

**From:** Alberto Escalante  
**Date:** February 26, 2013, 7:30:00 AM PST  
**To:** [Julie\\_C\\_Rodriguez@who.eop.gov](mailto:Julie_C_Rodriguez@who.eop.gov)  
**Subject:** To: President Barack Obama

Honorable President Barack Obama,

My name is Alberto Escalante. I live at 1104 No. 5th Street--Port Hueneme, CA. 93941. I am writing you this email to respectfully request that **Fred Ross Sr.** be considered as a recipient of a posthumously awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom.

**Why:**

To start off Fred Ross Sr. was/is in large part responsible for the wonderful surge of Ethnic edification that began with his formation of The CSO in the early 50's a group that helped transform an entire race or group of once oppressed people of Hispanic surname living here in the USA, turning a once reticent people into a vibrant political plurality with clout and positively effecting today's Democratic Party as their party of choice.

Fred Ross, Sr. has had an effect just like that tiny pebble one tosses into the water, his message or ripple effect of change and the specific organizing techniques and disciplines he introduced us to, have reached into the stagnant core of Injustice and has sparked the much needed change we see in today's world. Fred made his plain and simple to understand version of Saul Alinsky's IAF Organizing format and used it to spark the successful formation of the United Farm Workers. But with Fred Ross, Sr.'s emphasis on total commitment that included his message of "Leave no stone or possible VOTE unturned". And the seriousness of considering ourselves as UFW Organizers did not come easy. Not until Fred Ross Sr., César Chávez, Dolores Huerta and Richard Chavez felt you'd passed muster, then and only then could you begin to serve the needs of those who had no voice. Be they Farm Workers or any oppressed people that asked and deserved to be recognized and treated with Justice, Dignity and Equality. That's when you began to feel your dedication suddenly begin to take over your every waking thoughts and dreams of a more equitable world with fairness for all, not just the privileged few. ¡Si Se Puede!

For me this continues my tantamount obligation until this moment, both in my Heart and the very essence of my Being working for the nonviolent Changes needed to form a more Perfect Union. And so I ask you to please consider **Fred Ross, Sr.'s** name be duly recognized not only for what he did, but also for all that has been accomplished by all of the people he touched, motivated and who continue using his teachings. Those that he trained still use and will forever rely upon Fred's techniques for as long as there are Wrongs that need to be Righted. If Fred Ross Sr. had a hand in training you, you emerged with a life long fervor to see all the changes that you identified or were told were necessary, possible or even probable, become reality. Or you felt you had done what you could and documented the assessment of your work as "**Yes-No-Maybe**" And by a "**Maybe**" you knew that meant you'd most likely return until it was a "**Yes!**" And actually there were no real "**No's**" because they became that itch that you needed to satisfy: In Some way, Someday or Somehow. Unless you died before you had completed your assignment. Because your demise was one of the very few reasons for you to stop organizing and hang up your clip board and archive your research materials. For now, anyway.

**Fred Ross, Sr.** once told a group training session I was fortunate enough to attend in La Paz (Keene, CA.) in early 1975 as I began learning the UFW's basic Organizing structure and style, something one needed to know and recite as well as his own name. Right before the training began, Fred Ross, Sr. declared this basic rule..."If I don't see your hands taking notes, then I want to see your A\_\_ get up and leave the room now!" Because those who completed this training regimen went on to implement the new 1975 CA. Agricultural Labor Relations Act. We became involved in a epic and historic struggle for Justice, Dignity and Equality as UFW Organizers appraising the farm workers of their right to organize or not using the tenets of Californias Historic new law. I would later go on to become part of Marshall Ganz's Organizing

Team making all the Organizing leaflets. We were The Spartans! That's what I considered the Organizers as being, and those in La Paz I considered as the Athenians. We slept in our cars and ate on the run. It was an incredible time of Change. And I was able to get a personal review and assessment by both Fred Ross Sr and Fred Ross Jr. I guess I passed their test.

Anyway from one organizer to another please try to fathom the incredible volume of good **Fred Ross, Sr.** was able to accomplish within his lifetime, always to improve the lot of others because Fred Ross Sr never asked for, or needed accolades, applause or recognition for all that he did and lived for. As I wrote earlier, also include the total scope of what all of those he trained or inspired have done and will continue to do. Because even if Fred isn't around in body~ ***His Spirit Continues....***

Most Respectfully,

Alberto Escalante-UFW Volunteer and Graphic Artist 1975~2006 or as needed!

(I'm In! OFA 2008-2012 and Organizing for Action onwards, Fired Up! Ready to Go!)