

House Resolution 862

By: Representative Marin of the 96th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 31, 2015, as César E. Chávez Day at the state capitol and honoring Mr.
2 Chavez's birthday; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mr. César E. Chávez, born in 1927, rose from humble beginnings to become
4 the founder of the United Farm Workers, making him a major force in American history and
5 a heroic figure of the 20th century; and

6 WHEREAS, through personal sacrifice, Mr. Chávez focused national attention on the plight
7 of farm workers, making the world aware of the necessity for safe and fair working
8 conditions in the fields of the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, millions of Americans of all races and nationalities from across the nation
10 joined him in the movement for farm workers' rights; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Chávez was a champion for civil rights, labor rights, voting rights, and
12 women's rights and was an early environmentalist who warned the public of the devastating
13 effects of pesticides on both farm workers and consumers; and

14 WHEREAS, as a result of these and other valuable contributions, nine states now celebrate
15 César E. Chávez's birthday, March 31, as a holiday, including California, Arizona, Texas,
16 New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin; and

17 WHEREAS, countless schools, streets, libraries, and other public institutions have been
18 named after César E. Chávez, and many cities have honored him by establishing an official
19 city holiday on his birthday; and

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

22 WHEREAS, the César E. Chávez National Holiday organization, based in Los Angeles,
23 California, is spearheading a national effort to win support for a national holiday and day of
24 service, learning, and action to be established on his birthday, March 31; and

25 WHEREAS, the Georgia Latino Forum unanimously passed a similar resolution supporting
26 the César E. Chávez National Holiday effort at its second annual meeting on
27 January 26, 2008, as did the Council of Columbus, Georgia, on October 7, 2008; and

28 WHEREAS, the Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO), the GALEO
29 Latino Community Development Fund, and the GALEO Leadership Council held a historic,
30 multiracial, and multiethnic rally in support of the César E. Chávez National Holiday effort
31 in 2009 at the state capitol, the second annual event held in Georgia to honor César E.
32 Chávez.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
34 the members of this body recognize March 31, 2015, as César E. Chávez Day at the state
35 capitol in honor of his birthday and exemplary work on behalf of farm workers, civil rights,
36 labor rights, and women's rights.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
38 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
39 César E. Chávez National Holiday organization.