

Post Office Box 221577
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5 February 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

During the years I spent as General Counsel for the United Farm Workers, I had the opportunity to work closely with Fred Ross, Sr. I watched as he trained young organizers like Jessica Govea, Eliseo Medina, and Marshall Ganz. I saw how he breathed meaning into the sometimes romantic and vague term "organizer." Fred defined an organizer as someone committed to justice who was compassionate, disciplined, attentive to detail, and unafraid of risk.

Fred fought more fights, trained more organizers, and planted more seeds of righteous indignation than anyone we are likely to see again.

He remains relatively unknown, but the growing good of the world is dependent on acts by those who do not seek recognition and rest in unvisited tombs.

It is time Fred Ross, Sr., got the recognition he personally would not have sought. He deserves the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry Cohen". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Jerry Cohen