



Ruben Navarrette Jr

Ruben Navarrette Jr., a columnist and editorial board member of The San Diego Union-Tribune, is a fresh and increasingly important voice in the national political debate. His twice-weekly column offers new thinking on many of the major issues of the day, especially on thorny questions involving ethnicity and national origin. His column is syndicated worldwide by The Washington Post Writers Group.

After graduating from Harvard in 1990, Navarrette returned to his native Fresno, Calif., where he began a free-lance writing career that produced more than 200 articles in such publications as the Los Angeles Times, The Fresno Bee, the Chicago Tribune and The Arizona Republic.

In 1997 he joined the staff of The Arizona Republic, first as a reporter and then as a twice-weekly columnist, before returning to Harvard in the fall of 1999 to earn a master's in public administration from the Kennedy School of Government. He joined the editorial board of The Dallas Morning News in July 2000, and in 2005, moved to the Union-Tribune. His column has been in syndication since 2001.

Navarrette draws on both his knowledge of policy and politics and his life experiences to provide meaningful and hard-hitting commentary. He is a gifted and widely sought speaker on Latino affairs, has worked as a substitute teacher in classes from kindergarten to high school, and has hosted radio talk shows. Navarrette has also served as guest host of public television's "Life & Times" and has discussed current affairs on CNN, CNBC, Fox News Channel, National Public Radio and The PBS Newshour with Jim Lehrer. He also does regular commentary for NPR's "Morning Edition."

His book, "A Darker Shade of Crimson: Odyssey of a Harvard Chicano," drew favorable reviews after it was published in 1993. In 2000, he contributed an installment to "Chicken Soup for the Writers Soul," of the best-selling "Chicken Soup for the Soul" series.

His columns won second place in the 2004 National Headliner Awards presented by the Press Club of Atlantic City. In 2002 and 2003, the Dallas Observer named him "Best Columnist at a Daily Newspaper."

Navarrette was born May 11, 1967, in the farm country of the San Joaquin Valley. He attended public schools in Sanger, Calif., a town of deep roots where all four of his grandparents lived. His father is a 34-year law enforcement officer in Fresno. Ruben Sr. recently became an investigator for the California Labor Commissioner's Office where he enforces fair labor practices in some of the very same grape fields and peach orchards where he and his brothers, along with his parents, worked in the 1930s and 1940s.

A Sense of Possibility: The Education of Ruben Navarrette

Affirmative Distraction: Why a Harvard Latino Opposes Racial Preferences

Take a Risk, Live your Dream: A Motivational Speech for College Students

Immigrant Nation: How Latino Immigration will Change America for the Better - and You Along With It

Tapping the Hispanic Market: 37 Million Hispanics, \$500 Billion/Year & You



Dolores Huerta

Dolores C. Huerta, President of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, co-founder and First Vice President Emeritus of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO (UFW). She is the mother of 11 children, 20 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Dolores has played a major role in the American civil rights movement.

Dolores Huerta was born on April 10, 1930 in the mining town of Dawson, in the northern New Mexico, where her father, Juan Fernandez, was a miner, field worker, union activist and State Assemblyman. Her parents divorced when she was three years old. Her mother, Alicia Chavez, raised Dolores, along with her two brothers, and two sisters, in the San Joaquin valley farm workers community of Stockton, California. Her mother was a businesswoman who owned a restaurant and a 70-room hotel, which often put up farm workers and their families for free.

Dolores' mother was a major influence, she taught her to be generous and caring for others. Because of her mother's community activism, Dolores learned to be outspoken. After high school, Dolores attended the University of Pacific's Delta Community College and received a teaching certificate. After teaching grammar school, Dolores left her job because in her words, "I couldn't stand seeing kids come to class hungry and in need of shoes. I thought I could do more by organizing farm workers than by trying to teach their hungry children."

In 1955, she was a founding member of the Stockton Chapter of the Community Service Organization (CSO), a grass roots organization started by Fred Ross, Sr. The CSO battled segregation and police brutality, led voter registration drives, pushed for improved public services and fought to enact new legislation. While working for the CSO, recognizing the needs of farm workers, , Dolores organized and founded the Agricultural Workers Association in 1960. She became a fearless lobbyist in Sacramento, and in 1961 succeeded in obtaining the citizenship requirements removed

from pension, and public assistance programs. She was also instrumental in the passage of legislation allowing voters the right to vote in Spanish, and the right of individuals to take the drivers license examination in their native language. In 1962, she lobbied in Washington D.C. for an end to the “captive labor” Bracero Program.

