

# **A JOURNEY FOR JUSTICE**

## **March 31st, 1995**

### **Celebration of the Legacy of Cesar E. Chavez**

**This is the second anniversary of Cesar Chavez' passing, and we want to commemorate his life and legacy with knowledge, commitment and action. Last year we commemorated his vision by retracing his steps in a pilgrimage from Delano to Sacramento - a march of 345 miles**

**We are asking that March 31, Cesar's birthday, be an international celebration seen not only as a day of recognition of the work and vision of Cesar Chavez, but also a day of recommitment to work for justice without violence. March 23 - April 23rd we will set aside as a time for educational activities leading up to and built around March 31st.**

**This recommitment to freedom as guaranteed in our constitution and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (and practiced by Cesar) guarantees freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and the right of all people to petition their government. It also asks that we protect the basic human rights of each individual as guaranteed in our Bill of Rights**

**March 31st should be a day when we focus these efforts across America to teach students of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We also should teach about how a humble farm worker, Cesar Chavez, could lead a people and provide an international example of how common people can do uncommon things - how you can work for justice nonviolently**

**This Journey for Justice asks students, teachers, families and community leaders to participate in a program that would include the following**

- A The Legacy of Cesar E. Chavez**  
**Education on his life, his vision, and his legacy of "seeking justice without violence" Written and audio/visual materials will be made available for such programs**
  
- B Public programs with academic presentations**  
**These programs would demonstrate learned knowledge at schools or in the communities using the following suggested activities**
  - Speeches**
  - Essays**
  - Songs**
  - Poems**
  - Poster Contests**

**C The Cesar E Chavez Children's Freedom Walk**

**A walk sponsored by friends and family to show school and community unity in a public demonstration of cooperation and non-violence. Funds raised will go to the development of The Cesar E Chavez Foundation. Part of the mission of the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation is the development of educational materials about Cesar's vision of justice and nonviolence for students of all ages.**

**We would ask that the students organize a Walk where the students would be sponsored to march so many miles by their supporters. This project will also help us to establish a network of people who can continue the work and legacy of Cesar Chavez. We are currently in the process of establishing a curriculum using the expertise of academics from a variety of universities.**

**Cesar's vision is one that asks us to dream the impossible and then to do it. We must instill in our youth and in our communities the hope and the promise that Cesar gave to farm workers, consumers, the poor, and all those who seek a better world for all of us. Cesar promised to work for justice and to never forget the poor. Cesar kept his promise to us and now we must make a promise to continue his legacy.**

**Those interested in participating can write to the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation to receive a packet of organizing materials, including;**

- 1 Biographical sketch and photos of Cesar**
- 2 Biographical video about Cesar's life and achievements**
- 3 List of honors and commemorations in Cesar's name**
- 4 Suggested activities for individuals, communities and schools  
like - essay, speech & poster contests, school activities, research projects**
- 5 Forms and materials for participation in the first annual Journey for Justice, a project to benefit the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation**

**To register with us write:**

**Cesar E. Chavez Foundation  
P O Box 62  
Keene, CA 93531  
Fax (805) 822-7329  
e-mail - <chavezfdtn@lgc.apc.org>**

**UNITED FARM WORKERS OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO  
LA PAZ, KEENE, CALIF 93570**

**Contact Marc Grossman  
Joceyln Sherman  
(805) 822-5571**

**For Release.  
April 24, 1993**

## **STATEMENT FROM THE UNITED FARM WORKERS**

*United Farm Workers of America Secretary-Treasurer David Martinez and union First Vice President Arturo Rodriguez today issued the following joint statement on behalf of the UFW*

The death of Cesar Chavez is a devastating personal loss for his family and for those of us in the movement who worked with him. It is still difficult for many of us to describe in words the emotions that we feel.

But it is not too early for us to testify to the legacy he leaves behind.

This movement, this union, was Cesar Chavez's life. For him, *La Causa*—the cause—was a life-long commitment. He gave it his last ounce of energy every day, day in and day out. And in the end, he gave it his life.

So it is understandable that the press would be wondering whether or not Cesar's death marks the end of the cause for which he fought.

For those who loved him and worked with him, for the millions who labor in America's farms and vineyards, and for millions more whose lives were changed by his example, Cesar's life can most appropriately be compared to the stone that gets cast into the middle of a pond.

From its impact, ripples grow in ever widening circles.

Those ripples are entire generations of farm workers who he taught to fight nonviolently and to stand up for their rights. They are the union members who work under UFW contract and enjoy the blessings of collective bargaining. But even at ranches with no union contracts, many growers can no longer treat people in the same old way because they'll fight back, just as Cesar taught them.

Cesar forever reversed the culture of oppression for farm workers who knew him and for farm workers he never met.

