

From: "Jim Gonzalez"
Date: February 12, 2013, 2:34:11 PM PST
To: <thomas_ostrander@feinstein.senate.gov>

Subject: Nomination Fred Ross Sr.-Presidential Medal of Freedom

Mr. Thomas Ostrander
Office of Senator Diane Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Ostrander:

The purpose of this letter is to seek Senator Dianne Feinstein's support in nominating Mr. Fred Ross, Sr., for a posthumous award of The Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Thirty years ago as a senior staff person to then Mayor Feinstein, I met Fred Ross Sr. when I took a leave from City Hall in 1983, to help defeat the pro-gun White Panther recall ballot proposition against the mayor. As the lead organizer for the east side of the City, I had the special honor and privilege to be personally trained as a community organizer by Fred Ross Sr.

For 30 years now I have seen his legacy continue to shape the entire labor movement, Latino civic action groups, and international human rights organizations.

Fred Ross, Sr.'s booklet [Axioms for Organizers](#) is still the must read collection of rules, reminders and lessons for social activists.

During my terms, as a San Francisco Supervisor, and in the last decade, as chairman of various non-profit advocacy organizations, I have helped train, with Fred Ross Jr., over 60 organizers- that now lead organizations throughout California, New Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada.

Their successful social justice work has helped reform mental health systems, drug policies, environmental and energy policies, affordable housing policies, immigration policies, voter participation, and a myriad of other vital issues.

As my friend Herman Gallegos stated in his eloquent letter to you, which included a detailed recounting of Fred Ross Sr. mentorship of key social leaders and movements:

“Fred Ross, Sr. spent a lifetime building community-based leadership,- helping communities define their own agenda, and helping them to go out and work for responsible social change.”

His legacy remains a great formula for everyday people to save the republic, and our world, for democracy. The Presidential Medal of Freedom should righteously be granted to Fred Ross Sr.

Thank you for your kind attention to this most important request.

Sincerely,
Jim Gonzalez
San Francisco Supervisor (ret.)
Chair, Latino Policy Coalition
www.latinopolicycoalition.org