Congressional Record—House

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Latino civil rights leader in the United States and House Resolution 105 requesting a
"Cesar Chavez National Holiday" would honor
his legacy.

Most importantly, we need to keep his leg-
acy alive by encouraging schools throughout
the United States to teach about who Cesar
Chavez was and what he did to improve our
society.

Future generations should be given the op-
portunity to learn about Cesar Chavez and
about the migrant farm worker community’s
struggle to achieve better living conditions,
better wages, and protection from environ-
mental contaminants.

He was a pioneer in addressing environ-
mental justice issues related to pesticides in
food and how farm workers’ health was placed
at great risks due to exposure to chemicals
used in the fields.

As a State Senator in California through
Cesar Chavez’ inspiration and Dolores
Huerta’s friendship, I fought to improve the
working, living, and safety conditions for farm
workers.

I strongly supported a ban on methyl bro-
mide, an acutely toxic pesticide responsible for
poisoning hundreds of farm workers and many
have even died due to methyl bromide poi-
soning.

I also fought to eliminate the dangerous
“short hoe” method for strawberry workers,
and worked for clean housing and bathrooms
for farm workers.

I am very committed to continue Cesar Cha-
véz’ legacy by supporting pro-labor and envi-
ronmental legislation in Congress to help rem-
edy some of these environmental and labor in-
justices.

Cesar Chavez led by example and he moti-
vated thousands of people to become involved
in the migrant farm worker struggle by joining
the United Farm Workers (UFW) which he co-
founded.

He led successful strikes/boycotts against
the agri-business growers who exploited work-
ers by not providing health safeguards from
pesticides, deplorable housing conditions, sex-
ual harassment towards women, and having
extremely low wages.

He obtained national/international support
for the United Farm Worker (UFW) movement
through non-violence and using civil disobe-
dience as an action to achieve justice.

He sacrificed his own health by fasting for
extremely long periods of time to provide a
voice for the migrant farm workers who were
being exploited. He was humble and did not
seek personal attention or glory for himself.
He was passionate about helping his fellow
migrant farm workers and he treated everyone
with respect.

He passed away on April 23, 1993, at the
age of 66 and his passion and commitment for
social change, improved thousands of peo-
ple’s lives and inspired many others to con-
continue the struggle.

I am one of those who is committed to
keeping Cesar Chavez’ struggle alive. He
tought tirelessly until the end to help his fellow
farm workers.

One major step in the right direction would
be if the 107th Congressional session ap-
proved this House Resolution 105 to create a
"Cesar Chavez National Holiday." This would
officially recognize Cesar Chavez, as one of
the most outstanding national Latino leaders in
modern U.S. history.

Mr. BERNARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to
pay heartfelt tribute to Cesar Chavez, a man of
courage, faith and love who shared his great
strength with thousands and inspired
millions of Americans. As a leader in the fight
for social justice, he was a hero to farm-
workers, to the Latino community, to the labor
movement and to me.

Cesar Estrada Chavez was born on March
31, 1927, near Yuma, Arizona. In 1962, Cesar
founded the National Farm Workers Associa-
tion, later to become the United Farm Work-
ers—the UFW. With persistence, hard work
and faith, Cesar Chavez built a great union
that galvanized the spirit of all people through
commitment to the struggle for justice through
nonviolence. He devoted his life to inspire his
fellow farmworkers and to fire the conscience
of the rest of us.

It was my great fortune to work with Cesar
Chavez as a colleague and friend. Cesar’s ef-
forts were critical in focusing public attention
on our nation’s deplorable treatment of mi-
grant farmworkers. Through his leadership
and his legacy, the United Farm Workers has
grown in strength in its efforts to achieve a
lasting justice for farmworkers.

On this anniversary of his birthday, it is ap-
propriate to mention that today across the na-
ton and in this Chamber there are numerous
efforts to commemorate the life and work of
Cesar Chavez. I am grateful for the oppor-
tunity to express my thoughts about Cesar
and to be among the many to celebrate the
life of one of the most heroic figures in Amer-
ican history.

Cesar Chavez was a great man who exem-
plified justice, love and humility. I ask my col-
leagues to join me in recognizing Cesar,
whose dedication to the plight of farmworkers
has inspired us all. I salute him for his cour-
age and commitment to La Causa (the cause).

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of ab-
sence was granted to:

Ms. BALDWIN (at the request of Mr. GEHRGD) for today on account of a
death in the family.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to
address the House, following the legisla-
tive program and any special orders heretofo-
to, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the re-
quest of Mr. RODRIQUEZ) to revise and
extend their remarks and include ex-
traordinary material:)

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. LANGEVIN, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. SKEITON, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 min-
utes, today.

(The following Members (at the re-
quest of Mr. OSBORNE) to revise and ex-
tend their remarks and include extra-
ordinary material:)

Mr. GOS, for 5 minutes, today.