The Life and Legacy of César Estrada Chávez

1927	César Estrada Chávez is born on March 31 in Yuma, Arizona.
1938	Chávez family loses its farm during the Great Depression. Family members become migrant farm workers.
1944–1945	Chávez joins the U.S. Navy and serves in the Pacific during World War II.
1947	Chávez joins his first union: the National Agricultural Workers Union.
1948	Chávez marries Helen Fablea.
1952	Chávez recruited to work with Saul Alinsky's Community Service Organization (CSO).
1962	Chávez founds the National Farm Workers Association, a union that will later become the United Farm Workers.
1962	Chávez leads a 340-mile protest march, earning the support of more than 10,000 protestors.
1965	Chávez's union joins the strike against California grape growers.
1968	**February:** Chávez fasts for 25 days to call awareness to the importance of nonviolent protest. **July:** More than 100 grape growers sue Chávez and the UFW, citing $25 million in losses from the strike.
1988	Still very active in the labor movement, Chávez fasts for 36 days to alert the world to the dangers of pesticides.
1993	Chávez dies of natural causes in San Luis, Arizona.