

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Nancey Harrington at 10:30 a.m. on March 13, 2002 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator John Vratil, Excused  
Senator Pete Brungardt, Excused

Committee staff present: Russell Mills, Legislative Research Department  
Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research Department  
Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor  
Nikki Kraus, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:  
Representative Vaughn Flora  
Elias Garcia, Chairman, Kansas Democratic Hispanic Caucus  
Raul Guevara, Buena Genta  
Andy Sanchez, AFL-CIO Unions  
Leo Prieto, United States Hispanic Leadership Institute  
Ramon Powers, Executive Director

Others attending: Please see attached

Chairperson Harrington opened the public meeting on:

**SCR 1620–National holiday honoring Cesar Chavez**

Representative Vaughn Flora presented testimony in favor of the bill. (**Attachment 1**)

Elias Garcia, Chairman, Kansas Democratic Hispanic Caucus, presented testimony in favor of the bill. (**Attachment 2**)

Raul Guevara, Buena Genta, presented testimony in favor of the bill. (**Attachment 3**)

Andy Sanchez, AFL-CIO Unions, presented testimony in favor of the bill. (**Attachment 4**)

Leo Prieto, United States Hispanic Leadership Institute, presented testimony in favor of the bill. (**Attachment 5**)

Tina LaRosa spoke in favor of the bill. In response to a question from Senator Gooch, she stated that the present situation in Kansas was that about seventy percent of the current Hispanic population was brought to the state because of migrant work. She stated that Chavez had been a hero to migrant workers and had worked all of his life to improve both their working conditions and rights.

Senator Gooch made a motion to recommend the bill favorable for passage. Senator Gilstrap seconded that motion. The motion passed.

Ramon Powers, Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society, presented the committee with an explanation of the Kansas State Historical Society's policy regarding battle and violence reenactments. (**Attachment 6**) Mr. Powers also presented the committee with a copy of the Society's policy itself. (**Attachment 7**)

Senator Teichman stated that she would like to congratulate Mr. Powers on his retirement and thank him for his service.

Senator Gooch stated that he would like to commend Mr. Powers for not leaving the discussion of this policy unchallenged, and stated that those who come after him will certainly appreciate that. Mr. Powers stated that he would not want to do that.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE at on March 13, 2002 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

Chairperson Harrington stated that it was important for children to understand history, especially of the Civil War, and she was very glad that Mr. Powers had appeared before the committee and that the Society was not trying to change history.

Chairperson Harrington stated that Senator Les Donovan had requested a bill introduction from the committee which would not allow more than two bids for a design project.

Senator O'Connor made a motion to introduce the bill. Senator Gooch seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Senator Gilstrap made a motion to approve the minutes. Senator Teichman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. on March 19, 2002 in Room 245-N.





TOPEKA

HOUSE OF

REPRESENTATIVES

VAUGHN L. FLORA  
REPRESENTATIVE, 57TH DISTRICT  
431 WOODLAND AVE  
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66607

STATE CAPITOL  
RM 278-W  
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1504  
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March 13, 2002

Federal and State Committee

Good Morning Madam Chairman.

Cesar Chavez was born in Yuma, Arizona on March 31, 1927. After the Depression forced young Cesar and his family from their ranch, he began working in the fields at an early age. Inspired by the teachings of a Catholic priest and by the writings of Ghandi and other great civil leaders, Cesar rose to become one of the great labor leaders of our time.

The United Farm Workers, the union he founded and led for almost three decades, became a symbol of empowerment and pride for many workers. The union was chartered in 1966 by the American Federation of Labor and Congress on Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), with Chavez as its president. In 1968 Chavez gained attention as leader of a nationwide boycott of California table grapes in a drive to achieve labor contracts. Cesar's innate understanding of the problems facing migrant workers allowed him to organize, and bring hope and inspiration to some of the hardest-working people on the face of the Earth.

In this resolution we are asking the Congress of the United States to designate March 31<sup>st</sup> as a national holiday in honor of Cesar Chavez.

Cesar once said when speaking of his farmworkers:

"Somewhere and somehow these people are  
never going to be the same. It's very  
important to us that people question, that they  
participate and that are never afraid to have  
some principle and stand by that principle."

Thank you for your consideration.

