

WHEREAS; revered first generation Mexican American civil rights and labor rights activist, César Chávez, was born near Yuma, Arizona, on March 31, 1927; and

WHEREAS; during the Great Depression in the 1930s, the Chávez family lost their Arizona farm and relocated to California and, upon completing the eighth grade, Chávez began working as a farmer full-time to help support his family, which served as his first introduction to the issues facing farmers—and migrant farmers, in particular—in our country; and

WHEREAS; after enlisting and spending two years in the United States Navy, Chávez began a career in community organizing in 1948, coordinating anti-discrimination campaigns and directing voter registration drives in Mexican American communities with the San Jose chapter of the Community Service Organization; and

WHEREAS; in 1962, Chávez and fellow organizer, Dolores Huerta, co-founded the National Farm Workers Association, now known as the United Farm Workers of America, one of the first and most successful farm workers' unions in the history of our country; and

WHEREAS; Chávez spent his entire life organizing non-violent protests, boycotts, marches, and hunger strikes, and successfully secured union contracts that improved working conditions and wages for thousands of migrant farm workers in the United States; and

WHEREAS; following his death on April 23, 1993, Chávez was honored by more than 35,000 mourners, including many of his fellow labor activists, and was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton in 1994; and

WHEREAS; today, on what would have been his 94th birthday, the state of Wisconsin joins all Wisconsinites in reflecting on the life and legacy of César Chávez, and celebrates his many important contributions to civil rights, the labor movement, and the political landscape in our state and across our country;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim March 31, 2021, as

## **CÉSAR CHÁVEZ DAY**

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 31<sup>st</sup> day of March 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State