

# Easy Essays by LeRoy Chatfield



## Long Bio – LeRoy Chatfield

LeRoy Chatfield was born in 1934 in Arbuckle, California, and raised in Colusa County until 1948, when he enrolled in a Catholic boarding school in Sacramento. The following year he entered a Catholic monastic religious teaching order located in the vineyard hills of the Napa Valley. He completed his religious training at St. Mary's College in 1957 with a degree in philosophy. From 1957 to 1965, he taught in Catholic high schools in Bakersfield and San Francisco.

In 1965, he left religious life to join Cesar Chavez and his fledgling farmworker movement in Delano, California. He was married in 1966 to Bonnie Burns. They worked in the movement until the fall of 1973, at which time they relocated to Sacramento, with four young daughters, to begin new careers.

LeRoy Chatfield managed the first congressional campaign of now-retired Congressman Esteban Torres, and in the general election of 1974 managed the Northern California campaign of Governor Jerry Brown. For five years he served in the Jerry Brown administration and on four separate occasions was confirmed by the California Senate to state agencies and commissions.

From 1980 to 1985, Mr. Chatfield became a real estate developer in Sacramento, until he entered U.C. Davis to earn a master's degree in political science. In February 1987, he was hired as the first executive director of Loaves & Fishes, a small, newly formed and all-volunteer private-sector charity dedicated to feeding the hungry. After 13 years of charitable service, he retired in 2000, and together with his wife, walked the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route from Pied de Port, France, to Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

In 2001, as a board member of Loaves & Fishes, Mr. Chatfield founded the Golden Day Project, a subsidiary of Loaves & Fishes, which acquires property in Sacramento County for the purpose of developing \$200-a-month cottage housing for disabled homeless people.

In 2002, as a labor of love, he founded the Farmworker Movement Documentation Project, and three years later published his extensive collection of historical primary-source accounts of the farmworker movement on his Website: [www.farmworkermovement.org](http://www.farmworkermovement.org). The Documentation Project is ongoing.

Now married 40 years, he and his wife, Bonnie, have five daughters, nine grandchildren, four sons-in-law, and a faithful collie named Clyde.