

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, César Estrada Chávez was born March 31, 1927, on a small farm near Yuma, Arizona that his grandfather homesteaded in the 1880's; and

WHEREAS, In 1962, César Chávez moved his wife and eight children to Delano, California where he founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), later to become the United Farm Workers; and

WHEREAS, From the beginning, César Chávez adhered to the principles of non-violence practiced by M.K. Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to support the end of suffering for farm workers and their families; and

WHEREAS, César Chávez conducted multiple 25 to 36-day fasts to reaffirm the United Farm Workers' commitment to non-violence as a necessary and effective practice to maintain self-respect while supporting their cause; and

WHEREAS, On August 8, 1994, César Estrada Chávez became the second Mexican American to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States. The award was presented posthumously by President Bill Clinton; now, therefore, be it

PROCLAIMED, By the Washoe County Board of Commissioners that March 31, 2015 is designated as "César Chávez Day".

ADOPTED this 24th day of March, 2015.

Marsha Berkgigler, Chair
Washoe County Commission

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