

**Dolores Huerta
Community Leader & Activist**



Huerta, a lifelong community organizer who co-founded the *National Farm Workers Association* with fellow civil rights activist César Chavez, was born in the small mining town of Dawson, New Mexico in 1930. After her parents' divorce, she and her brothers relocated to California with their mother, but she never lost her connection to New Mexico, stating in a recent interview with KOAT News, "I believe strongly that there is something very healing about New Mexico, the ambiance, the friendliness of the people, and the ethics."

She received her passion for activism from both her parents. Her father was a farm worker and miner who later ran for New Mexico political office and won; while her mother was an entrepreneur with a feminist spirit who owned and operated her own hotel. She was very supportive of the culturally diverse agricultural community in California, and included Dolores in community activism.

She discovered her talent for organizing while serving in the leadership of the *Stockton Community Service Organization* (CSO), during which time she founded the *Agricultural Workers Association*. It was through the founder of (CSO) that she met César Chavez in 1955, who shared her vision for working toward farm laborer's rights. By 1962 both had resigned from (CSO) and founded the *National Farm Workers Association* where the two worked tirelessly securing financial aid for families, disability insurance for farm workers, and were instrumental in the enactment of the Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975, granting farm workers the right to organize on behalf of fair wages and better working conditions.



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At 89 years old, Huerta, who received the *Presidential Medal of Freedom* from President Barack Obama in 2012, is still influential in movements for workers, immigration, gender justice and more. She continues to advocate for farm workers and impoverished labor groups, traveling across the U.S. leading campaigns supporting equality and civil rights.

Among her many accolades, it was recently voted that she would be honored for her work and connection to the Land of Enchantment by having a major road named after her, “Avenida Dolores Huerta” in Albuquerque. Dolores Huerta will be celebrating her 90th birthday on Friday, April 10th!

To learn more about Dolores Huerta visit the [*Dolores Huerta Foundation*](#) and see her recent [*KOAT 7 Interview*](#).