

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 20-0331 Cesar Chavez Day

WHEREAS, César Estrada Chávez was born on March 31, 1927 on a small farm near Yuma, Arizona, and during the Great Depression, César Chávez' father lost his small farming business, and the family, joined some 30,000 farm workers, following the crops from Arizona to Texas to California into Colorado; and

WHEREAS, César Chávez left school following the eighth grade to work in the fields and vineyards of the Southwest to help support his family; and thereafter, in 1944, at the young age of 17, César Chávez joined the Navy and served this country honorably; and

WHEREAS, César Chávez dedicated his life to improving the plight of farm workers through struggle, sacrifice and self-denial, who suffered from racial discrimination and exploitative working conditions; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, César Chávez and Dolores Huerta created the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the United Farm Worker of America (UFW), which believed in the principles of nonviolence, using tactics such as pilgrimages, boycotts, marches, strikes, and fasts to lead a successful 5-year boycott against agribusiness, developing a national movement which spread across the southwest; and

WHEREAS, César Chávez was an inspiration to millions of Americans to seek out social justice and civil rights for the poor and disenfranchised across the world and right here in Denver. In 1991, Mexico awarded Cesar Chavez the Aztec Eagle, Mexico's highest award presented to people of Mexican heritage; and

WHEREAS, in July 2001, Denver Mayor Wellington Webb signed an ordinance establishing that the last Monday in March would be an observed holiday in the City and County of Denver to honor the life and accomplishments of César Chávez.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That Monday, March 29, 2021 be recognized as César Chávez Day.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to the César Chávez Peace and Justice Committee.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL March 22, 2021

PRESIDENT