

By: Anchia

H.R. No. 1617

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

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

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

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

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

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