

We must find new and more effective ways for employers and employees to work together. It must be done in order to help American workers compete in the world marketplace and work in safe conditions.

We must remind ourselves of the contributions and sacrifices made by our workers every day. Workers Memorial Day is a fitting tribute for those who were injured, or died in the workplace.

### THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

#### HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 7, 1995

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to highlight the results of a survey conducted by one of the leading senior citizens advocacy groups in the Nation, 60 PLUS, which is dedicated to tax fairness for seniors.

This organization, which has over 250,000 members and is headed by former Congressman Roger Zion, polled 100,000 of its members, and by a 3-to-1 margin, they support the Republican tax fairness bill. Representative Zion and 60 PLUS Chairman Jim Martin delivered thousands of mailgram petitions to the Capitol steps earlier this week in support of this measure, noting that it lifts the outside earnings limit on Social Security beneficiaries, repeals the 1993 Clinton tax increase on seniors, increases the exemption from Federal estate taxes, reduces the capital gains tax, reforms SSI, and provides a tax credit for elderly care in the home.

Mr. Speaker, as Representatives of the people, we need to listen to their voices, and act accordingly.

### HONORING THE CESAR CHAVEZ WRITING CONTEST AWARD WINNERS OF THE EAST SIDE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

#### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 7, 1995

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize more of the winners of the first annual Cesar Chavez writing contest held by the East Side Union High School District in San Jose, CA. I had the great privilege of attending the award ceremony honoring the student winners on March 31, 1995, and would like to continue sharing the essays and poems written by the student award winners with my colleagues.

On April 4, 1995, I began by sharing the essays and poems of the grand prize winners and three of the first place winners, and today I will share the five remaining first prize entries, and the first three of eight second place winning entries. On April 6, 1995, I shared the remaining five essays and poems of the second place winners.

The first prize winning essays and poems of Lisette Munoz of W.C. Overfelt High School, Ahmed Desai of Piedmont Hills High School, Brenda Reyes of Silver Creek High School and Eulala Reynolds of Yerba Buena High School follow:

CESAR CHAVEZ

(By Lisette Munoz of W.C. Overfelt High School)

To some he was a hero but he only saw himself as a man.

A man I believe put on this earth to help the disadvantage.

His struggle was not easy for he faced much prejudice.

An acquire prejudice brought upon be ignorance.

His people, he saw hunched over in the fields, sweat upon their brows, pain in their backs, hands blistered and skin darkened from the sun.

All eyes were wide open, everyone looked around but no one took stand.

Cesar Chavez felt something in his gut this was 'El Movimiento.'

He stood amid the mist of the pesticides and began to walk, and surprisingly, the people followed.

He then knew that all the people needed was a leader who was dedicated to his cause.

He fasted so that people would listen.

He pointed out the forgotten ones.

Babies deformed by the hands and inventions of man.

He did what he needed to go change would come about.

He did all this but his body couldn't withstand the battle.

He entered the souls of all of his followers, and his spirit became the agila on our flag, soaring to continue the unfinished struggle.

DEDICATED TO A DEDICATOR

(By Ahmed Desai of Piedmont Hills)

In a modern world dominated by models who are athletic superstars, rarely is society given the gift of a true hero. The late Cesar Estrada Chavez was and continues to be such a unique individual who deserves the title of "genuine model." Chavez is an inspiration to many, and a teacher to all. There is much that he stood for, and even more that today's youth can learn from him.

A servant not to his own wants and desires, but rather to those of his community, Cesar Chavez reminds the young to put the needs of others before one's own. He utilized the tactics of civil disobedience and peaceful protests only to bring about change for the better and for society, and not for his personal gains or rewards. Armed with a strong dedication, yet a descendant of a poor background and a minority ethnic group, Chavez proved that anyone, anywhere, with perseverance, can succeed and make a difference. Withstanding and conquering numerous obstacles, he neither gave up nor lost hope. He worked long and hard, rested little, and made nothing come between him and his goal. As a result of years of continuous struggles, Cesar Chavez achieved his goal and gained rights for farm laborers. Youths of today can see themselves in Chavez, as they prepare their future aspirations and discover ways to accomplish them. As a model, Cesar Chavez teaches youngsters that the best and only method for success is through dedication and persistence.

Cesar Chavez lives on as a leader to whom teens can relate and look up. He was human and knew his strengths and limits. He did not only talk about ideas, but took charge and did things to make them a reality. Chavez, even with his short stay on earth, proved that a lot can be done in and with so little. Moreover, he made the most of what he had and did not ask for more than what he felt was deserved. The lifestyle that he led includes many lessons that can be beneficial to today's new generation. Let us reflect the past actions of Cesar Estrada Chavez, a great humanitarian. Feliz Cumpleaños, señor Chavez.

BATTLE

(By Maria Gonzalez of Santa Teresa High School)

He fought for what was right, It didn't matter if it was Day or night.

