

Stamp honors Chavez

Local residents pay homage to national hero's legacy

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In one man's honor, schools, streets, buildings and parks have
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Senator Edward M. Kennedy congratulates Keene resident Paul Chavez, son of Cesar Chavez at the unveiling of the Cesar E. Chavez Commemorative Stamp at the U.S Capitol in Washington D.C., with Cesar's daughter, Golden Hills resident Liz Villarino, standing beside the Senator.

Photo by Melanie Burford, Special to the Californian

been dedicated, as well as celebrated state, city and county holidays. Cesar E. Chavez, founder of the United Farm Workers Union, now has been honored with a commemorative stamp by the U.S. Postal Service.

On Sept. 19, Cesar's children, Paul Chavez of Keene and Liz Villarino of Golden Hills, attended the stamp's unveiling and were joined by a number of high profile legislators at the Capitol Hill ceremony in Washington, D.C.

In the "Stamp of Honor" article in the Sept. 19 issue of the *Bakersfield Californian*, Vic Pollard quoted U.S.

Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) calling Chavez "one of the heroic figures of our time" as he presided over the unveiling ceremony.

The USPS Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee stamp annually receives and reviews more than 50,000 inquiries recommending stamp subjects and designs. Of those, approximately 25 are actually recommended each year.

On April 23, 2003, the 37-cent stamp will be issued on the 10th anniversary of his passing.

"My father's teachings of compassion, justice and dignity still ring true almost a decade after his passing," Paul was quoted in Pollard's article.

Pollard also wrote the list of digni-

taries included Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.; Dolores Huerta of Bakersfield, co-founder of the union; Arturo Rodriguez, who succeeded Chavez as UFW president; and John J. Sweeney, president of the AFL-CIO.

Cesar relocated the United Farm Workers Union headquarters from

Delano to Keene in 1969. Ever since, the Chavez family has made Tehachapi their home with 25 of Cesar's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren having graduated from or attended Tehachapi schools.

California Assemblyman Phil Wyman Field Representative Barbara Ybarra, Cesar's granddaughter, said having the USPS recognize her grandfather by creating a stamp in his memory is a personal honor for her and her family.

"What this does is solidify his place in our country and its history," she said. "I'm thrilled to see all his hard work and determination has been recognized and rewarded."

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— Paul Chavez

