

Texas Representative Roberto R. Alonzo's



Capitol Report



Honoring the Legacy of Cesar Chavez

This March 31st, we will proudly celebrate the legacy of Cesar Chavez as one of the greatest leaders of the 20th century. This day not only commemorates the birthday of Cesar Estrada Chavez, but also serves as a tribute to his commitment to social justice and respect for human dignity.

Born on March 31, 1927 and raised on farms in the U.S. southwest, Cesar Chavez was a migrant worker from the age of 10. After becoming active with the Community Service Organization, which helped fight racial and economic discrimination against Chicano residents, Chavez rose to become a prominent labor leader and civil rights activist. He co-founded the National Farm Workers Association in the early 1960's and focused his attention on the plight of migrant farm workers, serving as both a voice and organizer for the community. Cesar Chavez used principles of non-violence while aiming to improve living conditions for migrant workers by organizing strikes and boycotts in order to gain rights. He is remembered and revered for his work with unions and played an instrumental role in passing the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act in 1975, which gives workers collective bargaining rights.

Cesar Chavez day is celebrated in many parts of the United States including California, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas.

"Cesar Chavez' commitment to fairness, dedication to equality, as well as his historic accomplishments undoubtedly deserve national recognition. Honoring Cesar's legacy links us to both historic and contemporary struggles for justice and emphasizes the importance of organizing in waging effective movements for change. Si se puede!" stated Rep. Roberto Alonzo.



First Woman and First Latina of Public Health

During this last week of Women's History Month, we highlight and reflect on the accomplishments of the first woman, and first Hispanic to become Surgeon General of the United States. Born Antonia Coello in the small town of Fajado, Puerto Rico, she suffered from an abnormality of the colon from birth, which cast a shadow over her entire childhood and adolescence.

Antonia's mother always stressed the importance of education and personal growth and contributed greatly to her academic and professional success. While attending the University of Puerto Rico at Rio Piedras, Antonia finally underwent surgery to correct her medical condition, but experienced complications until receiving her final operation at the famous Mayo clinic. Antonio received her Bachelor of Science degree at Rio Piedras in 1965, and her Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Puerto Rico at San Juan in 1970. After completing an internship in pediatrics at the University of Michigan Medical Center, she held fellowships in pediatric nephrology there and at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington DC.

In 1990 Dr. Antonia Novello was appointed Surgeon General of the United States by President George Bush, becoming the first woman and first Hispanic ever to hold that office. Her appointment came after nearly two decades of public service at the National Institute of Health, where she took a role in drafting national legislation regarding organ transplantation. As surgeon general, Novello focused on the health of young people, women, and minorities. She issued reports and spoke out on under-age drinking, smoking, drug abuse, AIDS, childhood immunization and injury prevention, as well as improved health care for Hispanics and other minorities.