

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Former Dallas mayor Ron Kirk was confirmed as the  
2 first African American United States Trade Representative by the  
3 U.S. Senate on March 18, 2009; and

4           WHEREAS, Having been nominated for the cabinet-level post by  
5 President Barack Obama and having been confirmed by the U.S.  
6 Senate, Ambassador Kirk serves as the president's principal trade  
7 advisor, negotiator, and spokesperson on issues of international  
8 trade; and

9           WHEREAS, Ron Kirk holds a bachelor's degree in political  
10 science and sociology from Austin College and a law degree from The  
11 University of Texas; he began his career as a legislative aide for  
12 U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen before joining the Dallas office of the  
13 Texas Attorney General, after which he went on to become the  
14 assistant city attorney for governmental relations for Dallas; in  
15 1994, while working in the private sector, he was asked by Governor  
16 Ann Richards to serve a partial term as secretary of state; and

17           WHEREAS, The following year, Mr. Kirk became the first  
18 African American to be elected mayor of Dallas, and he was returned  
19 to office again in 1999 with a landslide 74 percent of the vote; as  
20 mayor, he was well known for his economic development efforts,  
21 which resulted in the creation of more than 45,000 jobs and an  
22 investment of over \$3.5 billion in the city, and he successfully  
23 worked to reduce crime; moreover, he was respected for his ability  
24 to bring together diverse coalitions to effect change; and

25           WHEREAS, This accomplished Texan most recently served as a

1 partner at the international law firm of Vinson & Elkins; his  
2 principal area of practice was public finance and public policy,  
3 and he was named one of the nation's top government relations  
4 lawyers by *The Best Lawyers in America* from 2007 to 2009; in  
5 addition, *The National Law Journal* named him one of the 50 Most  
6 Influential Minority Lawyers in America; his other accolades  
7 include the Woodrow Wilson Center for Public Policy Outstanding  
8 Public Service Award and the Mickey Leland Leadership Award from  
9 Texas Southern University; and

10 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Mr. Kirk enjoys the love and  
11 support of his wife, Matrice Ellis-Kirk, their two daughters,  
12 Elizabeth Alexandra and Catherine Victoria, and his mother,  
13 longtime Austin civil rights activist Willie Mae Kirk; and

14 WHEREAS, Ambassador Kirk demonstrates a noteworthy  
15 commitment to excellence and public service, and it is indeed  
16 fitting to honor him on this latest achievement in his exceptional  
17 career; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
19 Legislature hereby congratulate Ron Kirk on his confirmation as the  
20 first African American United States Trade Representative and  
21 extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it  
22 further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
24 prepared for Ambassador Kirk as an expression of high regard by the  
25 Texas House of Representatives.

Anchia  
Button  
Vaught

H.R. No. 1617

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1617 was adopted by the House on May 4, 2009, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House