

2022 -- H 8069

LC005700

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING CESAR CHAVEZ DAY IN RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Fellela, Batista, Diaz, Alzate, Williams, Perez, Felix, Tanzi, Shekarchi, and Blazejewski

Date Introduced: March 31, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Cesar Chavez Day is a United States federal commemorative holiday,
2 proclaimed by President Barack Obama in 2014. This holiday is held annually on March 31, and
3 celebrates the birth and incredible legacy of Cesar Chavez as both a civil rights and labor
4 movement activist; and

5 WHEREAS, Cesar Chavez was born on March 31, 1927, in Yuma Arizona. At the age of
6 ten, he began living in migrant labor camps in Arizona and California, joining the thousands of
7 migrant workers laboring in the fields and vineyards throughout the southwestern United States;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, As a result of his need to work and help support his family, Cesar Chavez
10 attended more than thirty elementary and middle schools and was only able to attain an 8th grade
11 education; and

12 WHEREAS, Cesar Chavez enlisted in the United States Navy in 1944 at the age of
13 seventeen and served our nation with honor and distinction for two years before receiving an
14 honorable discharge in 1946; and

15 WHEREAS, After returning from military service, Mr. Chavez met Helen Fabela, whom
16 he married and together they had eight children; and

17 WHEREAS, After World War II, Mr. Chavez became active in the labor movement and
18 began his tireless campaign to organize farm workers in order to secure safe working conditions,
19 decent housing, reasonable wages, and the outlawing of child labor; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1953, Mr. Chavez joined the Community Service Organization, a

1 prominent Latino civil rights organization, and worked with them to coordinate voter registration
2 drives and fight against discrimination in Los Angeles. He later served as the National Director of
3 the Community Service Organization; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1962, Mr. Chavez established the National Farm Workers Association,
5 which later became the United Farm Workers of America. Under his leadership, the United Farm
6 Workers of America organized thousands of migrant farm workers to fight for the basic human
7 rights all people deserve; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Chavez was also a strong supporter of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, and
9 the principles of nonviolence practiced by Dr. King and Mahatma Gandhi. Examples of Mr.
10 Chavez using peaceful tactics to promote important causes include his 25 days of fasting in 1968
11 and 1972, and his 38 days of fasting in 1988 to bring attention to the American people and the
12 world, of the awful living conditions for farm workers in the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, Cesar Chavez is an American hero and an inspiration to everyone who
14 values the basic American ideals of justice, equality and freedom. Thanks to his incredible
15 character, tireless work ethic, and dedication to the principles of equality and economic justice,
16 Mr. Chavez was able to forge an incredibly diverse and large national coalition of students,
17 middle-class consumers, trade unionists, religious groups, women, and minorities, all in support
18 of these important principles and ideals; now, therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
20 honors Cesar Chavez Day in Rhode Island; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
22 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the AFL-CIO of Rhode Island, Progreso
23 Latino, and the Latino Progress Institute.

=====
LC005700
=====