He fought for our race, And battled face to face With the dangers we find When we are the alien race.

Latino, Hispanic, Chicano Some of the names he was called.

Proud to be who he was, And what he stood for, Equality.

He was a leader urging us to Fight. A leader explaining our right's.

Our right's as people Our right's for freedom Our right to come to this Country, fight the odds, and Win.

"WHO IS HE?"

(By Brenda Reyes of Silver Creek High School)

The fields were his life.

Los files eran su vida.

The crops in the fields were his life.

Las cosechas que crecian en los files, eran su vida.

The people picking the crops in the fields, were his life.

La gente que cortaba la cosecha en los files, eran su vida.

The pesticides that fell upon the people, became his enemy.

Los insecticidas que caian sobre la gente en los files, se convirtieron en su enemigo.

They became his concern.

Ellos se hicieron su preocupacion.

His struggle.

Su batalla.

His fight.

Su pelea.

But no one cared.

Pero a nadie le importo.

"I will make a difference" he said.

El dijo, "Yo hare la diferencia."

"I will bring justice" he said.

El dijo, "Yo traire justicia."

"Something will be done!" El dijo.

But no one listened.

Pero nadien escucho.

"No grapes" he yells.

"Uvas no" El grita.

"Who is he mommy?" a little girl asked.

"Quien es el mami?" una nina pregunto.

"I do not know" the mom answers.

"No lo se" contesto la madre.

"One day I will be like him, mommy." the girl said.

"Un dia sere como el mami." dijo la nina.

"I will fight for what I believe, and I will be a leader."

"Yo peleare por mis creancias y sere una lider."

"Many will believe in me, and I will believe in myself too."

"Muchos creran en mi, y yo crere en mi misma tambien."

"Crowds will come to listen to my words of wisdom, and there will be those that will want to stop me."

"Grupos bendran a oir mis palabras de sabiduria y habran unos que quedran interponer."

"But no one will succeed."

"Pero nadie lo hara posible."

"I will organize may own march's, and those who believe in me will follow."

"Yo organisare mis propias marchas, y esos que crean en mi, me seguiran."

"The sore blistered feet will be my reward."

"Los pies mayugados y ampollados, seran mi recompensa."

"I will have hunger strikes, as he."

"Yo trende guelgas de hambre, como el."

"And the grumbling of my stomach, will be my reward."  
 "Y los grunidos de mi estomago, seran mi recompensa."  
 "I can't wait to grow up mommy."  
 "No pudo esperar para crecer mami."  
 "I want to be just like Cesar Chavez."  
 "Quiero ser igualita que Cesar Chavez."  
 "It can be done, huh mommy?"  
 "Si se puede, eh mami?"  
 "Yes honey, it can be done." The mom smiles.  
 "Si miija, si se puede." La mama sonrie.

CESAR CHAVEZ

(By Eulala Reynolds of Yerba Buena High School)

Raw, callous, sun, rain  
 Eternal work, labor, pain  
 Grief, hurt, no reward  
 Living land a sharpened sword  
 Struggle, family, one thing clear  
 Survival, essential, defeat near  
 Uprooted and adrift behold!  
 For this an endless story told!  
 What one voice and truth is heard?  
 A man with whom a piercing word?  
 Loud for absorbed by truckloads of women and men  
 Who fight for justice again, again  
 The power of nonviolence but yet a war  
 Lead by him to soothe the wound  
 The wound an open cut, a pool desolate, defeat, doom  
 The union "La Causa" it's birth not a breech  
 Gallo wine, grapes, lettuce beseech  
 For had "La Causa" slowly climbed its way  
 The picket march exist today  
 Child labor put to ends  
 By well pronounced fighting friends  
 Cesar Chavez stood brave, tall  
 His lifelong dream, "live for the cause"  
 For now over is the war  
 Still the wound remains, the scar.

The second prize winning essays and poems of Lauren Droira of Andrew Hill High School, Eva Zuniga of Independence High School and Troy Arevalo of James Lick High School follow:

CESAR CHAVEZ'S TESTIMONY TO MODERN SOCIETY

(By Lauren Droira of Andrew Hill High School)

A splendorous eagle soars through the boundless skies above on a quest to grasp the seemingly unattainable star.  
 Off in the horizon a muffled road:  
 Come accompany us in accomplishing such a dream which appears so far.  
 Ferocious winds encompass the creature, though it valiantly persists onward, an astonishing feature.  
 Cesar Chavez: a dauntless, intrepid warrior;  
 One who strived throughout his entire existence to eradicate the actual barrier.  
 Racism? Latino farmers impetuously toil throughout the day,  
 Hoping to be paid by the sun's final ray.  
 Injustice? Living conditions were quite squalor,  
 Personal wages as meager enough to leave a child's stomach hollow.  
 Such reasons fed the brewing red fire of desecration;  
 Protests, tumults, riots were born Mr. Chavez as the chieftain.  
 "SOCIAL JUSTICE!" exclaimed the impoverished multitude,  
 And the truth was revealed bare and crude.  
 Now this great moment in time,  
 Has influenced the viewpoints of society's mind.

