

Cultural News

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Cesar Chavez Day in the United States

César Chávez Day is observed in the United States on March 31 each year. It celebrates the birthday of César Estrada Chávez and it serves as a tribute to his commitment to social justice and respect for human dignity.

What do people do?

César Chávez Day celebrations are held in many parts of the United States. It is a state holiday in California and an optional holiday in states such as Colorado and Texas, but its celebrations go beyond these three states. Other states where celebrations and various activities occur in honor of Dr Chávez include Arizona, Michigan, Nebraska and New Mexico.

Key community leaders use this event to speak to the public about values that Dr. Chávez showed in his lifetime and how they made a positive impact on society. Discussions, debates and media attention may focus on issues that Dr. Chávez was actively involved with. These issues are relevant to Americans today and center on workers' rights, fair wages, pension benefits, and medical coverage.

Many schools have classroom activities that focus on Dr. Chávez's achievements, writings and speeches on or close to César Chávez Day. Community and business breakfasts or luncheons are also held to honor Dr. Chávez's achievements and incite hope within American communities.

César Chávez Day is a state holiday in California, so government offices, educational institutions and many businesses are closed. State government offices in Colorado may grant requests for César Chávez Day in lieu of another holiday in the same fiscal year. However, government offices must be open. César Chávez Day is an optional state holiday in Texas.

Background

César Chávez was born on March 31 in 1927. He was a migrant farm worker from the age of 10. He became active with the Community Service Organization, which helped fight racial and economic discrimination against Chicano residents.

Dr. Chávez co-founded the National Farm Workers Association in the early 1960s. He focused attention on the plight of migrant farm workers and gained support to have his organization be the first successful farm workers' union in the United States. He used principles of non-violence, with strikes and boycotts. Dr. Chávez remained president of United Farm Workers of America (AFL-CIO) until his death on April 23, 1993.

Legacy

Currently, efforts are made to make César Chávez Day a national holiday in the United States.

Many schools, community centers and parks are named after Dr. Chávez in the United States. For example, there is the César Chávez Elementary School in San Francisco. There is also a portrait of Dr. Chávez in the National Portrait Gallery in Washington DC, as well as a statue of him at the University of Texas in Austin. Dr. Chávez is listed in the California Hall of Fame and references have been made about him in songs by well-known musicians. He was also honored with a commemorative postage stamp that the United States Postal Service issued in 2003.

"Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot uneducate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the person who is not afraid anymore. We have looked into the future and the future is ours."

- César E. Chávez



MARCH 2015 CALENDAR

NATIONAL ETHICS AWARENESS MONTH
IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
DEAF HISTORY MONTH

- 1 - Saint David of Wales (Christian)
- 1-7 - National Severe Storm Preparedness Week
- 2-20 - Nineteen Day Fast (Baha'i)
- 5 - Magha Puja Day (Buddhist)
- 6 - Hola Mohalla (Sikh)
- 8 - Genealogy Day (US)
- 10 - Salvation Army Day (US)
- 17 - St. Patrick's Day (Christian)
- 18 - L. Ron Hubbard birthday (Scientology)
- 19 - Saint Joseph's Day (Christian)
- 21 - Norooz (New Year) (Persian/Zoroastrian)
- 21-28 - Ramayana (Hindu)
- 22 - World Water Day (International)
- 23-29 - National LGBT Health Awareness Week
- 25 - National Medal of Honor Day (US)
- 30 - Doctors' Day (US)
- 31 - Cesar Chavez Day (US)

Deaf History Month 2015



The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) urges everyone to recognize and celebrate March 13 - April 15 as National Deaf History Month. This month includes three key moments in American History for the Deaf community: the March 13, 1988 Deaf President Now protest, the April 8, 1864 signing of the Gallaudet University charter by President Abraham Lincoln, and the April 15, 1817 establishment of American School for the Deaf in Hartford, CT as the first permanent public school for the deaf.

Each of these seminal events represents significant advancements for deaf and hard of hearing people in the United States. The establishment of the American School for the Deaf was the beginning of a long proud tradition of schools for the deaf in this country, which continues to this day. Preservation of these schools is of paramount importance to the community. Gallaudet University is a central icon within the community, representing the only university in the world that is solely for deaf and hard of hearing students.

March 13 represents the day that the deaf community seized its fate during the Gallaudet University "Deaf President Now" movement when Gallaudet selected its first Deaf President. We declared that never again would we not be allowed to lead ourselves.

In 2006, the American Library Association (ALA) and the NAD announced that March 13 to April 15 is National Deaf History Month, thanks to the efforts of Alice Hagemeyer. The NAD, with her guidance, has consistently encouraged state and local deaf-related organizations to collaborate with local libraries, state governors, county executives and mayors to recognize this month.

"Please join us and celebrate the amazing achievements of our predecessors who advanced our civil, human, and linguistic rights throughout our country's history during Deaf History Month," said President Bobbie Beth Scoggins. "The NAD urges the United States government and states as well as local organizations and libraries to officially recognize Deaf History month to bring awareness and appreciation of deaf culture, heritage and American Sign Language to the general public.

The NAD continues to work with Ms. Hagemeyer and the ALA to ensure that there is a Proclamation of National Deaf History Month through the White House and/or the U.S. Congress.

<http://nad.org/news/2012/3/celebrate-deaf-history-month-march-13-april-15-2012-0>

"Connecting Worlds" Medical Interpreter Training at UCDMC

On January 30th, 2015 Medical Interpreting Services launched a forty hour training for staff and community interpreters. The training curriculum includes professional ethics, standards of practice, code of conduct, and medical terminology. "Connecting Worlds" is an introductory course for healthcare interpreters in California. It incorporates lecture, interpreting practices, terminology review, interpreter roles and ethical standards developed by the California Healthcare Interpreters Association (CHIA). We have twelve participants representing eight different languages (Spanish, Russian, Hmong, Lao, Mien, Vietnamese, Cantonese and Mandarin). Five of the participants are staff interpreters at UC Davis Medical Center.

Training is being conducted by Mali Thongsonlone, MIS Analyst III-Supervisor. She tailored the existing training module to the needs of this particular group, which includes seasoned medical interpreters with many years of experience and novice community interpreters with almost no knowledge of medical terminology.

Mali incorporated many videos, slides, games and exercises to make the learning process more engaging. Participants are enjoying the training. Many wish that the training was eighty hours instead of only forty hours. This was Mali's first time facilitating the "Connecting Worlds" Medical Interpreter training. She prepared for her role as the trainer in the department by taking the "Training of Trainers for the Healthcare Interpreting Profession" course at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in August of 2013.



"Thanks to my manager, Elena Morrow, I was well prepared to teach this course. I am really honored to be a part of such an influential training. The highlights of this training were the expressions of joy from the faces of the participants. I was really impressed on how gracefully engaging they were on every topic and I can't wait for them to put their newly acquired skills & knowledge into practice", says Mali.