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By:  Romero, Jr. H.R. No. 791

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta has made a lasting, positive difference through her work as a Chicano rights activist and one of the most influential labor leaders of our era; and

WHEREAS, In 1955, Ms. Huerta cofounded the Stockton, California, chapter of the Community Services Organization, a grassroots group dedicated to ending segregation, discrimination, and police brutality while improving social and economic conditions for farmworkers; she then launched the Agricultural Workers Association and joined forces with Cesar Chavez in 1962 to establish the National Farm Workers Association; three years later, the AWA and NFWA merged to become the United Farm Workers; her skill as an organizer and negotiator proved key in the grape workers' strike that lasted from 1965 to 1970 and ended with a historic agreement that brought unemployment and health care benefits and reduced the use of dangerous pesticides; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Huerta went on to galvanize national attention with the lettuce boycott, paving the way for the Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975, the first law to recognize collective bargaining rights for farmworkers; in subsequent decades, she served as UFW vice president and advocated powerfully for such causes as comprehensive immigration reform, women's rights, and greater representation of Latinos and women in public office; since stepping down as vice president in 1999, she has continued her vital endeavors by focusing on a range of issues, including income inequality; and

WHEREAS, Widely admired for her contributions, Ms. Huerta was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1993, and she was presented with the Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights in 1998; her receipt of the $100,000 Puffin/Nation Prize for Creative Citizenship in 2002 allowed her to create the Dolores Huerta Foundation, which helps individuals in low-income communities to build organizing and training skills; and

WHEREAS, For more than a half century, Dolores Huerta has dedicated herself to improving the lives of working people and holding our nation to its high ideals of equality and justice, and her achievements are a lasting source of hope and inspiration; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby honor Dolores Huerta for her accomplishments in the labor and civil rights movements and extend to her sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Ms. Huerta as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.