



Kerry Visits Schoolchildren at Chavez Day event

Sacramento, Calif. – On Tuesday, March 30, 2004, Presidential hopeful John Kerry visited the 4th Annual Cesar Chavez Youth Forum at California State University, Sacramento, to talk with a hundreds of schoolchildren working on a service project commemorating the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning.

“Cesar Chavez was an American hero,” Kerry told the children. “He was not just a hero to farm workers.”

He read an excerpt from Kathleen Krull’s “Harvesting Hope,” a children’s book that details the story of Cesar Chavez’s 340-mile march to protest the working conditions of migrant farm workers in California.

Below is a statement from John Kerry on Cesar Chavez Day:

“Cesar Chavez once told us that ‘we cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community.’”

“Today, America’s Latino communities are dotted with Cesar Chavez boulevards – a tribute to a man whose fight for justice reached so many neighborhoods and touched so many hearts.

Born into poverty, Cesar Chavez served in the United States Navy in World War II, and rose to become one of our greatest advocates of nonviolent change.

Like Chavez and the thousands of united farm workers and so many others whom he has inspired, we need to stand for this change in America once more. We need to stand for justice. We need to give a voice to those who are not heard. And we need to make the words of Cesar Chavez not just a slogan, but a solemn promise: ‘si se puede.’”