

February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013

President Barack Obama Affairs and Immigration  
White House  
Washington DC  
C/O Julie Chavez Rodriguez  
Associate Director of Latin Affairs and Immigration  
White House Office of Public Engagement

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing in to support the effort to ask President Obama to award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to legendary political activist and organizer Fred Ross Senior.

Fred's long list of achievements in community empowerment is well known throughout the country. His tireless commitment to teaching his organizing craft to hundreds of activists has provided and will continue to provide a foundation for human rights advocates for generations

I first met Fred in 1981 when he was asked to train a group of young inexperienced volunteers in the skills of building House meetings and basic organization technique. Since then I have encountered hundreds of organizers who were either taught by Fred or learned from his many "disciples"

Fred's booklet, Axioms for Organizers has been a source of inspirational and quotes about the fundamentals of volunteer recruitment for thousands of labor and community organizers for decades.

Fred's Axioms includes the statement "If you think you can do it for people you've stopped understanding what it means to be an organizer" Fred did not believe in stepping up to take credit when others he had taught succeeded. He once told me that an organizer should never be in front of the cameras in press conferences. Fred Ross is truly an unsung hero.

I respectfully urge you to recognize Fred's contributions by awarding him the Presidential Medal of Freedom

Sincerely,

Charley Goetchius  
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