

struggling against history.

For 100 years, every strike had been crushed. Every union had been defeated. Before Cesar, all the experts said farm workers couldn't be organized. He spent 31 years proving them wrong.

He organized, led strikes, marched, boycotted and fasted. He won the first real union contracts between growers and farm workers in U.S. history. He negotiated contracts that provided farm workers with gains that were unimaginable only a short time before.

He won the first--and only--state law in the nation protecting the right to organize and bargain.

He adopted key strategies that distinguished the UFW from the failed organizing attempts of the past:

- * Nonviolence was always more than a strategy for Cesar. But it also won widespread public support for the cause.

- * Cesar adopted self-imposed poverty. He knew from history that past organizing efforts failed when the unions ran out of money.

- * And he asked consumers across North America to boycott grapes and other products, forging a broad coalition behind the farm workers' cause.

Yet I am convinced that at the core of Cesar's success were a very a very simple principle: Unlike previous organizing efforts, which were imposed from the outside, Cesar--because he was a farm worker--sought to build a farm workers' union that was by, for and of farm workers.

One reason farm workers were so drawn to him was because he was one of them. As his son, Paul, said of his father, "He walked among presidents and popes, but he never thought of himself as anything but a simple farm worker."

Years ago a reporter asked Cesar what accounted for the admiration and respect farm workers showed him in public. He smiled and just said, "The feeling is mutual."

On this day it is well to remember that you can't honor the man without honoring his work. The greatest monument to Cesar Chavez is the union he built and the courage to work for change that he inspired in his own people. Those of us who succeed him are more committed than ever to finish the unfinished work of Cesar Chavez.

- end -

**Remarks by Paul F. Chavez, President
National Farm Workers Service Center, Inc.
Unveiling Cesar Chavez Stamp
Washington, D.C.--Sept. 18, 2002**

We're here to unveil a commemorative stamp honoring the life and work of my father. It is a fitting tribute to his place in American history and to what his legacy continues to mean for millions of people.