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March 13, 2002

**Testimony**  
**Elias L. Garcia, Chr. Hispanic Caucus**  
**Federal and State Committee**

Honorable members of the Federal and State Committee, my name is Elias L. Garcia. I am Chairman of the Kansas Democratic Hispanic Caucus, and I stand before you today to go on record as supporting the efforts of our union brothers to institutionalize a national holiday on the 31<sup>st</sup> in honor of the late Cesar E. Chavez

While many of may or may not know much of the man or why he would merit such recognition, I am here to tell you that if any American truly deserved to be honored in this manner, it is Cesar E. Chavez. Cesar Chavez was a humble man who not only talked the talk, he was also infamous for walking the walk. Cesar Chavez was a role model for all people and all generations. I related to him because I too was born into a migrant worker family and worked in the brutal conditions which he fought to change. Cesar Chavez was one of my heros and a hero for all farm workers in California, Colorado and indeed throughout the country. Cesar Chavez not only influenced my life, but he influenced a nation.

Many of my generation believed in the man, his vision and La Causa. In 1970, when he sounded the call to Chicanos around the country to come to California and fill the jails in Orange County and surrounding communities, so that there would be no room for organizers of the United Farm Workers Union, I gladly left my barrio in Denver, Colorado and joined the caravans of Raza headed for California to peacefully be thrown in jail.

When he sounded the call to boycott grapes and later lettuce in an effort to stop the powerful California growers oppression of farm workers families and their children, I along with many of my generation stopped eating grapes and lettuce and thus helped to bring the first collective bargaining agreement between farm workers and growers in the continental United States.

Later in 1982, as a Conference staff member of the San Antonio based Southwest Voter Registration Project, I came to know Cesar Chavez on a personal level when he joined us on that occasion. I can tell you right now, that while I never met Martin Luther King, I do not think that I could have felt any more in awe of any human being as with Cesar E. Chavez. The power which his presence radiated was beyond description, yet his humility was equally awesome.

During the time spent with this small, humble, quiet man I came to understand how he became the center of the universe for millions of disenfranchised , the strength and hope for those who were weak and hopeless. Cesar Chavez lead the way in changing a culture through peace and social justice and he was one of the precious few individuals throughout American history, to have made such an imprint on our society.

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Garcia: Testimony

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Martin Luther King was a powerful figure of destiny, of courage, of sacrifice and of vision. Few can rival his accomplishment, his reason, his selfless dedication to the cause of peace. Yet while Martin Luther King was alive he considered Cesar Chavez to be a peer, one whom he respected and revered. This was evident in a letter that King sent to Chavez during one of his first fasts, in which he sent Chavez words of encouragement and shared his wisdom with Chavez.

Like all great Americans who we have come to revere as a society, Cesar Chavez was another one of those very special people who come along once in a generation and who embodied all those values which we hold sacred and true. Few men of any generation that can be mentioned or for that matter, deserve to be mentioned in the same breath as Mahatma Ghandi and Martin Luther King. Cesar Chavez is one of those men.

Cesar Chavez spent his life fighting for social justice. His tireless commitment and pure selflessness inspired countless numbers of people across this nation. He was a symbol of hope to millions and taught us that injustice anywhere affects all people everywhere. As a matter of fact if he were alive today he would be one of our strongest voices in speaking out against the injustice and oppressiveness of legislative initiatives that serve as barriers to Hispanics in obtaining a Kansas Drivers license.

Honorable Committee members, what Cesar Chavez represents cannot truly be articulated. His achievements were many and his message was one of love, his vision was that of one humanity, his commitment united people, his dignity bonded cultures. Ladies and gentleman, I say to you in closing that Cesar Chavez truly deserves all the recognition which he earned yet never sought in life. I encourage you to support this endeavor in honor of a great American.

Thank you



**Testimony before the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee  
In Support of SCR 1620  
March 13, 2002  
By  
Raúl Rubio Guevara**

Honorable Chairperson Nancy Harrington and distinguished members of the Kansas Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to submit this statement in support of Senate Resolution No. 1620 memorializing the Congress of the United States to designate a national holiday in honor of César Estrada Chávez.

My name is Raúl R. Guevara and I am a member of Buena Gente. I have served on the Kansas Advisory Committee on Hispanic Affairs, founded a LULAC Chapter in Manhattan, Kansas and a Golden Gloves boxing gym in Topeka, Kansas. I have been a member of numerous organizations dedicated to help fulfill the promises and principles of democracy by empowering minorities and similar disenfranchised groups, by promoting and providing leadership development, and maximizing civic awareness and educated participation in the electoral process.

