

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, A postage stamp honoring Cesar E. Chavez, one of  
2 America's foremost champions of social justice, is being issued by  
3 the United States Postal Service on April 23, 2003; and

4           WHEREAS, Mr. Chavez gained national renown as a founder and  
5 longtime leader of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO,  
6 whose mission has fused advocacy for farm laborers with activism  
7 for civil rights; and

8           WHEREAS, Born March 31, 1927, near Yuma, Arizona, and later  
9 raised in California, Mr. Chavez spent much of his youth as a  
10 migrant laborer; as a Latino and a farmworker, he learned firsthand  
11 about the indignities of second-class citizenship and the unhealthy  
12 working and living conditions endured by those who tended the  
13 fields; and

14           WHEREAS, After serving in the U.S. Navy from 1944 to 1946,  
15 Cesar Chavez returned to California, and in 1948 he married Helen  
16 Fabela; four years later he became a community organizer for the  
17 Community Service Organization (CSO), a Latino civil rights group  
18 that focused most of its work in urban areas, and by the late 1950s  
19 he had become its national director; and

20           WHEREAS, When in 1962 the CSO declined to organize California  
21 farmworkers, Mr. Chavez and his colleague Dolores Huerta left the  
22 organization to found the National Farm Workers Association, a  
23 forerunner of the UFW; their fledgling union gained national  
24 prominence just three years later when it came to the support of

1 workers who were striking California's grape growers; in addition  
2 to assuming leadership of the strike, Mr. Chavez launched a  
3 successful, nationwide consumers' boycott of nonunion grapes; and

4 WHEREAS, By the end of the five-year-long strike, the UFW had  
5 organized all of the California table-grape industry and negotiated  
6 the first collective bargaining agreements between American  
7 farmworkers and corporations; in 1975 Cesar Chavez and the UFW  
8 further succeeded in securing the passage of California's  
9 Agricultural Labor Relations Act, the first law in U.S. history  
10 granting farmworkers the right to unionize and bargain  
11 collectively; numerous other achievements gained under his  
12 leadership included the establishment of a farmworkers' medical  
13 plan, pension plan, and credit union, as well as the National Farm  
14 Workers Service Center, Inc., whose projects include the  
15 development of affordable housing, health clinics, cooperatives,  
16 and a retirement home; and

17 WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Cesar Chavez sought to advance  
18 La Causa, the movement, through nonviolent means--through strikes,  
19 pickets, and boycotts; on several occasions he also undertook  
20 lengthy fasts to draw public attention to the farmworkers'  
21 struggle; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Chavez continued to lead the UFW until his death  
23 on April 23, 1993; more than 50,000 people from across the country  
24 gathered to mourn him at his funeral, indicative of the  
25 far-reaching impact he had made on American society; and

26 WHEREAS, Since that time, numerous schools, streets,  
27 scholarships, monuments, buildings, and parks have been named in

1 his memory, a number of U.S. cities have initiated annual  
2 celebrations in tribute to his life, and several states, including  
3 Texas, have declared his birthday, March 31, a state holiday; in  
4 1994 Mr. Chavez was posthumously awarded the nation's highest  
5 honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom; and

6 WHEREAS, Cesar Chavez chose to devote his life to the pursuit  
7 of social and economic justice through nonviolent means, and his  
8 courage and steadfastness in this great work brought improved  
9 health, greater security, and hope for a brighter future to  
10 countless people; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
12 Legislature hereby commemorate the issuance of the Cesar E. Chavez  
13 stamp by the U.S. Postal Service and join in honoring the life of  
14 this revered American.

Chavez  
Alonzo  
Garza  
Hodge  
Wise

Craddick	Giddings	Merritt
Allen	Goodman	Miller
Alonzo	Goolsby	Moreno of Harris
Bailey	Griggs	Moreno of El Paso
Baxter	Grusendorf	Morrison
Berman	Guillen	Mowery
Bohac	Gutierrez	Naishtat
Bonnen	Haggerty	Nixon
Branch	Hamilton	Noriega
Brown of Kaufman	Hamric	Oliveira
Brown of Brazos	Hardcastle	Olivo
Burnam	Harper-Brown	Paxton
Callegari	Hartnett	Pena
Campbell	Heflin	Phillips
Canales	Hegar	Pickett
Capelo	Hilderbran	Pitts
Casteel	Hill	Puente
Castro	Hochberg	Quintanilla
Chavez	Hodge	Raymond
Chisum	Homer	Reyna
Christian	Hope	Riddle
Coleman	Hopson	Ritter
Cook of Navarro	Howard	Rodriguez
Cook of Colorado	Hughes	Rose
Corte	Hunter	Seaman
Crabb	Hupp	Smith of Tarrant
Crownover	Isett	Smith of Harris
Davis of Harris	Jones of Lubbock	Smithee
Davis of Dallas	Jones of Bexar	Solis
Dawson	Jones of Dallas	Solomons
Delisi	Keel	Stick
Denny	Keffer of Dallas	Swinford
Deshotel	Keffer of Eastland	Talton
Driver	King	Taylor
Dukes	Kolkhorst	Telford
Dunnam	Krusee	Thompson
Dutton	Kuempel	Truitt
Edwards	Laney	Turner
Eiland	Laubenberg	Uresti
Eissler	Lewis	Van Arsdale
Elkins	Luna	Villarreal
Ellis	Mabry	West
Farabee	Madden	Wilson
Farrar	Marchant	Wise
Flores	Martinez Fischer	Wohlgemuth
Flynn	McCall	Wolens
Gallego	McClendon	Wong
Garza	McReynolds	Woolley
Gattis	Menendez	Zedler
Geren	Mercer	

H.R. No. 765

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 765 was adopted by the House on April 24, 2003, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House