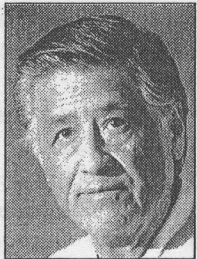


Stamp to honor Chavez

The Bakersfield Californian

The long campaign for a postage stamp honoring the late farm labor leader Cesar Chavez will bear fruit next week.

The U.S. Postal Service is scheduled to unveil a stamp bearing the likeness of the man who co-founded the United Farm Workers of America in a ceremony in Washington, D.C., Wednesday.



Chavez

Hosted by U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., the ceremony will include Paul Chavez, Cesar's son; Dolores Huerta of Bakersfield, the

other co-founder of the union; and Arturo Rodriguez, the current president of the union.

Kennedy is the brother of the late Robert F. Kennedy, who was a great admirer of Chavez. Robert Kennedy visited Chavez in Delano in 1968, participating in a Mass at which Chavez broke a 25-day fast.

At the time, Kennedy was campaigning for president; just a few days later he was assassinated in Los Angeles, shortly after he was declared the winner of the California Democratic presidential primary election.

The first-class postage stamp will be issued for general use on April 23, 2003, the 10th anniversary of Chavez' death, said Annie Brown, communications director of the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation.

The stamp is the result of years of campaigning by the foundation and Chavez admirers like Sen. Edward Kennedy. The foundation promotes projects to preserve the Chavez legacy through education and public service.

STAMP: Growers' organization not thrilled with honor

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Arturo Rodriguez, who succeeded Chavez as UFW president; and John J. Sweeney, president of the AFL-CIO.

The stamp image was painted by freelance illustrator Robert Rodriguez, postal officials said. It features a portrait of Chavez based on a 1976 photo against a background of empty grape fields.

It is the latest in a series of honors for Chavez, who headed the union for many years from Delano. It's headquarters is now in Keene in southern Kern County.

Two years ago, the Legislature established an annual holiday for state employees on his birthday.

Last year, Sacramento city officials commissioned a sculpture of Chavez in a park also named for him.

Also, around the state, many schools, streets and other facilities are named for him.

When the union's inspiration
Through the worker's blood shall run,
There shall be no power greater
Anywhere beneath the sun.
For what force on earth is weaker
Than the feeble strength of one.
But the Union makes us strong!

Solidarity forever,
Solidarity forever,
Solidarity forever,
For the Union makes us strong!