One can rationalize that such minorities stand beneath the human category, if you will,  
 Regardless of their customs, ethnic backgrounds, or skill.  
 Regressing to the era of John Locke and his corresponding theories,  
 One recalls the Natural Rights: the right to life, liberty, and property.  
 To whom was such theory directed towards?  
 Why the people of the world, of course!  
 Analyzing this statement, one can discover some significant aspects;  
 CORRECT! Humans possess rights to live independently, to survive, and to own, though obliged to comply with the present-time precepts.  
 For instance, this world can be pictured as a vast rainforest filled with thousands of different species,  
 Among such myriad of creatures exists humanity.  
 Each member must stand in one accord in order to endure  
 The process in maintaining freedom and composure.  
 Sacrificing every ounce of material obtained for his fellow agriculturists,  
 Including the faithful supporters,  
 Chavez eventually was depicted as a unique, symbolic figure for migrant worker's ethics,  
 Simultaneously promoting social justice.  
 Influentially, Chavez's devotion and dedication in transforming the "old society",  
 Has conclusively become our tenacity to continue striving for equality.  
 Yet beyond its effects on society's established regulations,  
 Chavez's perseverant character has modified even the most desperado of people into diligent beings possessing substantial aspirations.

During his amazing fulfillment,  
 Cesar Chavez's speaking contained moral relevance.

"The beauty of life is not what surrounds us, but the compassion and charity we have within our hearts."

Human beings tend to rank others according to outer bearings,

Though interior values possess greater meanings.

Considerate, abased, and anxious,  
 Cesar Chavez could very well represent a golden sack of morals, so virtuous.

Similar to Dr. Martin Luther King and Ghandi,

Who both likewise elevated the social rights of their corresponding people utilizing a manner of fiery resolution and obstinacy,

Cesar Chavez can be illustrated as the deliverer of his own compatriots,

The stalwart defender who blanched the obscure unrighteous spots.

In history such standard bearer that prominently

Exudes in determination to conquer the epitomy,

Specifically for his fellow workers and racial minorities,

Is highly commended in the present times,  
 And will be in the future minds.

CHARITY

(By Eva Zuniga of Independence High School)

All too many times while I was young, I was asked who my hero was. I had never stopped to think about the importance of this question until recently. Throughout my education I was given research assignments that required me to learn the lives of many people. I knew that these people were impor-

tant to many people and I thought what they done was great but, I never felt a touching emotion for these people. I asked many people including teachers and friends what makes a hero heroic? However, I never found an answer that was suitable to me. I decided to compose a search of my own on what a hero should be and I realized that the characteristics of a hero couldn't be found in an encyclopedia article nor in a definition in a dictionary. It was a feeling you feel in your heart. It's a definition you create on your own to fit your personal beliefs.

After reading about the life of Cesar E. Chavez I finally felt gratitude for a man who has brought so much knowledge to the lives of many. Cesar was born into a family with little of their own and nothing to spare. He learned the ways of life from his work in the farming fields of California. With little education and a strong will in life Cesar grew to be a leader, a man who took action, someone who speaks up, a man who will fight until he wins or die trying. He helped his fellow farm workers by gathering people who believed that working in the fields where poisonous gases are sprayed and threaten the lives of men, women and children. He rallied against every health problem, every underpaid and overworked individual farm worker. This wasn't a job for Chavez, it wasn't something he was paid to do. It was what he believed and what he knew his people deserved.

Many times Chavez risked his life for the welfare of his people. He starved himself for long periods of time to express his strong beliefs and he sacrificed anything to bring his people to a better way of life.

Chavez fought for the dreams of thousands of people and their families. The time, the effort, and the courage that Cesar has shown us we should honor and respect. He has taught many lessons, fought many battles and he has left us with the knowledge to fight on.

CESAR CHAVEZ

(By Troy Arevalo of James Lick High School)

He struggled, with persistence, for the rights of the oppressed, And in striving to bring about a change, he did not rest. Despite the disheartening atmosphere in which he matured and grew, Chavez became the type of leader only of which there are a few. The needs of his people fell upon uncaring ears, And through his fight for liberation, there fell many, many tears.

Although many Mexicans were helped by Cesar Chavez in bringing an end to their plight, he emphasized that his crusade was for all people, it was not just a Mexican fight.

Chavez's organization of unions attracted many powerless people who would not confront the growers who proved to be formidable, but to gain liberation, he was surely capable.

Because of his efforts in trying to help the California farm workers, his movement gained empathy from much of the nation, but there was still prejudice from many, many people against the workers in the organization.

In order to form the union, Chavez went from door to door. In the end, when the workers had gained their liberation, it did not matter that they were all poor.

After spending five years of life for his people's liberation, Chavez finally succeeded, but these rights were by far not easily gained, but greatly needed.