Today, I respectfully request that we honor a giant among men and a special prophet for the world's farm workers. César Chávez was a powerful figure of courage, sacrifice, and vision who forever changed the destiny of our nation's farm workers. Few people in the long history of this nation can rival his accomplishments, his reason, or his selfless dedication to the cause of peace and social justice.

I call upon you to honor a wise teacher, a skilled political organizer, an inspiring leader and a true visionary. But to truly honor César Chávez, we must do more than say words of praise. We must learn his lessons and put his views into practice. I urge you to support a holiday so that the values that Chávez demonstrated will continue to teach people everywhere.

California has established an official state holiday to honor Latino labor leader César Chávez, born on March 31, 1927. César Chávez Day is intended to promote service to the communities of California in honor of Chavez's life and work. It will be celebrated on March 31, or the appropriate Monday or Friday following or preceding that date. The celebration in 2002 occurs on April 1st.

César Chávez dedicated his life working for the civil rights, human rights, and the workers rights of the single most disadvantaged of all groups in the United States, the nation's farm workers. These hard-working Americans toil in the fields for

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meager earnings and few benefits; they sustain multi-billion dollar industries, and literally put food on our tables. Yet, they remain largely invisible to the rest of the country. Under a century-old system of labor, farm workers continue to be inadequately protected by federal laws and regulations, including worker protection standards that all other workers take for granted.

**“When you have people together who believe in something very strongly, whether it’s religion or politics or unions —things happen.” César E. Chávez**

César Chávez was a soft-spoken and charismatic labor leader who reflected a new ethnic pride and began to organize California grape pickers in 1962 and form a national labor union. Under his leadership of nonviolence and the Struggles in the Fields, farm workers launched a strike against California grape growers in 1965, demanding better working conditions and fair wages. By 1969 Chávez could command a national stage for *La Causa*. The union asked for a national boycott of all table grapes. Grapes became a national symbol of farm worker exploitation and soon people throughout the nation were choosing to boycott grapes. Volunteers began picketing supermarkets that sold grapes. Buying grapes became a moral issue. Many chose not to purchase grapes because they sympathized with the struggle. César was at the center of this movement and was even put on the cover of Time magazine on July 4, 1969.

In 1970, they undertook a national table grape boycott that eventually led to the 1<sup>st</sup> union contracts in farm labor history. He succeeded in improving work conditions for the stoop laborers who followed the cycle of planting and harvesting across America. Chavez registered more than 200,000 new voters and Attorney General presidential candidate Robert Kennedy paid him a personal visit. Chavez said, **"The hands that pick the grapes, lettuce, and cotton in this country can also pick the next President of the U.S."**

Latinos want what all Americans want: strong neighborhoods and safe communities, good schools and educational excellence, opportunities to work and save, quality health care, and role models.

César grew up understanding that a democracy’s strength comes from a variety of people working together. This is one reason why César E. Chávez is not just a Mexican American hero, but a hero to all people. He believed in the strength of the people and he showed it through his actions. Note that for all his fame and hard work, César Chávez, throughout his life, never made more than \$5,000 a year.

In 1994, César Estrada Chávez was awarded the Medal of Freedom, the United State’s highest honor for non-military personnel.



Our ancestors have made significant contributions to the growth and development of Kansas, the United States, and the world.

The numbers are out and Hispanics are in. Five years earlier than expected, the Latino population has surpassed 35.3 million or about 13% of the U.S. population and is about to become the largest minority in the nation. Such a formidable national presence should serve as a wake up call for mainstream America. Hispanics are here to stay. Inclusion is the key factor.

We are a community that will play a big role in the American future. We are a huge part of the workforce now and in the future. One in eight Americans is Hispanic and Latino children are among America's most precious resources. If we improve their educational outcomes and overall well being, we are not only addressing issues important to the Latino community, we are laying a cornerstone of the nation's economic prosperity.

Our community has a purchasing power of nearly \$500 billion. Our more than 1.4 million Hispanic businesses generate over \$200 billion in annual receipts and in addition to our strong impact on the new economy, we continue to make significant contributions to the political, cultural and social landscape of this country.

