



2/25/13

President Barack Obama
The White House

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alliance of Baptists
California Church Impact
Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network
Central Conference of American Rabbis
Church of the Brethren
Church Women United in Illinois
Church Women United of
S. California & S. Nevada
Cumberland Presbyterian Church
Christian Church (DOC), Disciples Farm
Worker Ministry

Dominican Sisters of Peace
Episcopal Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
Division for Church in Society
Franciscan Friars,
Province of Santa Barbara
Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls
The Loretto Community
National Federation of Priests' Councils
NFWM Florida Advisory Group
North Carolina Council of Churches
Farm Worker Ministry Committee
Orange County Interfaith Committee
to Aid Farm Workers
Oregon Farm Worker Ministry
Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters
Pinellas Support Committee
of The NFWM
Presbyterian Hunger Program PC (USA)
Sarasota-Manatee Farm Worker
Support Committee
School Sisters of Notre Dame,
Shalom North America
Sisters of Charity, BVM
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi
Society of the Sacred Heart
Southern California Ecumenical Council
Unitarian Universalist Migrant Ministry
United Church of Christ
Justice and Witness Ministries
United Methodist Church General Board
Of Church and Society
United Methodist Church General Board
of Global Ministries, Mission C & R
United Methodist Church General Board
of Global Ministries, Women's Division

Dear President Obama,

I am writing to urge you to award posthumously the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Fred Ross Sr. I am the Executive Director of the National Farm Worker Ministry, a faith based organization committed to justice for and empowerment of farm workers.

I met Fred Ross when I began my work with the farm workers in the 1970's. While I did not get a chance to train with him directly I feel like I did. I had the privilege of working with amazing leaders in the farm worker movement to whom Fred had taught the skills needed to translate a passion for justice into results, and the importance of commitment and solidarity in achieving success, enabling people to do more than they ever thought they could.

Such lessons, as they were meant to be, were passed on, and on, and on, yielding ever greater impact. I will never forget the first house meetings I held based on Fred's methods. His work was far reaching and all of our society has benefitted from it.

Those whom Fred taught include Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, whose names are rightfully honored and recognized nationwide. It's time to lift Fred Ross's name up now. I ask you to bestow this medal so that he and his family receive the recognition and thanks from our country that Fred so deserved and so that a new generation has a chance to learn about and from his life changing legacy.

Sincerely,

Virginia Nesmith
Executive Director, National Farm Worker Ministry