

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1104

March 11, 2013

President Barack Obama
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to encourage you to confer the Presidential Medal of Freedom on the legendary organizer, Fred Ross Sr.

Fred Ross Sr.'s accomplishments are manifold. His seminal work with the United Farm Workers' union and the Community Service Organizations (CSO) that led to its creation are well documented. But one of the lesser known measures of this man was his courageous stance in support of Japanese Americans during WWII and in the midst of rabid nativist and anti-immigrant sentiment. Mr. Ross repudiated the shameful internment of 110,000 Isei and Nisei, and the abrogation of their civil and human rights. He worked tirelessly with them to fight against the rampant discrimination and prejudice they faced as they sought to reclaim their lives. He trained and mobilized countless men and women, young and old alike, to demand fair treatment as they sought jobs and housing.

Fred Ross Sr.'s legacy is a shining example of the best of the American tradition which deserves to be memorialized and emulated.

I urge you to confer the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Fred Ross Sr.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator