

By: Dunnam

H.R. No. 2958

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Robert Hawkins is being inducted into the AFL-CIO  
2 Hall of Fame in 2009, and this occasion offers an ideal opportunity  
3 to reflect on his many accomplishments; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in Waco in 1939, Mr. Hawkins began doing odd  
5 jobs at the age of 10 to help support his family; he joined the Army  
6 National Guard at 17 and later served in the United States Army, the  
7 Army Reserve, and the Texas State Guard before retiring as a colonel  
8 with 25 years of military experience; he has been awarded the  
9 Soldier's Medal and the Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal; and

10           WHEREAS, Mr. Hawkins joined the labor movement in the late  
11 1950s while employed at General Tire and Rubber Company; he won  
12 election as treasurer of Local 312 of the United Rubber Workers and  
13 served as a delegate to the Central Texas Labor Council; shortly  
14 after his election as secretary of the council, he was laid off from  
15 General Tire, but he maintained his eligibility for the council by  
16 finding a temporary job at Library Binding Service and getting  
17 elected as a delegate from the International Brotherhood of  
18 Bookbinders and Bindery Workers Union; he eventually achieved the  
19 extraordinary distinction of having represented five separate  
20 labor unions as a council delegate, including the International  
21 Brotherhood of Plumbers and Pipefitters, the International  
22 Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Union, and the  
23 International Union of Operating Engineers; and

24           WHEREAS, While working full-time and taking more than a full

1 course load at McLennan Community College in 1966, Mr. Hawkins was  
2 also busy at the State Capitol, advocating forcefully in behalf of  
3 funding for an expanded statewide system of community colleges; he  
4 completed his associates degree with honors as valedictorian of his  
5 class and went on to earn his bachelor's degree from the State  
6 University of New York at Albany on a National Guard scholarship;  
7 later, he earned a diploma in national security management from the  
8 United States National Defense University and served on the faculty  
9 of the Levern E. Weber National Guard Professional Education Center  
10 in Arkansas; dedicated to workforce education, he completed  
11 graduate course work in economic development at Georgetown  
12 University, earned a graduate diploma in industrial development  
13 from Texas A&M University, and completed advanced study programs  
14 through the U.S. Department of Labor and the Federal Emergency  
15 Management Agency; and

16 WHEREAS, This remarkable Texan joined the faculty of Texas  
17 State Technical College Waco in 1970; during his noteworthy tenure  
18 of nearly three decades, he taught courses, developed curriculum in  
19 vocational training programs, and served as director of  
20 apprenticeship programs before retiring as vice president of  
21 special programs; since 1972, he has served the state on countless  
22 boards and commissions, primarily concerning workforce training  
23 and economic development, and he represented Texas at two White  
24 House economic conferences; appointed to the Capitol Council of  
25 senior advisors by Governor Ann Richards in 1991, he has served on  
26 the Rehabilitation Council of Texas and the State Independent  
27 Living Council, among others, and currently serves as dean of the

1 Texas Workforce Investment Council, as chair emeritus and dean of  
2 the Central Texas Economic Development District board, and as chair  
3 emeritus of the Heart of Texas Economic Development District board;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Deeply committed to his community, Mr. Hawkins was  
6 first appointed to the Bellmead City Council in 1988 and has served  
7 as mayor four times; he serves on the current city council and  
8 received the 2009 President's Award from the Bellmead Chamber of  
9 Commerce; he is Past Master of Bellmead Masonic Lodge 1329 and holds  
10 memberships in several Masonic bodies; moreover, he is a lifetime  
11 member of AMVETS and of the Sons of the American Revolution and  
12 serves as executive vice president of the 143rd Infantry Regiment  
13 Association, 36th Infantry Division; a valued member of the First  
14 United Methodist Church in Hubbard and a devoted father and  
15 grandfather, Mr. Hawkins is supported in all his endeavors by his  
16 wife, Ladean Hawkins; and

17 WHEREAS, Robert Hawkins has made a lasting difference in the  
18 lives of innumerable Texans as a labor leader, an educator, and a  
19 public servant, and he has earned the profound respect and  
20 admiration of all who know him; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
22 Legislature hereby congratulate Robert Hawkins on his induction  
23 into the AFL-CIO Hall of Fame and extend to him sincere best wishes  
24 for continued success; and, be it further

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