

President Barack Obama
c/o Julie Chavez Rodriguez, Associate Director of Latino Affairs and Immigration for the
Office of Public Engagement

Mr. President:

I am writing to you as a long-time supporter to urge you to confer the Medal of Freedom on the late Fred Ross, Sr. As a community organizer, you may be the one U.S. President who needs no explanation of who Fred Ross was, but he came from the Saul Alinsky school of organizing and trained Cesar Chavez in the Community Service Organization among hundreds of others.

As a boycott organizer for the United Farm Workers in the mid 1970s, I was trained by Fred Ross Sr. as were many others who would go on to change society, setting the stage for your own history altering presidency. I became a life-long organizer, even when my actual job was not organizing (like you). Fred was more than an effective teacher and a superb tactician of moving people to empower themselves. The lasting influence he had on me and many others is more than a work ethic, it is a dedication ethic.

That is just from my perspective, but historians and scholars of American society could surely trace the tremendous lasting impact he had on our country and the cause of social justice. If any one is deserving of the kind of recognition that the Medal of Freedom can give to unsung civilian heroes, it is Fred Ross Sr.

Pete Savino

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