

Dear Ms. Rodriguez-

I write to urge President Obama to honor Fred Ross, Sr. with the Presidential Medal of Freedom (posthumously). As a historian of Mexican American history, civil rights history, and twentieth century American history in general, I can state, unequivocally, that Fred Ross, Sr. was a pioneer civil rights leader in many respects, but especially in advancing the protection of the rights for Mexican Americans in California during the 1940s and 1950s. I consider Ross one of the central historical figures in the development of community-based organizing among Mexican Americans and others groups in the post-World War II war era. He deserves, indeed merits national attention for his historical contributions to civil rights advocacy. The Presidential Medal of Freedom is a fitting recognition of his commitment to the highest values of American democracy.

Sincerely,

Albert M. Camarillo
Professor of History (and by courtesy School of Education)
The Leon Sloss Jr. Memorial Professor
Special Assistant to the Provost for Faculty Diversity
President, Organization of American Historians

Department of History (450 Serra Mall)
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305-2024
[\(650\) 723-1966](tel:6507231966) off [\(650\) 725-0597](tel:6507250597) fax