It was through her work with the CSO that Dolores met Cesar Chavez. They both realized the need to organize farm workers. In 1962, after the CSO turned down Cesar’s request as their president to organize farm workers, Dolores joined Cesar and his family in Delano, California. There they formed the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), the predecessor to the UFW.

In addition to organizing, Dolores continued to lobby. In 1963, she was instrumental in securing Aid for Dependent Families (AFDC), for the unemployed and underemployed, and disability insurance for farm workers in the State of California.

By 1965, Dolores and Cesar had organized farm workers and their families throughout the San Joaquin Valley utilizing organizing techniques taught to them by Fred Ross. On September 8th of that year, Filipino members of the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC) demanded higher wages and struck Delano area grape growers. Although Dolores and Cesar had planned to organize farm workers for several more years before confronting the large corporate grape industry, they could not ignore their Filipino brothers’ request. On September 16, 1965, the NFWA voted to join in the strike. Over 5,000 grape workers walked off their jobs in what is now known as the famous “Delano Grape Strike.” The two organizations merged in 1966 to form the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee (UFWOC). The strike would last five years.

In 1966, Dolores negotiated the first UFWOC contract with the Schenley Wine Company. This was the first time in the history of the United States that a negotiating committee comprised of farm workers negotiating a collective bargaining agreement with an agricultural corporation. The grape strike continued and Dolores, as the main UFWOC negotiator, not only successfully negotiated more contracts for farm workers, she also set up hiring halls, the farm workers ranch committees, administrated the contracts and conducted over one hundred grievance procedures on the workers behalf.

These contracts established the first health and benefit plans for farm workers. Dolores spoke out early and often against toxic pesticides that threaten farm workers, consumers, and the environment. The early UFWOC agreements required growers to stop using such dangerous pesticides as DDT and Parathyon. Dolores lobbied in Sacramento and Washington D.C., organized field strikes, directed UFW boycotts, and led farm workers campaigns for political candidates. As a legislative advocate, Dolores became one of the UFW’s most visible spokespersons. Robert F. Kennedy acknowledged her help in winning the 1968 California Democratic Presidential Primary moments before he was shot in Los Angeles.

Dolores directed the UFW’s national grape boycott, which resulted in the entire California table grape industry signing a three-year collective bargaining agreement with

the United Farm Workers. In 1973, the grape contracts expired and the grape growers signed sweetheart contracts with the Teamsters Union. Dolores organized picket lines and continued to lobby. In 1974, she was instrumental in securing unemployment benefits for farm workers. The UFW continued to organize not only the grape workers, but the workers in the vegetable industry as well until violence erupted and farm workers were killed. Once again the UFW turned to the consumer boycott. Dolores directed the east coast boycott of grapes, lettuce, and Gallo wines. The boycott resulted in the enactment of the Agricultural Labor Relations Act, the first law of its kind in the United States, which granted farm workers the right to collectively organize and bargain for better wages and working conditions. In 1975, Dolores lobbied against federal guest worker programs and spearheaded legislation granting amnesty for farm workers that had lived, worked, and paid taxes in the United States for many years, but were unable to enjoy the privileges of citizenship. This resulted in the Immigration Act of 1985 in which 1,400,000 farm workers received amnesty.

For more than thirty years Dolores Huerta remained Cesar Chavez' most loyal and trusted advisor. Together they founded the Robert Kennedy Medical Plan, the Juan De La Cruz Farm Workers Pension Fund, the Farm Workers Credit Union; the first medical, pension plan, and credit union for farm workers. They also formed the National Farm Workers Communications organization with five Spanish radio stations.

As an advocate for farm workers rights, Dolores has been arrested twenty-four times for non-violent peaceful union activities. In 1984, the California state senate bestowed upon her the Outstanding Labor Leader Award. In 1998, Dolores received the United States' Eleanor D. Roosevelt Human Rights Award from President Clinton. In 1993, Dolores was inducted into the Nation Women's Hall of Fame. That same year she received the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Roger Baldwin Medal of Liberty Award, the Eugene V. Debs Foundation Outstanding American Award, and the Ellis Island Medal of Freedom Award. She is also the recipient of the Consumers' Union Trumpeter's Award. In 1998, she was one of the three Ms. Magazine's "*Women of the Year*" and the Ladies Home Journal's "*100 Most Important Women of the 20th Century*." . On December 8, 2002 she received the Nation/Puffin Award for creative citizenship.

