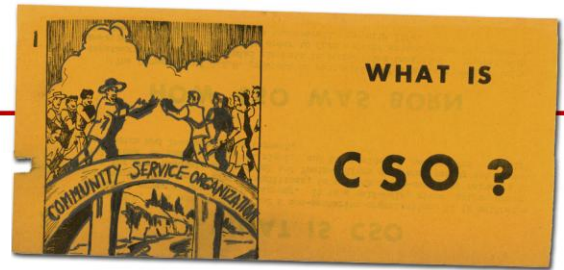


Community Service Organization Project

CSO Project
University of California
Extended Studies and Public Programs
UC Professional Development Institute

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March 13, 2013

President Obama,

We write to you on behalf of the thousands of men and women who were inspired and trained by Fred Ross Sr. from 1947 -1964. Fred taught us to become leaders in our Communities. Together we made history by creating and participating in the most powerful and effective civil rights movement among Latinos in the country. Our legacy lives on in the thousands of men and women who, like us, learned to live without fear and stand up with dignity to speak for themselves.

CSO Leaders registered 500,000 Latinos to vote, overcame voter suppression, and used Fred Ross Sr.'s method of neighborhood precinct leaders, driving record voter turnouts. CSO offered citizenship classes at local schools and prepared more than 100,000 Latinos to become citizens.

Through Fred Ross Sr. and those he taught and worked with, we learned how to wage effective campaigns to win equal rights, combat school segregation, fight for fair housing and employment practices, and win respect from immigration and law enforcement officials. We earned the respect of elected officials by demonstrating the power of our vote. We learned to hold public officials accountable.

Mr. President, three CSO leaders: Cesar Chavez, Cruz Reynoso, and Dolores Huerta have received the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award. It is now time to confer the medal on their teacher, Fred Ross Sr. On behalf of the undersigned CSO Leaders, we urge you to honor our teacher, one of the greatest community organizers of the 20th century, Fred Ross Sr., by bestowing him with the posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom Award this year.

Sincerely,

Jorge Acuña, Fresno, 1958-1965
Nancy Burciaga on behalf of David Burciaga,
Bakersfield, 1954-1965
Anna Chavez, Monterey County, 1956-1970
Gerald F. Cox, Oakland, 1950-1955
Helen Delgadillo, Oakland, 1951-1969
Carmen Fernandez, Stockton, 1957-1969
Herman Gallegos, San Jose, 1953-1960
Louis Gonzales, Stockton, 1951-1962
Margaret Govea, Bakersfield, 1960-1990
Marion Graff, Los Angeles, 1953-1964
Velia Hinojosa, Imperial, 1954-1959
Dolores Huerta, Stockton, 1955-1962

Frank Ledesma, Soledad, 1956-1970
Juan Marcoida, Santa Clara County CSO, 1952-1964
Esther Martinez, Bakersfield, 1960-1990
Arabella Martinez, Oakland, 1963-1964
Rita Chavez Medina, Santa Clara County, 1952-1976
Gilbert Padilla, Hanford, 1956-1963
Cruz Reynoso, El Centro, 1959-1967
Lucy Rios, Statewide, 1940-1970
Danny Robles on behalf of Guadalupe Castro,
Los Angeles, 1948-1970
Gilberto Salazar, Bakersfield, 1961-1970
Louis Zarate, San Jose, 1958-1970
Alex Zermeno, Monterey County, 1954-1960
Grace Davis, Los Angeles, 1954-1960

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WHAT IS CSO

C.S.O. is a non-partisan, and a non-sectarian organization. It is neither a political movement nor a relief agency. It is a self-help, civic action group endeavoring to improve living conditions; to promote inter-community harmony; to work for more adequate educational and Youth-Welfare programs, remedy and prevent violations of human and civil rights and to provide a medium for social expression and leadership development.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.csoproject.org>