

Administration of Barack H. Obama, 2009

Statement Commemorating the Birthday of Cesar Chavez

March 31, 2009

Today, on what would have been his 82d birthday, Cesar Chavez's legacy as an educator, environmentalist, and as a civil rights leader who struggled for fair treatment and fair wages for America's workers is important for every American to remember.

Having begun as a farm worker, Cesar Chavez eventually cofounded the United Farm Workers and struggled to provide hundreds of thousands of people with better working conditions and the chance to live a better life. The cause of fair treatment and fair wages for America's workers lives on today through the work of countless others.

Chavez's rallying cry, "*Si se puede*"—"Yes we can," was more than a slogan, it was an expression of hope and a rejection of those who said farm workers could not organize and could not take on the growers. Through his courage, Cesar Chavez taught us that a single voice could change our country, and that together, we could make America a stronger, more just, and more prosperous nation.

Categories: Statements by the President : Cesar Chavez, birthday.

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