Dolores has received honorary doctorate degrees from: New College of San Francisco, San Francisco State University, S.U.N.I. New Palz University, Princeton University, University of Texas, and University of Northridge.

At 76, Dolores Huerta still works long hours. Many days find her in cities across North America promoting "*La Causa*," the farm workers cause, and women's rights. Dolores is a board member for the Fund for the Feminist Majority that advocates for the political and equal rights for women. She is President of the Dolores Huerta Foundation whose mission is to establish *Communities In Action* by focusing on community organizing and leadership development under-represented communities.



Mike Honda

Mike Honda represents the 15th Congressional District of California in the U.S. House of Representatives. His district encompasses the area known throughout the world as Silicon Valley, the birthplace of technology innovation and the leading region for the development of the technologies of tomorrow. Mike has been a public servant for decades during which he has been lauded for his work on education, transportation, civil rights, the environment, and the high-tech community.

Mike was born in California, but spent his early childhood with his family in an internment camp in Colorado during World War II. His family returned to California in 1953, becoming strawberry sharecroppers in Blossom Valley in San Jose.

In 1965, Mike interrupted his college studies to answer President John F. Kennedy's call for volunteer service. He served in the Peace Corps for two years, where he built schools and health clinics in El Salvador. Mike returned from the Peace Corps with a passion for teaching, and fluent in Spanish.

Mike earned bachelor's degrees in Biological Sciences and Spanish, and a master's degree in Education from San Jose State University. In his career as an educator, Mike was a science teacher, served as a principal at two public schools and conducted educational research at Stanford University.

In 1971, Mike was appointed by San Jose Mayor Norm Mineta to San Jose's Planning Commission. In 1981, Mike won his first election, gaining a seat on the San Jose Unified School Board.

In 1990, Mike was elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. As a Supervisor, Mike led efforts to establish the Open Space Authority, whose mission is the preservation of open space. He also took the lead in women's health care issues such as raising awareness of breast cancer, and convening a women's health conference. He passed landmark welfare reforms that have saved millions of dollars for the county.

Mike was elected to the California Assembly in 1996 and was re-elected in 1998. As an Assemblymember, Mike worked with Governor Gray Davis to draft landmark education reforms - including smaller class size and increases in teachers' benefits. As Chair of the Assembly Public Safety Committee, Mike worked to pass sensible gun safety legislation to keep guns out of the hands of juveniles and voted to ban assault weapons. Mike was awarded "High-Tech Legislator of the Year" by the American Electronics Association for his strong advocacy for the high-tech economy. He fought for legislation to augment the research and development tax credit and worked to eliminate taxes on graduate school tuition paid by employers.

In 2000, Mike was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Mike serves the House Committee on Science, and on the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.

Mike is dedicated to passing a responsible budget that pays down our national debt, and revitalizes our economy, while protecting top priorities such as Social Security, Medicare, and public education. As a member of the influential Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Mike is working hard to make sure the Silicon Valley gets its fair share of federal transportation funding to make the daily commute safer and more efficient for the residents of our fast-growing region.

As a Congressman for Silicon Valley, Mike is taking a leading role in bringing Democrats and Republicans together to better understand technology issues. In this vein, Mike has formed a bi-partisan Wireless Task Force to enable Congress to better understand and support innovative technologies for next generation wireless deployment.

Mike has been selected by his Democratic colleagues to serve as the Regional Whip for Northern California, Hawaii, American Samoa and Guam. As Regional Whip, Mike works with the Democratic Leadership by communicating legislative priorities and strategies to members within his region. Mike also serves as Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) and the Ethiopian Caucus and continues to be a strong voice for the cause of social justice, cultural tolerance, and civil rights.

Mike has two grown children. His wife, Jeanne, was a teacher at Baldwin Elementary School in San Jose before her untimely passing in 2004. His son, Mark, is an aerospace engineer and Michelle, his daughter, is a public health educator.