Mexican food is handed through fast food drive-up windows in all 50 states. Salsa outsells ketchup. Hundreds of towns, forests, shopping centers and hotels bear the names of explorers providing a permanent record of our ancestors' exploits. Spanish language broadcasts fill the airwaves, and we have Spanish Yellow Pages. Latinos send representatives to Congress and mayors to city hall, record hit songs, paint murals, and teach history.

Our goal is to influence history instead of merely observing it. Work remains to build the kind of America envisioned by César Chávez and the Farm workers Union.

It does not matter what boat people took to come to the U.S., whether it was the Nina, Pinta, Santa Maria, Mayflower, a cruise ship or a slave ship. We are all in the same boat now and we will either sink or swim together.

**“You are never strong enough that you don’t need help.” César E. Chávez**

A day honoring César Chávez’ accomplishments will help remind us all of the continuing need for protecting our nation’s farm workers.

**Testimony by Andy Sanchez, Executive Director  
The Kansas Association of Public Employees, KAPE/AFT, AFL-CIO  
Before the  
Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee  
March 13, 2002**

Thank you Chairperson Harrington and members of the committee. We support the passage SCR 1620. There are two reasons in particular why this resolution means a great deal to our organization and me. First, it sends a positive message to working people and second, it provides encouragement to young people, especially young Latinos.

Having been a union member all of my working life (26 years), including working in a trade union, both have impacted my life. My union affiliations have provided me with a sense of pride and commitment to my jobs, a safe workplace and an economic ladder to move upward. Establishing a national holiday in memory of Cesar Chavez is at last the recognition he deserves, his place in history. He promoted workplace standards and an economic ladder, not just for Latinos, but for all workers. The pursuit of these accomplishments meant some personal recognition, but I don't think that Cesar Chavez consciously pursued his own place in history. I believe he did it for the generations of farm workers and laborers that were to follow.

What could a national holiday do for young Latinos and Hispanics? By acknowledgement, by recognition, you will send a message to young Latinos, one that interprets history in a manner that says the contributions of Cesar Chavez are valued. Give young people this opportunity to compare and contrast their own life. It is worth repeating, this committee has a chance to pass a resolution that can help interpret history. Passing the resolution gives workers and young Latinos perspective. It gives them easy access to a legacy. We ask for the committee's favorable consideration of this resolution.

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**TESTIMONY**  
**Submitted on behalf of the**  
**United States Hispanic Leadership Institute**  
**Topeka, KS**  
**January 29, 2001**

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MY NAME IS LEO PRIETO. I AM THE CENTRAL STATES COORDINATOR FOR THE UNITED STATES HISPANIC LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE, A NONPARTISAN, NONPROFIT CHICAGO-BASED NATIONAL ORGANIZATION.

OUR INSTITUTE, CHARTERED IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, WAS FOUNDED IN 1982 TO PROMOTE GREATER PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS AMONG HISPANICS AND OTHER SIMILARLY DISENFRANCHISED GROUPS. WE ASSIST LOCAL LEADERS AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS IN ORGANIZING AND CONDUCTING NONPARTISAN VOTER REGISTRATION AND EDUCATION AND GET-OUT-THE-VOTE CAMPAIGNS. WE ALSO CONDUCT RESEARCH AND PUBLISH STUDIES ON HISPANIC DEMOGRAPHICS. WE ORGANIZE AND SPONSOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, COLLEGE STUDENTS AND ADMINISTRATORS, GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY LEADERS AND LOCAL PUBLIC OFFICIALS, AND TRAIN CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE. WE ALSO SPONSOR THE UNITED STATES HISPANIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, WHICH IS HELD ANNUALLY IN CHICAGO. NOW IN ITS 20<sup>TH</sup> YEAR, THE CONFERENCE IS ATTENDED BY OVER 8,000 PRESENT AND FUTURE LEADERS REPRESENTING HUNDREDS OF CITIES IN 40 STATES, AND IS THE LARGEST ANNUAL GATHERING OF HISPANIC LEADERS IN THE NATION.

THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU THIS MORNING. AS THE CENTRAL STATES REGIONAL COORDINATOR FOR USHLI I FEEL IT IS MY DUTY AND OBLIGATION TO BE WITH YOU THIS MORNING IN SUPPORT OF COMMEMORATING A NATIONAL HOLIDAY IN HONOR OF ONE OF THE GREATEST LEADERS IN THE HISTORY OF OUR NATION, MR. CESAR E. CHAVEZ. AS A

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RECIPIENT OF COUNTLESS HONORS BESTOWED UPON HIM, WE AT THE INSTITUTE RECOGNIZED HIM AS THE 1990 NATIONAL HISPANIC HERO AWARD RECIPIENT AT OUR U.S. HISPANIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE. AN ANNUAL AWARD HAS ALSO BEEN CREATED IN HIS HONOR, THE CESAR E. CHAVEZ COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD, WHICH IS GIVEN TO LEADERS THAT DEMONSTRATE HIS WAY OF LIFE. MR. CHAVEZ WAS A GREAT MAN WHO HAS CHANGED THE WORLD BY USING NONVIOLENCE. HE IS ABOUT JUSTICE AND EQUALITY TO ALL. HE REPRESENTS DIGNITY AND WANTING A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR MANY OTHERS. THAT IS WHY THE UNITED STATES HISPANIC LEADERSHIP IS IN FULL SUPPORT OF HONORING CESAR CHAVEZ BIRTHDAY MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup> AS A FEDERAL HOLIDAY WHICH ENCOURAGES STATES AND SCHOOLS TO INCORPORATE LESSONS ON COMMEMORATING THIS GREAT, TRUE AMERICAN HERO.

CESAR E. CHAVEZ LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR JUSTICE AND FREEDOM. HIS NAME IS IN SAME COMPANY AS GHANDI AND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR AS CRUSADERS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE AND GREAT LEADERS OF OUR TIME. HE WAS HOPE FOR THE THOUSANDS OF IMPOVERSHED PEOPLE. HE WAS A GIANT OF A MAN. HIS LEGACY WILL LIVE IN OUR HEARTS, OUR HOPES AND OUR DREAMS.

MR. CHAVEZ SPOKE UP FOR THE MANY FARMWORKERS THAT WERE MISTREATED, EXPLOITED AND DID NOT HAVE A VOICE. HE WAS THE SOLITARY VOICE. HE WAS THE LEADER IN LA CAUSA, THE CAUSE AND THE STRUGGLE. AS FOUNDER OF THE UNITED FARM WORKERS, HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANIZING FARM WORKERS, UNIONS, AND MAKING SURE AGRICULTURAL WORKERS WERE NO LONGER EXPLOITED, RECEIVED HEALTH BENEFITS, AND CHILD LABOR WAS PUT TO A HALT AND INSTEAD EDUCATION WAS AT THE FOREFRONT FOR THE CHILDREN OF LABORORS. CHAVEZ USED NONVIOLENCE TACTICS TO BRING ATTENTION TO THE STRUGGLE OF FARM WORKERS. HIS EFFORTS ARE A SHINING EXAMPLE OF TO THE YOUTH AND PROVIDE A VALUABLE LESSON TO EVERYONE SHOWING THAT WITH HARD WORK,

DETERMINATION, BANNING TOGETHER FOR A COMMON CAUSE, AND BEING UNITED, CHANGES WILL OCCUR. S E S E P U E D E ! HIS FAMOUS WORDS, YES WE CAN!

MR. LUTHER KING, JR. ONCE WROTE HIM A NOTE DURING HIS FIRST FAST THAT READ, "A SEPARATE STRUGGLE WE REALLY ARE ONE. A STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM, DIGNITY, AND FOR HUMANITY."

CHAVEZ' INFLUENCE EXTENDED FAR BEYOND ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY. HE HELPED MOBILIZE COMMUNITIES IN VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES AND IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENTS TO INSURE MINORITY COMMUNITIES HAD EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION. HE WORKED IN URBAN AREAS AND TAUGHT COMMUNITY MEMBERS HOW TO DEAL WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND SCHOOLS TO IMPOWER MANY TO SEEK EDUCATION AND POLITICS. ALL PRINCIPLES THE WE AT THE UNITED STATES HISPANIC INSTITUTE PRACTICE AND ABIDE BY SINCE OUR FOUNDATION IN 1982: COMMUNITY, EMPOWERMENT, UNITY, AND LEADERSHIP.

