

for his role in hiring and directing the killers.

Dolores Lopez, Rene's mother tells us that Rene was very proud of his association with the union. When he was still in his mid-teens in high school, he had travelled to Stockton to support a big UFW tomato strike, as well as to learn more about the UFW.

During the first days of the election campaign, Dolores says that her young son came in with a big smile, saying proudly but with sincerity, "Today I am a man. Today I signed a UFW authorization card to become a member of the United Farm Workers."

Hundreds of workers and supporters joined the Lopez family in Fresno. There were flower baskets and funeral wreaths bearing names of UFW committees from throughout California, from Delano, Coachella, Napa, Salinas, and Calexico from vegetable, citrus, grape, poultry, and other workers.

There was one small wreath that said "Querido Novio." ("Beloved Sweetheart"). They were supposed to have been married the weekend he was murdered.

Statement by Cesar Chavez

On behalf of all of us here, we extend our deepest sympathies to Rene's family - his mother Dolores, his father Francisco, his brother Efren, his sister Lupe, his sister Rebecca, his sister Yolanda, his brother Juan Francisco, and his sisters Iliana (and Grace), and grandparents Fernando & Tomasa Lopez and Ignacio and Virginia Robles.

Thanks be to God, Rene's mother, father, brothers and sisters, whom he loved so much, were able to be with him at his bedside during his final hours. Rene left them a beautiful heritage of courage and faith...a heritage that, please God, will sustain them, come what may, until they meet him again in paradise.

Rene Lopez's good deeds are known to all of you and, especially, to the members of his family...good deeds, above all of charity and kindness and human compassion. These good deeds go with him and live after him...and for that reason, his funeral this morning is an occasion not for gloom, much less for despair, but rather an opportunity to celebrate, in a spirit of Christian joy, Rene's life and the goodness and the mercy of God.

The Book of Wisdom tells us: "Length of days is not what makes age honorable, nor number of years the true measure of life. Understanding, this is a man's grey hairs. The virtuous man, though he died before his time, will find rest."

All who knew Rene Lopez as a personal friend or more immediately as a member of the family, can vouch for the fact that he had understanding. By this I mean that he had the gift of faith, the