

**PROCLAIMING  
CESAR CHAVEZ DAY  
MARCH 31, 2005**

**WHEREAS**, Cesar Estrada Chavez was born on March 31, 1927, on a small farm near Yuma, Arizona. He began his life as a migrant farmer after his father lost their land during the depression. As the family began laboring in fields and vineyards of the Southwest, young Cesar Chavez quit school to help support his family on a full-time basis; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1945 Cesar Chavez joined the United States Navy and served during World War II. He met his wife, Helen Fabela, while working in the Delano vineyards, and they were married in 1948. The family settled in the East San Jose barrio of Sal Si Puedes (get out if you can); and

**WHEREAS**, in 1952 Cesar Chavez met Fred Ross, an organizer for the Community Service Organization (CSO). Cesar Chavez became an organizer for CSO, coordinating voter registration drives, battling racial and economic discrimination against Chicano residents, and organizing new chapters of the CSO across California and Arizona. He then served as the CSO national director. When the CSO failed to commit to helping migrant farm workers organize, he quit his job and founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA); and

**WHEREAS**, the NFWA, with 1,200 member families, joined an AFL-CIO sponsored union in a strike against Delano growers in September and formed the United Farm Workers (UFW) in 1966. In 1968 Cesar Chavez conducted a 25-day fast to reaffirm the UFW's commitment to non-violence; the boycott against grape growers convinced them to sign contracts with the UFW in 1970. In 1973, failed renegotiations caused a walkout by 10,000 farm workers in California; and

**WHEREAS**, by 1975 a poll showed that 17 million Americans supported the boycott that Cesar Chavez organized; forcing growers to support the 1975 Agricultural Labor Relations Act. In 1982 the California Farm Labor Board ceased to enforce the Act, and Cesar Chavez called for another boycott in 1984. In 1988 he conducted a 36-day "Fast for Life" to protest the pesticide poisoning of farm workers; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1991 Cesar Chavez received the Aguila Azteca (The Aztec Eagle), the highest award given by Mexico to people of Mexican heritage who have made major contributions outside of Mexico. On April 23, 1993, Cesar Chavez passed away, with more than 40,000 people participating in his funeral. In 1994 he posthumously received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Bill Clinton, becoming the second Mexican-American to receive the award; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1994 the family of Cesar Chavez and the officers of the United Farm Workers created the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation to "inspire current and future generations by promoting the ideals of Cesar Chavez's life."

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin hereby proclaims March 31, 2005, to be Cesar Chavez Day in the County of Marin in memory of this great leader of the United States farm workers movement; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a suitable copy of this resolution be prominently displayed at the Pickleweed Community Center in San Rafael.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held on this 29th day of March, 2005, by the following vote:

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| <b>AYES:</b> | <b>SUPERVISORS</b> | Charles McGlashan, Susan L. Adams, Steve Kinsey,<br>Cynthia L. Murray, Harold C. Brown, Jr. |
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| <b>NOES:</b> | <b>SUPERVISORS</b> | None |
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| <b>ABSENT:</b> | <b>SUPERVISORS</b> | None |
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