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County employees honor César E. Chávez with a day of service

Sacramento, CA – In recognition of César Chavez' birthday and legacy of community service, the Sacramento County Probation Association, in collaboration with the Sacramento County Probation Department, will deploy 50 staff volunteers to the Washington Neighborhood Center (WNC) to give it a much needed makeover. Projects include painting, landscaping, clearing trash and cleaning rain gutters.

Where: 400 16th Street (16th and D Streets)

When: Friday, March 30, 2018 - 9:00 a.m. to noon

Chávez, who served as a mentor to Supervisor Phil Serna's late father, Sacramento Mayor Joe Serna Jr., believed that people have an obligation to contribute to their community.

"I know César Chávez would want us to celebrate his legacy by helping others and encouraging participation in worthwhile projects like the Washington Neighborhood Center," said Serna.

Located in downtown Sacramento, WNC provides a wide range of programs and services in the arts, education, recreational activities, health, culture and an overall emphasis on youth, explained Joey Ramirez, WNC board chairman.

"When committed public servants come together for a cause such as this, it gives our neighborhood hope for the future," said Ramirez. "We're grateful to the men and women of Sacramento County's Probation Department for sacrificing part of their holiday to help the center and those it serves."

Friday marks the third year Sacramento County has officially recognized civil rights and labor movement leader César E. Chávez' birthday as a holiday and day of service. In 2015, the Board of Supervisors approved an amendment to the County's personnel ordinance to add March 31 annually as a holiday. Because this date falls on a weekend this year, the César E. Chávez Holiday is recognized on Friday, March 30.

State workers won the holiday in 2000 when California Governor Gray Davis signed a bill creating the César E. Chávez Day of Service and Learning. It was the first time a labor leader or Latino was honored with a public legal holiday.