



## **Georgia Latino Forum Resolution 012608B**

**by: Jerry Gonzalez (Atlanta)**

### **A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A NATIONAL HOLIDAY FOR FARM WORKER LEADER CESAR E. CHAVEZ**

Recognizing that Cesar E. Chavez has been a supporter of farm worker rights across the nation and sparked worldwide awareness of safe and fair working conditions among the field.

WHEREAS, from humble beginnings in 1927, Cesar E. Chavez, founder of the United Farm Workers, rose to be a major force in American history, making him one of the heroic figures of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and

WHEREAS, through personal sacrifice, Cesar E. Chavez focused national attention on the plight of farm workers, making the world aware of their demands for safe and fair working conditions in the fields of our nation, and

WHEREAS, millions of Americans from across the nation, of all races and nationalities joined Cesar E. Chavez in the movement for farm workers rights, and

WHEREAS, Cesar E. Chavez was also a champion for civil rights, labor rights, voting rights, women's rights, and was an early environmentalist, warning the public of the devastating affects of pesticides on both farm workers and consumers; and

WHEREAS, as a result of these and other valuable contributions, nine states now celebrate Cesar E. Chavez's birthday, March 31, as a holiday including California, Arizona, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin; and countless schools, streets, libraries, and other public institutions have been named after Cesar E. Chavez, and

WHEREAS, many cities have honored Cesar E. Chavez by establishing an official city holiday on his birthday, and

WHEREAS, the life of Chavez, who like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was an adherent to nonviolent civil disobedience, serves as a model for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, Cesar E. Chavez National Holiday is an organization based in Los Angeles that is spearheading a national effort to win support for a national holiday and day of service, learning and action to be established on his birthday, March 31,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Georgia Latino Forum supports the Cesar E. Chavez National Holiday coalition in its efforts in establishing an official federal holiday to celebrate the life of Cesar E. Chavez by engaging in service, learning, and community actions that represent his legacy on his birthday, March 31, and all the year through.

\_\_\_\_\_ Adopted, Saturday, January 26, 2008

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Sharon Maloney, Chair, Georgia Latino Forum