

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 15, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
c/o Ms. Julie Chavez Rodriguez
Associate Director of Latino Affairs and Immigration
Office of Public Engagement
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are proud to recommend Fred Ross, Sr. to posthumously receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The Medal of Freedom is intended to honor individuals who have made “especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.”

Mr. Ross participated in, and in many cases led, critical efforts to organize workers across the western United States. He organized community groups to fight segregation in their own backyards. He ran voter registration efforts, working to include previously marginalized groups in the electoral process.

Mr. Ross inspired generations of community organizers and activists, including Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, who have both credited him as a profound influence on their own work. Throughout his life, Mr. Ross demonstrated an unwavering commitment to fighting injustice in any form. He brought together people of all genders, races, religions, and backgrounds, aiming to equalize participation in the movement for social justice and expand the resonance of its work.

His legacy comes not only from his own organizing, but from the example he set engaging Americans in the process of making their society better. Awarding Fred Ross, Sr. this honor will remind us and future generations of the significance of community organizing and civic activism.

We urge you to strongly consider posthumously awarding Fred Ross, Sr. the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Thank you for your consideration.

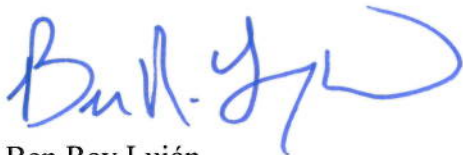
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Udall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

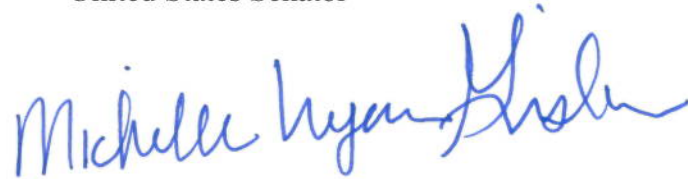
Tom Udall
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martin Heinrich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ben Ray Luján". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "B".

Ben Ray Luján
United States Representative

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Lujan Grisham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Michelle Lujan Grisham
United States Representative