

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Linda Chavez-Thompson, executive vice president
2 emerita of the AFL-CIO, has dedicated herself to America's workers
3 for more than 40 years, forging new pathways for the labor movement;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, A second-generation American of Mexican descent,
6 Ms. Chavez-Thompson was born and raised in the Lubbock area; she
7 began laboring long hours in the fields with her father at the age
8 of 10; her formal education ended after the ninth grade, when family
9 circumstances forced her to work full-time picking cotton and
10 cleaning houses; she never ceased to study, however, and her
11 extraordinary career began at 24, when a family friend who could not
12 speak Spanish hired her as his bilingual secretary at the local
13 chapter of the Laborers International Union; her skill and keen
14 intelligence led to a job overseeing tornado relief efforts for the
15 AFL-CIO in 1971, and later that year she was hired by the American
16 Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees; and

17 WHEREAS, Ms. Chavez-Thompson rose through the ranks as an
18 organizer and went on to serve with great distinction as an
19 international vice president of the AFSCME; she also served as
20 national vice president of the AFL-CIO Labor Council for Latin
21 American Advancement; in 1993, she was elected as a vice president
22 of the executive council of the national AFL-CIO, and two years
23 later she was elected executive vice president of the federation,
24 becoming the first person of color to hold one of its three highest

1 offices; and

2 WHEREAS, During her 12 years as the highest ranking woman in
3 organized labor, Ms. Chavez-Thompson helped reinvigorate the
4 movement by using innovative methods to connect with new
5 constituencies, including women, minorities, and immigrants;
6 demonstrating profound compassion for those facing discrimination
7 and exploitation, she focused on civil rights, human rights, and
8 community issues and built valuable coalitions with outside
9 organizations and religious groups; her endeavors have been
10 recognized with such accolades as the 2008 Farmworker Justice
11 Award, a Mother Jones Award from the Coalition of Labor Union Women,
12 and the 2003 Latina of the Year Award from *CATALINA* magazine and
13 *Hispanas Organized for Political Equality*; and

14 WHEREAS, This dynamic Texan retired to San Antonio in
15 September 2007 to spend more time with her children and
16 grandchildren, but she remains active as executive vice president
17 emerita, as chair of the AFL-CIO Immigration Committee, and as
18 president of the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas; in
19 2008, she led an AFL-CIO fact-finding delegation to Colombia and
20 aided the federation's campaign to protect the voting rights of
21 Hispanic citizens; moreover, she serves as a vice chair of the
22 Democratic National Committee and as the labor representative to
23 the Public Board of Trustees of the San Antonio Transit Authority;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, For more than four decades, Linda Chavez-Thompson
26 has been a bold and effective champion of American workers; her
27 efforts to combat social and economic injustice have helped

1 countless people realize their dreams of a better life; now,
2 therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
4 Legislature hereby commend Linda Chavez-Thompson for her
5 remarkable contributions to workers' issues and civil and human
6 rights and extend to her sincere best wishes for continued success;
7 and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
9 prepared for Ms. Chavez-Thompson as an expression of high regard by
10 the Texas House of Representatives.

McClendon

Straus	Gattis	Menendez
Allen	Geren	Merritt
Alonzo	Giddings	Miklos
Alvarado	Gonzales	Miller of Comal
Anchia	Gonzalez Toureilles	Miller of Erath
Anderson	Guillen	Moody
Aycock	Gutierrez	Morrison
Berman	Hamilton	Naishtat
Bohac	Hancock	Oliveira
Bolton	Hardcastle	Olivo
Bonnen	Harless	Orr
Branch	Harper-Brown	Ortiz, Jr.
Brown of Kaufman	Hartnett	Otto
Brown of Brazos	Heflin	Parker
Burnam	Hernandez	Patrick
Button	Herrero	Paxton
Callegari	Hilderbran	Pena
Castro	Hochberg	Phillips
Chavez	Hodge	Pickett
Chisum	Homer	Pierson
Christian	Hopson	Pitts
Cohen	Howard of Fort Bend	Quintanilla
Coleman	Howard of Travis	Raymond
Cook	Hughes	Riddle
Corte	Hunter	Rios Ybarra
Crabb	Isett	Ritter
Craddick	Jackson	Rodriguez
Creighton	Jones	Rose
Crownover	Keffer	Sheffield
Darby	Kent	Shelton
Davis of Harris	King of Parker	Smith of Tarrant
Davis of Dallas	King of Taylor	Smith of Harris
Deshotel	King of Zavala	Smithee
Driver	Kleinschmidt	Solomons
Dukes	Kolkhorst	Strama
Dunnam	Kuempel	Swinford
Dutton	Laubenberg	Taylor
Edwards	Legler	Thibaut
Eiland	Leibowitz	Thompson
Eissler	Lewis	Truitt
Elkins	Lucio III	Turner of Tarrant
England	Madden	Turner of Harris
Farabee	Maldonado	Vaught
Farias	Mallory Caraway	Veasey
Farrar	Marquez	Villarreal
Fletcher	Martinez	Vo
Flores	Martinez Fischer	Walle
Flynn	McCall	Weber
Frost	McClendon	Woolley
Gallego	McReynolds	Zerwas

H.R. No. 127

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 127 was adopted by the House on
February 10, 2009, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House