**Cesar put it best ~~himself~~ in a 1984 address before the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco**

**Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed You cannot uneducate the person who has learned to read You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore**

**Our opponents must understand that it's not just a union we have built. Unions, like other institutions, can come and go But we're more than an institution**

**For nearly 20 years, our union has been on the cutting edge of a people's cause And you cannot do away with an entire people' you cannot stamp out a people's cause**

**Regardless of what the future holds for our union, regardless of what the future holds for farm workers, our accomplishments cannot be undone *La Causa*—our cause—doesn't have to be experienced twice The consciousness and pride that were raised by our union are alive and thriving inside millions of young Hispanics who will never work on a farm**

**(Copies of the full text of that speech can be picked up here today )**

**\* \* \***

**We have a few announcements this afternoon**

**The reciting of the rosary will be held in Cesar's memory on Wednesday evening, April 28, followed by an all-night vigil A march, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial will be conducted on the morning of Thursday, April 29**

**In keeping with the wishes Cesar expressed to his family, funeral services will take place in Delano, where he founded the United Farm Workers 31 years ago and where he conducted his first and last ~~two~~ public fasts in 1968 and 1988, respectively**

**Also according to his expressed wishes, Cesar's brother Richard, a journeyman carpenter before joining the UFW in the 1960s, is building a plain pine casket to receive the body**

**More detailed information concerning the Wednesday and Thursday schedules will be released as details are arranged Information on other events planned between now and the funeral services will be released as soon as they are available**

For your information, Cesar's body arrived in California from Arizona at 6:30 Friday evening at Meadows Field in Bakersfield on a airplane chartered by ~~used~~ <sup>affron</sup> ~~supporter~~ <sup>Tania Davis Machinez</sup> from Phoenix. ~~Two union officers~~ <sup>Ben Miran</sup> accompanied the body on the plane.

We were met at the airport by Helen Chavez, Cesar's widow, his brother, Richard, all of his eight children and many of his 27 grandchildren. The body was transported by hearse to the Kern County Coroner's office in Bakersfield, where an autopsy was performed last night. All questions about the autopsy should be directed to County Coroner Helen Frankel. The only thing we want to emphasize is that from what we understand at this point, death resulted from natural causes.

At 8:30 p.m. Friday, a rosary was recited here at La Paz by about 200 UFW staff and Chavez family members.

An honor guard composed of farm workers has accompanied Cesar's body since it arrived in California. Farm workers will continue this round-the-clock vigil.

- end -

AMERICA  
WHEN  
CESAR CHAVEZ  
DIED



AMERICA  
WHEN ANOTHER  
FARM WORKER DIES  
FROM TOXIC  
WORKING CONDITIONS.



AMERICA  
WHILE GROWERS  
CONTINUE TO REAP  
HUGE PROFITS FROM  
EXPLOITING ADULT  
AND CHILD FARM  
LABOR.



# MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR CESAR CHAVEZ

Thursday June 10, 1993

7:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Cathedral  
5th Avenue at Craig Street

For More Information call 361-3022 — 363-4410 — 464-0739

The Rev John F Stevens  
5606 Buttercup  
League City Texas 77573

MAY 26 1993

\$50

May 22, 1993

Mrs Cesar Chavez,  
P O Box 62  
Keene, CA 93531

Dear Helen,

Next month I shall be 79 and cannot remember when I last cried. Except for the day Cesar died. I have now received your moving request for a contribution in his memory. Although we are retired on a modest fixed income, I enclose a small check as I hope may still

I take the liberty of writing you about the influence Cesar has had on my life and some of where it has taken me in nearly 30 years, not because it is of any importance to you but to help assuage my deep grief.

I first knew of the UFW in 1964 when I began contributing to the Farm Worker Ministry and gradually became a good friend of Chris Kerkure. Later that year Gene Nelson came to Houston to organize the Schenley boycott and was sent to me for help. I was able to find funds to open an office, organize some support and find money for a second printing of *Boalga*. From that I became a fervent supporter of La Causa.

In 1966 I joined the Episcopal Church's Executive Council staff in New York. I was made our representative to the Ministry and attended many inspirational meetings, several of which were at La Paz. It was there I met Cesar. One of the most memorable events was standing on the picket line in the Imperial Valley with tomato skins across the road. Two large men threatened and frightened me, probably because I was in clericals. On my wall is a picture taken that hot morning. I was in India that night when one of our group was killed.

In 1973, Chris warned me that for want of \$25,000 the UFW was in dire straits. Knowing the John Burt was a supporter and, as Bishop of Ohio, had access to funds, I phoned him and immediately received a check in the amount. Later, when I was coordinator of General Convention in Louisville, I had the pleasure of arranging for Cesar to address The House of Bishops and introducing him at a press conference. When he was challenged with the charge that the Church had paid for his trip, adducing the evidence that I had introduced him, he denied it with the loveliest thing anyone has ever said. "John introduced me because we love him and we think he loves us." I have a signed picture of him as I greeted him hanging on my study wall to commemorate that day.

One of my pleasant memories was the evening of a gathering in Phoenix when I was epistolar and concelerated the mass for the ministry and workers. I last saw Cesar when he was in Houston for a boycott demonstration. We had a brief talk at the AFL-CIO hall.

Except for my wife, no one has had more influence on my life than he. I grieve because people have lost an advocate for justice and also because I have lost a much loved friend. Betty Louise and I now live on a modest fixed income but we continue to support the UFW as much as we can and shall continue to do so.

Viva La Boalga,

