

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 41

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize John Cole, who is retiring as president of the Texas Federation of Teachers on June 30, 2005, after 25 years of outstanding leadership; and

WHEREAS, While serving as a schoolteacher in Corpus Christi in the 1970s, John became aware of the many problems facing today's urban schools, and he began serving as an officer in the Corpus Christi Classroom Teachers Association; when the Corpus Christi American Federation of Teachers was formed in 1975, John became its first member and served on its organizing committee; and

WHEREAS, When the union received its charter in 1975, John was elected president, and under his administration, the organization grew from 17 members in 1975 to about 1,500 members in 1981; and

WHEREAS, John was elected by the Executive Council of the Texas Federation of Teachers in December, 1980, to serve the remainder of the term left vacant by the previous president; he was elected unanimously to 11 additional two-year terms; and

WHEREAS, In August of 1984, John was elected vice president of the American Federation of Teachers; he was the first Texan to serve as an officer of that organization, which has over one million members nationwide; and

WHEREAS, John has also served on an advisory committee for the State Board of Education, and he is currently a vice president of the Texas American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations; and

WHEREAS, John Cole has shown exceptional dedication to the field of education and has worked diligently on behalf of the educators of this state and our nation, and his leadership as president of the Texas Federation of Teachers will be greatly missed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commend John Cole for his many contributions to the Texas Federation of Teachers and extend to him best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for him as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Barrientos

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on June 30, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate