

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 75

Introduced by Vargas, 7.

WHEREAS, Cesar Chavez was born on March 31, 1927, on a family farm near Yuma, Arizona; and

WHEREAS, after losing the farm during the Great Depression, Cesar Chavez became a migrant farm worker at age 10 in California, and was forced to leave school to help support his family; and

WHEREAS, Cesar Chavez served our nation in the United States Navy before returning to California, where he married Helen Fabela and raised eight children; and

WHEREAS, in 1949, Cesar Chavez began advocating for civil rights and labor rights for farm workers in Delano, California, campaigning for fair wages, better working and living conditions, and fighting against the use of child labor; and

WHEREAS, in 1952, he joined the Community Service Organization, becoming the national director in 1958, where he began his campaign for workers' rights by encouraging the Latinx community to register and exercise their right to vote; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, Cesar Chavez co-founded the National Farm Workers Association with Dolores Huerta, which later expanded nationally to become the United Farm Workers of America; and

WHEREAS, Cesar Chavez was a leader of non-violent protests, boycotts, and strikes that rallied millions to "La Causa," including a five-year grape-pickers' strike that, in 1970, was successful in gaining fair wages for thousands of workers; and

WHEREAS, the work of Cesar Chavez's national and international campaigns led to the abolishment of the Bracero Program, which resulted in higher wages

and improved safety, health, and other working conditions for farm workers, brought attention to discrimination faced by farm workers, and established collective bargaining agreements that covered an estimated 80,000 farm workers across the nation; and

WHEREAS, Cesar Chavez held fasts as a peaceful tactic to continue to bring attention to the plight of farm workers in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Cesar Chavez passed away on April 23, 1993, at the age of 66 in Arizona and more than 50,000 people attended his funeral at the United Farm Workers of America headquarters in Keene, California; and

WHEREAS, on August 8, 1994, Cesar Chavez was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton, and portraits and artwork depicting Chavez now hang in the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, the legacy of Cesar Chavez lives on in the mission of the United Farm Workers of America, the continued work and advocacy of his descendants, and the millions of people around the world who continue his peaceful calls for a more just and equal society and are inspired by his leadership to work for improvements in workers' rights, human rights, and civil rights worldwide.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Nebraska Legislature joins numerous states and communities by designating March 31, 2017, as Cesar Chavez Day in Nebraska.

2. That the Nebraska Legislature recognizes the accomplishments and service of farm workers in Nebraska and across the country.

3. That the Nebraska Legislature encourages Nebraskans to participate in community service projects and events to celebrate Cesar Chavez's life and work.