



## American Latino Heritage



**JOSÉ FRANCISCO CHAVES**

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José Francisco Chaves was a military leader, politician, lawyer and rancher. Lieutenant Colonel Chaves was an officer in the Mexican Army prior to his entry into the Union Army. He began as a major in the 1st New Mexico Infantry Regiment. Chaves fought in the Battle of Valverde in the American Civil War alongside Colonel Kit Carson. He later became the first Secretary of Education for New Mexico.