CESAR E. CHAVEZ WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO INSPIRE THE PLIGHT OF FARM WORKERS, CHILDREN AND THE POOR THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND FOR HIS HEROIC INSPIRATION TO MANY AMERICANS OF ALL WALKS OF LIFE. HE IS A TRUE AMERICAN HERO. COUNTLESS SCHOOLS, ROADS, LIBRARIES, PARKS, AND OTHER PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS ARE NAMED ON HIS BEHALF. IT IS ONLY FITTING THAT WE, AT THE UNITED STATES HISPANIC LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE, GIVE OUR FULL SUPPORT IN HAVING THE ENTIRE NATION HONOR THIS GREAT MAN'S LEGACY AS A FEDERAL HOLIDAY.

AGAIN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU THIS MORNING.





# KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

6425 SW Sixth Avenue • Topeka, Kansas 66615-1099 •  
785-272-8681 • www.kshs.org

March 13, 2002

## PRESENTATION TO THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Chair Harrington and members of the committee, I am Ramon Powers, Executive Director of the Kansas State Historical Society. I am here to clarify the policy of the Society regarding battle and violence reenactments. As some of you know this will be one of my last legislative activities since I will be retiring from state service this Friday. For this reason I have brought two people with me today. Jennie Chinn, director of education for the Society, will serve as interim director of the Society beginning next Monday if my replacement is not yet available. Also with me are Terry Marmet, the director of historic sites and facilities for the Society, Bob Keckeisen, the director of the Kansas Museum of History, and David Haury, the associate director.

On February 26 an article appeared in the Junction City *Daily Union* related to the Society's policy on prohibiting battle and violence reenactments. Unfortunately, the article misrepresented the policy and the rationale for its implementation. The article was picked up by the Associated Press in Kansas.

Since 1995 the Society has had a policy restricting battle reenactments on our properties modeled after that of the National Park Service. The policy was supported by the Executive Committee of the Society. More recently during discussions about re-enacting the Marais des Cygnes massacre, we realized our policy addressed only battles and not other acts of violence. We revised the policy accordingly and re-issued it to our staff.

Contrary to current publicity, the policy does not ban reenactments or living history programs at the sites administered by the Society. Battles and other acts of violence are a part of history and must be interpreted, and this policy does not prevent that. The Society supports and engages in living history as an educational tool. The policy simply addresses the methods of how acts of violence are interpreted. Just as we would not re-enact an execution or lynching, the policy restricts the replaying or the recreation of the actual violence itself. In other words, the pointing and firing of weapons at people are not allowed, but demonstrations of military tactics and weapons usage are appropriate. Further, the policy is there to guide us, but it allows for exceptions.

The reasons that reenactments of battles and other violence have been restricted at our sites are three-fold: 1) public safety; 2) potential damage to archeological evidence; and 3) audience appropriateness. As a public institution, we have a unique responsibility to be cautious in the manner in which we depict material and how we protect the public's safety and the integrity of the historic sites. In spite of extensive training and precautionary procedures, injuries can still occur during battle reenactments. The reproduction weapons, ammunition, clothing, and other accoutrements are nearly indistinguishable from the historic ones. Pieces of these items are inadvertently left on the site, further confusing the interpretation of the real battle through archeological study. The Society serves a broad audience including children and we do not screen our audiences. We, along with the National Park Service, have chosen to address historical events dealing with violence by means other than re-enacting.

Since the news articles, there have been a number of people reviewing the policy. A Confederate re-enactor had this response. "I guess I've been doing this long enough now that the camaraderie of my fellow re-enactors and the opportunity to educate the public means more than the chance to shoot-em up."

I have brought a copy of our policy and that of the National Park Service. Let me now respond to any questions you may have.



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**I. BACKGROUND:**

This policy is governed by considerations of safety and liability, loss or destruction of the archeological record, sensitivity to a family audience, current educational trends, and the desire not to engage in a visual replay of the tragedies inherent in wars, massacres, and other acts of violence.

