

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Cesar Chavez's ideal of nonviolent activism as shown
2 through his lifetime commitment to the rights of U.S. farmworkers
3 has led to a national regard for him as a great leader and
4 motivator; his contributions to the nation's attitude toward social
5 justice make him a role model for many; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Chavez's perseverance as a farmworker during his
7 youth, his patriotism during his period of active duty in the U.S.
8 Navy, and his service to underrepresented communities through the
9 organization of voting drives beginning in the 1950s all
10 contributed to a sensitive social consciousness that manifested
11 itself in his unending efforts for the rights of others; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Chavez acted out his beliefs in his founding of
13 the National Farm Workers Association in 1962, which merged with
14 the AFL-CIO's Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee in 1966 to
15 form the United Farm Workers of America, a unified organization
16 that came to be renowned for its success in gaining recognition for
17 workers' rights; and

18 WHEREAS, The United Farm Workers of America, under the
19 leadership of Mr. Chavez, brought together the diverse interests of
20 labor unions, churches, and student, minority, and consumer groups
21 to focus on mobilization around common issues of equality and
22 justice; the organization became particularly well known for its
23 participation in the California grape boycott of the 1960s and
24 1970s, a watershed event that gained the support of more than 17

1 million Americans and contributed to the establishment of the
2 movement still known today as "La Causa"; and

3 WHEREAS, The death of Cesar Chavez on April 23, 1993, was a
4 profound loss to the communities he tirelessly served and to an
5 entire nation that participated in his boycotts, knew about his
6 peaceful protests for farmworkers' rights, and both saw his image
7 and heard his name countless times; in a tribute indicative of the
8 impact he made on American society, more than 50,000 people mourned
9 him at his funeral in California; and

10 WHEREAS, Since his death, Mr. Chavez's memory has been
11 honored with the naming of numerous schools, streets, scholarships,
12 monuments, buildings, and parks for him; a number of U.S. cities
13 have annual celebrations in honor of Mr. Chavez, and several
14 states, including Texas, have declared his birthday, March 31, a
15 state holiday; in 1994, Mr. Chavez was awarded the nation's highest
16 civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and on April 23,
17 2003, he will be further memorialized for his tireless work for
18 justice and equality with the unveiling of the Cesar Chavez postage
19 stamp; and

20 WHEREAS, This year marks the 10th anniversary of the civil
21 rights and farm labor leader's passing, and it is indeed fitting
22 that Mr. Chavez receive formal recognition on a national level; his
23 humanitarian pursuits have earned him the highest respect from an
24 impressive diversity of groups and interests; as a leader, he
25 provides an outstanding example of commitment to and the exercise
26 of one's beliefs; as a Latino, he provides an admirable example to
27 the nation's fastest-growing demographic group; public and private

1 school students of all ages from all over the state will celebrate
2 March 31 in honor of Cesar Chavez, and schools should continue to
3 educate our children about the life and accomplishments of this
4 great man; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
6 Legislature hereby commemorate Cesar Chavez Day and extend to its
7 organizers and participants sincere best wishes for another
8 successful and memorable observance; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
10 prepared for the members of the United Farm Workers as a token of
11 high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.

Chavez
Alonzo
Pena

H.R. No. 649

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 649 was adopted by the House on March 31, 2003, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House