

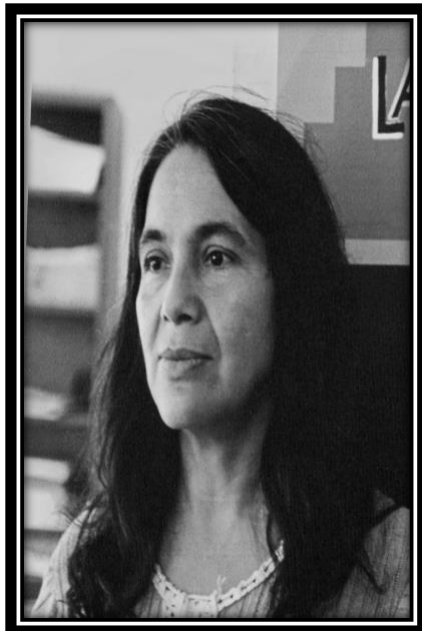
PROFILE OF RESISTANCE

Dolores Huerta

organizer, farm worker activist

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“Every moment is an organizing opportunity, every person a potential activist, every minute a chance to change the world.”



Background

Born: April 10, 1930

Dolores Huerta was born in Dawson, New Mexico. Her parents got divorced when she was young. She ended up moving with her mother and two siblings to Stockton, California. Her mother worked hard to buy a small hotel and restaurant. She believed in treating workers fairly. Huerta’s mother inspired her as she grew up.ⁱ

As a young girl, Huerta also faced discrimination. In school, her teacher accused her of cheating because she wrote a paper “too well.” These parts of her childhood pushed her to be an activist. At the University of the Pacific’s Delta College, Huerta earned a teaching degree. In the 1950s, she taught in a school for a short period. She was sad to see that many farm children came to school hungry. She wanted to do more to help them.

Huerta’s Resistance

Huerta was a co-founder of the Community Service Organization (CSO) in California. In the CSO she helped register Hispanic people to vote. She fought for better economic opportunities for the Hispanic community. Huerta was also a co-founder of the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA) along with Cesar Chavez. They both wanted to help farm workers. The NFWA turned into the United Farm Workers’ Union in 1966. Huerta was the United Farm Workers’ Union vice president for over 30 years. During this time, she helped farm workers compromise for fair contracts. She also fought for safer working conditions for farm workers. This included getting rid of harmful pesticides used on crops.

Achievements

Dolores Huerta continued to fight for Hispanic people. In the 1990s and early 2000s, she worked to get more Hispanics and women elected into political positions. In 1998, Dolores Huerta received the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award. In 2012, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from Barack Obama. She made it into the California Hall of Fame in 2013.ⁱⁱ