**II. PURPOSE:**

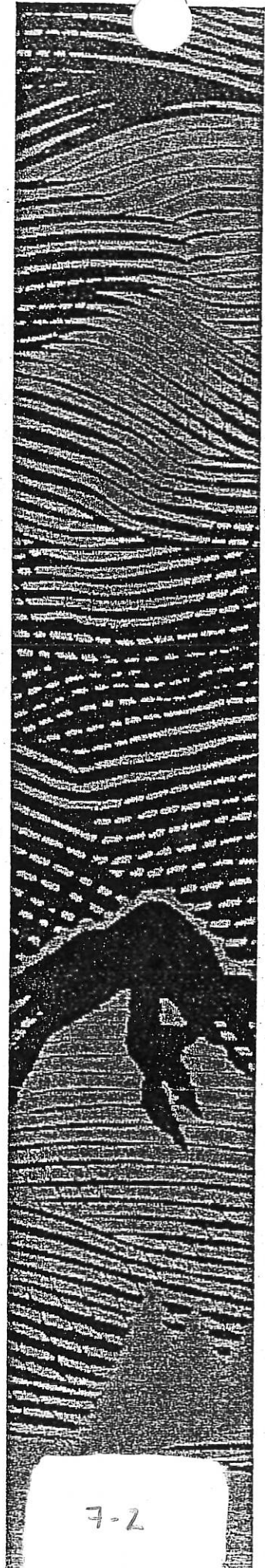
Battle reenactments and/or any demonstrations of weapons that involve the firing at opposing forces, the taking of casualties, or any other forms of simulated warfare or other acts of violence are prohibited in all areas administered by the Kansas State Historical Society.

Although simulated warfare or other acts of violence are prohibited, there are some situations where demonstrations of historical military tactics or weapons usage might be an appropriate form of interpretation. Such instances should be approved in advance through the appropriate agency channels and have clear educational goals in order to ensure a learning experience for the audience.

**III. PROCEDURE:**

Not applicable

# Management Policies 2001



used; no exemptions will be granted. Requests by outside groups or individuals to use non-NPS original weapons will follow the exemption request procedure prescribed in Reference Manual 6, and will be granted or denied in writing by the superintendent.

#### **7.5.8 Reenactments**

Battle re-enactments and demonstrations of battle tactics that involve exchanges of fire between opposing lines, the taking of casualties, hand-to-hand combat, or any other form of simulated warfare, are prohibited in all parks. Battle re-enactments create an atmosphere inconsistent with the memorial qualities of the battlefields and other military sites placed in the Service's trust.

### **7.6 Interpretive and Educational Partnerships**

In planning and implementing interpretive and educational programs, superintendents should consider the use of volunteers, concessioners, cooperating associations, field schools and institutes, friends groups, and private individuals to supplement park staff and funds. Such services will not be used as a replacement or substitute for a park's basic interpretive operation. To ensure quality control and appropriateness, NPS interpretive staff will be involved with the planning, approval, training, monitoring, and evaluation of all interpretive services provided by others. Non-NPS personnel providing interpretive services should be offered an opportunity to complete the appropriate interpretive development program training module(s), and/or seek certification in the appropriate competency(ies).

*(See Interpretive Competencies and Skills 7.4; Cooperating Associations 7.6.2; Interpretation by Concessioners 10.2.4.3)*

#### **7.6.1 Volunteers in the Parks**

Volunteer services may be used in various aspects of park operations under the authority of the Volunteers in the Parks

Act of 1969. Pursuant to this legislation, volunteers may be recruited without regard to civil service regulations; are covered for tort liability and work-injury compensation; and may be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses while participating in the program. Volunteers will be accepted without regard to race, creed, religion, age, sex, color, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation. Volunteers will not displace NPS employees. NPS housing may be used for volunteers only if available and not needed for NPS employees. Director's Order #7 and Reference Manual 7 provide additional guidance for the volunteer program.

*(See Protection 5.3.5.1.4; Housing Management Plans 9.4.3.4. Also see Handbook 36 on Housing)*

#### **7.6.2 Cooperating Associations**

When appropriate, cooperating associations will join the National Park Service in presenting interpretive and educational programs, and in supporting research efforts as authorized in 16 USC 1-3, 6, and 17j-(2)e. Enabled by a standard, non-negotiable cooperating association agreement, cooperating associations may, consistent with a park's scope-of-sales statement, purchase for re-sale, or produce for sale, interpretive and educational items that are directly related to the understanding and interpretation of the park or the national park system. Associations may offer appropriate and approved interpretive services that support but do not supplant interpretive and educational services offered by the NPS. Associations may accept donations on behalf of the Service when appropriate, and when conducted through approved fund-raising efforts. Service housing may be used for cooperating association employees only if available and not needed for NPS employees. Guidance for managing NPS partnerships with cooperating associations is included in Director's Order #32 and Reference Manual 32.

*(See Housing Management Plans 9.4.3.4. Also see Director's Order #21: Donations and Fundraising; Handbook 36 on Housing)*