

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A passionate advocate for social justice and civil
2 rights for the poor and disenfranchised, Cesar Chavez was a true
3 American hero, and the anniversary of his birth on March 31 provides
4 a fitting opportunity to remember and honor his many contributions;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Born in 1927 near Yuma, Arizona, Cesar Chavez was 10
7 years old when his family lost their farm in the Great Depression
8 and became migrant farmworkers; throughout his youth and into his
9 adulthood, Mr. Chavez traveled across the Southwest, laboring in
10 the fields and vineyards and attending more than 30 different
11 schools by the time he was in the eighth grade; and

12 WHEREAS, After serving in the U.S. Navy for two years, he
13 returned home to marry Helen Fabela, whom he had met while working
14 in the vineyards of central California; settling with his wife in
15 the East San Jose barrio of Sal Si Puedes, he returned to farming to
16 support his young family; and

17 WHEREAS, Witnessing firsthand the hardships and injustices
18 of farmworker life, Mr. Chavez joined the Community Service
19 Organization, a prominent Latino civil rights group, in 1952; while
20 with the CSO, he coordinated voter registration drives and
21 conducted campaigns against racial and economic discrimination; in
22 the late 1950s and early 1960s, he served as the CSO's national
23 director; and

24 WHEREAS, Determined to create an organization that would

1 protect and serve farmworkers, he resigned from the CSO in 1962,
2 leaving the security of a regular paycheck, and moved with his wife
3 and eight children to Delano, where he founded the first successful
4 farmworkers union in American history; originally called the
5 National Farm Workers Association, the organization later became
6 known as the United Farm Workers of America; and

7 WHEREAS, For more than three decades, Mr. Chavez led this
8 groundbreaking organization by effecting change through peaceful
9 tactics such as fasts, boycotts, strikes, and pilgrimages; his
10 union's efforts influenced and inspired millions of Americans,
11 forging a diverse national coalition of students, middle-class
12 consumers, religious groups, and minorities in a hard-won struggle
13 to achieve fair wages, medical coverage, pension benefits, humane
14 living conditions, and perhaps most important, dignity and respect
15 for the hundreds of thousands of farmworkers across the country;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, In 1991, this second-generation American received
18 the Aguila Azteca award, the highest award Mexico can bestow on a
19 person of Mexican heritage, and in 1994, a year after his death on
20 April 23, 1993, his widow accepted the Presidential Medal of
21 Freedom, America's highest civilian honor, on behalf of her late
22 husband; since his death, communities across the nation have chosen
23 to pay homage to Mr. Chavez by naming schools, parks, streets, and
24 libraries, as well as scholarships and awards, in his honor; and

25 WHEREAS, His motto in life, "si se puede," or "it can be
26 done," embodies the legacy that Cesar Chavez has left for the
27 world's benefit, and his principles of equality, justice, and

H.R. No. 809

1 dignity for all Americans remain as essential and as relevant today
2 as they were when he began his important life's work; now,
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
5 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Cesar Chavez by
6 recognizing March 31 to April 23, 2005, as Cesar Chavez Farmworker
7 Appreciation Month and encourage all Texans to reflect on and
8 celebrate the extraordinary achievements of this inspiring
9 humanitarian.

Chavez
Alonzo
Gonzales
Martinez
Burnam

Craddick	Geren	Menendez
Allen of Harris	Giddings	Merritt
Allen of Dallas	Gonzales	Miller
Alonzo	Gonzalez Toureilles	Moreno of Harris
Anchia	Goodman	Moreno of El Paso
Anderson	Goolsby	Morrison
Bailey	Griggs	Mowery
Baxter	Grusendorf	Naishtat
Berman	Guillen	Nixon
Blake	Haggerty	Noriega
Bohac	Hamilton	Oliveira
Bonnen	Hamric	Olivo
Branch	Hardcastle	Orr
Brown of Kaufman	Harper-Brown	Otto
Brown of Brazos	Hartnett	Paxton
Burnam	Hegar	Pena
Callegari	Herrero	Phillips
Campbell	Hilderbran	Pickett
Casteel	Hill	Pitts
Castro	Hochberg	Puente
Chavez	Hodge	Quintanilla
Chisum	Homer	Raymond
Coleman	Hope	Reyna
Cook of Navarro	Hopson	Riddle
Cook of Colorado	Howard	Ritter
Corte	Hughes	Rodriguez
Crabb	Hunter	Rose
Crownover	Hupp	Seaman
Davis of Harris	Isett	Smith of Tarrant
Davis of Dallas	Jackson	Smith of Harris
Dawson	Jones of Lubbock	Smithee
Delisi	Jones of Dallas	Solis
Denny	Keel	Solomons
Deshotel	Keffer of Dallas	Strama
Driver	Keffer of Eastland	Straus
Dukes	King of Parker	Swinford
Dunnam	King of Zavala	Talton
Dutton	Kolkhorst	Taylor
Edwards	Krusee	Thompson
Eiland	Kuempel	Truitt
Eissler	Laney	Turner
Elkins	Laubenberg	Uresti
Escobar	Leibowitz	Van Arsdale
Farabee	Luna	Veasey
Farrar	Madden	Villarreal
Flores	Martinez	Vo
Flynn	Martinez Fischer	West
Frost	McCall	Wong
Gallego	McClendon	Woolley
Gattis	McReynolds	Zedler

H.R. No. 809

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 809 was adopted by the House on March 31, 2005, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House