but safe rhetoric that for most of us substitute for action, we must not forget Nan Freeman!" (Jewish Advocate, January 28, 1972)

NAGI DAIFULLAH

1949-1973

His Life

Nagi Daifullah came to this country from his native Yemen, looking for a better life. Yemenese farm workers are the latest group (as of 1977) to come to California and be exploited by state growers. Most of them, like Nagi, are young men in their early twenties, shy and slight of frame. Moslem, they speak no english and live in barren labor camps. They come because Yemen is one of the poorest countries in the world. In 1977, average anual income was \$94.

Nagi was 5 ft. tall and weighed 100 lbs. Unlike many of his fellow workers, he had learned english. Many times he served as an interpreter for union organizers. An active UFW member, he provided important leadership for workers on strike at Farms near Arvin and Lamont, California.

His Death

At approximately 1:15 a.m. on August 14, a group of 15 UFW members were socializing at the Smokehouse Cafe in Lamont, California. A Kern County Sheriff's Department vehicle arrived. One of the three officers in the car, Deputy Gilbert Cooper, began harrassing Frank Quintana, a UFW picket captain. Cooper attempted to arrest Quintana, who was quietly standing outside the cafe, for disturbing the peace. (Such an arrest was routine in the long harrassment and arrest campaign directed at UFW picket captains by the Sherrif's Department during the grape strike of 1973.)

The farmworkers who were with Quintana protested. In the midst of this confrontation, Cooper singled out 24 year old Nagi Daifullah and went after him. Nagi ran to get away and Deputy Cooper began chasing him. The Deputy caught up with Nagi and, without warning, swung a long metal flashlight at him, striking Nagi in the back of the head.

Nagi crumpled to the ground, unconscious and bleeding profusely.

Two sherrif's deputies dragged him sixty feet along the pavement. They left his body lying in the gutter near the rear door of the police car. People attempting to aid Nagi were told by the police to leave. Three of those that persisted in trying to help Nagi were arrested. The police did not call an ambulance. An ambulance was finally called by a private citizen.

Nagi died August 15 of massive brain damage and acute blood loss. A Kern County coroner's jury ruled the death "an accident."

Thousands of UFW workers and supporters took part in a four mile procession to a memorial service at the UFW's Forty Acres in Delano. The caravan then accompanied the casket to the Bakersfield airport. Nagi's body was flown home to Yemen for burial there.

Drawn from Document
Produced by NFWM, 1977



UNITED FARM WORKERS of AMERICA AFL-CIO

National Headquarters: La Paz, Keene, California 93570

(805) 822-5571

FILE

October 26, 1987

Robin Scherr
Barrio Planners, Inc.
5271 East Beverly Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90022

Dear Robin:

Enclosed is background on La Paz and the information you and Hersch requested on the five martyr memorial sites along the creekbed. Walking along the creekbed from our starting point north toward the microwave station, the sites commemorate the lives and deaths of:

Nan Freeman	1953-1972
Nagi Daifullah	1949-1973
Juan De La Cruz	1913-1973
Rufino Contreras	1951-1979
Rene Lopez	1962-1983

I was able to locate more detail on some than others. Let me know if you need anything else.

Best Regards,

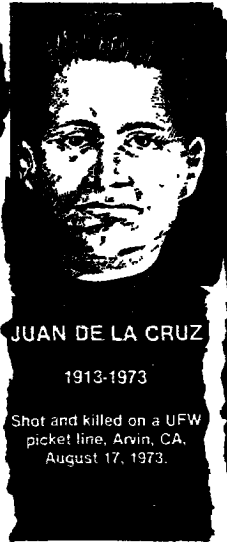
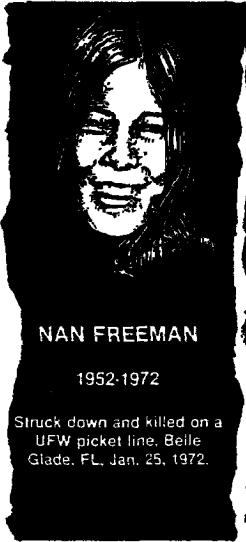

Mary Jo Flaherty

MJF/el

Enclosure

cc: Cesar Chavez

FARM WORKER WEEK 1980



These four persons have paid the highest price in the cause of justice for migrant and seasonal farm workers. They have given their lives so that the poorest of America's poor might live in dignity. They are martyrs-witnesses-in the truest sense, for they bear witness to the need for sacrifice by all of us so that this good cause might prevail.

We can remember them.

We can give purpose to their sacrifice
by what we do with our own lives.

We can give more of ourselves...
...because they gave everything.

LOOK FOR THE UFW LABEL



ASK FOR THE UFW LABEL



- I would like more information on how to help the United Farm Workers' movement.
 Enclosed is my check for the United Farm Workers of America.

NAME _____ PHONE () _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

MAIL TO: Local UFW Office or National Farm Worker Ministry
1430 West Olympic Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA. 90015
(213) 386-8130