

Cesar's work transcended any one movement or cause. He inspired millions of Americans to seek social justice and civil rights for the poor and disenfranchised. He advocated for nonviolent social reform. He was an environmentalist and labor leader. Ultimately, he forged an extraordinary and diverse national coalition of students, middle-class consumers, trade unionists, religious groups, and women and minorities.

Cesar was born on March 31, 1927, near his family's farm in Yuma, Arizona. He spent his youth working with his family in agricultural fields throughout the Southwest. Cesar joined the U.S. Navy in 1946, and served in the Western Pacific in the aftermath of World War II. In 1952, he became a community organizer for the most prominent Latino civil rights organization of that time, the Community Service Organization, before founding the United Farm Workers of America. He passed away in his sleep on April 23, 1993, a few miles from the farm where he was born.

"I'm honored to be part of the stamp unveiling," said Senator Edward M. Kennedy. "Cesar Chavez is a true American hero. His untiring leadership and his commitment to non-violence gave hope to thousands of oppressed farm workers, and his legacy continues to inspire millions of Americans to challenge injustice and achieve peaceful change."

The Cesar E. Chavez Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization 501(c)(3) established by Cesar's family and friends in 1993, whose mission is to preserve, promote and apply the legacy and values of civil rights and farm labor leader Cesar E. Chavez through contemporary programming and scholarships that promote community involvement, non-violence, education, environmental stewardship, justice and equality for all Americans. The Foundation's programming utilizes Cesar's vital legacy to teach individuals that they have inherent and unlimited potential to make a difference in their own lives, in their communities, and in the world as a whole.  
[www.chavezfoundation.org](http://www.chavezfoundation.org)

### **Event Participants**

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA)

Senator John McCain (R-AZ)

Ben Ocasio, United States Postal Service Representative

Paul F. Chavez, Cesar's son and Cesar E. Chavez Foundation, Chairman of the Board

Arturo S. Rodriguez, UFW, President

John J. Sweeney, AFL-CIO, President

Henry Cisneros, American City Vista, Chief Executive Officer

Andres F. Irlando, Cesar E. Chavez Foundation, Executive Director

Raul Yzaguirre, National Council of La Raza, President

Dolores Huerta, United Farm Workers, Co-founder

Members of the California Delegation

Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus &nb

### **Cesar E. Chavez Honored by Words of Reflection**

"Cesar and Bobby, two heroic hearts forged in the crucible of the struggle for equality and justice for all, reflect the poet's words, 'Born of the sun they traveled a short while towards the sun, and left the vivid air signed with their honor.'"

*-Ethel Kennedy, Widow of Robert F. Kennedy*

"I had the great privilege of knowing Cesar and working with him on some of his projects, and I was proud to march by his side in a number of the campaigns he led. Cesar was a courageous, selfless and dedicated leader of oppressed and exploited people, very much in the nonviolent spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr. Honoring Cesar