

the consciousness of elected officials and the general public, which has led to greater respect and protection for crime victims.

Don has also served in a number of other important capacities. He has been a member of the International Narcotics Law Enforcement Association, the National Intelligence Board, Governor George Deukmejian's Blue Ribbon Commission on Public Safety, the California Industrial Welfare Commission, the California Athletics Commission, and the board of the Kevin Collins Foundation, which works to locate missing and abducted children.

Don's own children and grandchildren are a high priority in his life. He and his wife, Carol, are the proud parents of Donald, Brandy, and Shanon. They also enjoy spending time with their five grandchildren. In short, his life so far has been one of hard work and achievement, patriotism and service, family and friendship. The people of California and the United States are better off for his efforts.

Now as he enjoys retirement from his career in corrections, I thank him for his service, support, and friendship. As a friend and fellow resident of my hometown of Rocklin, I wish him well in his future endeavors. I have no doubt that we have not heard the last from Don Novey.

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HONORING CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2003*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, the history of the United States is filled with heroes who, through personal sacrifice and a strong commitment to their cause, have left their mark on society. Today, I am proud to honor the life and accomplishments of California's own, the late, talented union organizer, César E. Chávez.

Born on March 31, 1927 to a farming family in Yuma, AZ, César learned early that life is filled with challenges. He was ten years old when his family lost their farm during the Depression. By 1938, the Chávez family joined thousands of others following the crops throughout the Southwest, eventually making it to California. It was during this period that César began to realize that he and the other migrant workers not only lived in deplorable conditions but also were treated as second-class citizens.

After his tour of duty in the U.S. Navy at the end of World War II, César returned to California with his wife Helena to continue farming. In 1952, he met Fred Ross, an organizer for the Community Service Organization (CSO). César flourished as an active member of this organization, conducting voter registration drives, battling racial and economic discrimination, and organizing new CSO chapters across California and Arizona. During the late 1950s and early 1960s, César became the national director of CSO. But no matter how hard he worked, he continued to have trouble persuading workers to fight for their rights because they were afraid of losing their Jobs.

In order to fulfill his desire to create a union for farm workers, César left his position with the CSO in 1962. He traveled from camp to camp recruiting workers. With the assistance of his family, he managed to organize 300

members into the National Farm Workers Union, NFWA, later changed to the United Farm Workers, UFW. Through César's leadership, the UFW gained the national support of unions, church groups, students, minorities, and consumers.

César's commitment brought dignity and respect to the farm workers who organized themselves and became an inspiration and a resource to other Americans and people engaged in human rights struggles throughout the world. His fast in 1968 for 25 days prompted the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy to call him "one of the most heroic figures of our time".

From 1965 through the 1980s, César led numerous strikes, boycotts, and protests—not only to increase wage earnings at the time, but also to increase public awareness to the plight of the migrant workers. During the 1980s, the number of farm workers working under UFW contacts rose tremendously, allowing them to enjoy higher pay, family health coverage, pension benefits and other contract protections.

César E. Chávez worked until his death on April 23, 1993, defending the rights of farm workers to the end. Even now, his spirit and legacy continue to be studied and rewarded.

On August 8, 1994, Chávez became only the second Mexican-American to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States. Also, in that same year, his family and officers of the UFW created the César E. Chávez Foundation to inspire current and future generations by promoting the ideals of César's life, work, and vision.

The State of California honored his life and work in 2000 by proclaiming March 31 as César E. Chávez Day. California dedicates the remainder of the week to paying tribute to the great union leader by teaching elementary and secondary school children about his work. I am also honored to announce that I am an original cosponsor of House Resolution 112, which will establish a national legal public holiday in honor of the great social justice leader.

Today, César E. Chávez would have celebrated his 76th birthday. I am proud to celebrate his life and work. May his spirit and dedication continue to be an inspiration to those engaged in human rights struggles throughout the world.

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CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORP

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2003*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the seventieth anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps, and to pay tribute to the commendable service its members offered our nation. Created by President Franklin Roosevelt on March 31, 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps had a profound impact on this nation, helping to sustain the United States through the depths of the Depression, and setting a precedent for other federal agencies to carry on the diverse missions of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Within days after his presidential inauguration, Franklin Roosevelt initiated plans for the

Civilian Conservation Corps, citing the need for an organization that would provide jobs for hundreds of thousands of unemployed young men aged 18 to 25. President Roosevelt declared that the Civilian Conservation Corps would "conserve our precious natural resources and pay dividends to the present and future generations. More important, we can take a vast army of the unemployed out into healthful surroundings." The Civilian Conservation Corps' intention was not only to provide services to the United States but also to give the unemployed an opportunity to live in healthful surroundings with steady pay, room, board, and clothing.

During the nine years the Civilian Conservation Corps was in operation, more than 3 million men were involved in the program nationally, working on projects like dam improvement, tree planting, laying telephone lines, and creating trails. Almost 55,000 men served on projects throughout New Mexico. More than 32,000 of them were residents of New Mexico.

By July 1, 1933, a quarter of a million enrollees had enlisted in the Civilian Conservation Corps, making it the fastest large-scale mobilization of men in U.S. history. The enrollees enlisted for six months with the option to reenroll for another six months or a maximum of two years. They worked forty-hour weeks and received thirty dollars a month. Each month, they required the men to send twenty-five dollars to their families to help them through the difficulties of the Depression. The Civilian Conservation Corps provided members with the opportunity to learn a new skill and allowed them to attend classes to further their education. More than 100,000 men were taught to read and write with the aid of the Civilian Conservation Corps's education classes.

The accomplishments the Civilian Conservation Corps achieved in its nine-year existence are impressive. Historical areas in Jamestown, Williamsburg, Yorktown, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania were restored and developed by the Corps members. At the program's peak, there were over 500 Civilian Conservation Corps camps in national, state, and local parks. Civilian Conservation Corps workers cleared trails, built buildings and shelters, fought forest fires, planted trees, and made other improvements to parks in all the states, territories, and possessions. The three million men planted a total of 2.3 billion trees, spent 6.4 million days fighting forest fires and eradicated diseases and pests. These accomplishments contributed to the Civilian Conservation Corps' lasting environmental legacy. Today, agencies such as Americorps, the Park Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service are continuing the tradition of the Civilian Conservation Corps by instilling a sense of value for our natural environment as well as for national service.

Because of its major presence in New Mexico, the Civilian Conservation Corps worked on several projects throughout the state, including Rattlesnake Springs and Bandelier National Monument, aimed at benefiting both its members and residents of New Mexico. The men of the Civilian Conservation Corps also developed Hyde, Elephant Butte, Conchas, Bottomless Lake, and Santa Fe River Parks, among others.

Communities across the country benefited from the hard toil of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The camps helped local economies,