



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

MARGARET WOOD HASSAN  
Governor

April 24, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington D.C., 20500

Dear President Obama:

I am writing to ask that you posthumously award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Mr. Fred Ross, Sr., a trailblazing community organizer.

As the highest award a civilian in the United States can receive, the Presidential Medal of Freedom is the appropriate honor to recognize the contributions of Mr. Ross to American society and culture. Working to empower men and women of all races, religions, and socio-economic origins, Mr. Ross truly embodied our country's value that "all men are created equal."

Although he did not work in New Hampshire, Mr. Ross' legacy remains an inspiration to the Granite State's long tradition of inclusion and civic participation. His unyielding commitment to extending basic human and civil rights to all people, regardless of their background, encouraged the spirit that is the foundation of American democracy.

Whether organizing Dust Bowlers and migrant farm workers or bringing together members of the Mexican-American, African-American and other minority communities to battle social injustice, Mr. Ross was a shining example of the fact that when we care for each other, we all become stronger. Because of the lasting impact Mr. Ross' work will have on American history and way of life for generations to come, I respectfully ask that you recognize his legacy by posthumously awarding him the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maggi H" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Margaret Wood Hassan  
Governor