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LRB102 26819 LAW 37826 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, With the month of March designated as Women's
3 History Month and with Latino Unity Day celebrated on March
4 23, the members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish
5 to recognize activist and labor leader Dolores Huerta, who has
6 worked her entire life to improve social and economic
7 conditions for farmworkers and has served as a leader in the
8 fight against discrimination and as a defender of civil
9 rights, equal rights, and dignity for all; and

10 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta was born Dolores Clara Fernández
11 to Juan Fernández and Alicia Fernández in Dawson, New Mexico
12 on April 10, 1930; she grew up in Stockton, California and
13 attended Stockton High School, where she was active in
14 numerous school clubs and the Girl Scouts; she received her
15 associate teaching degree from the University of the Pacific's
16 Delta College; and

17 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta briefly taught school in the
18 1950s, where she saw many hungry farm children coming to
19 school and thought she could do more to help them by organizing
20 farmers and farm workers; she began her career as an activist
21 when she cofounded the Stockton chapter of the Community
22 Service Organization (CSO) in 1955, which led voter
23 registration drives and fought for economic improvements for

1 Latinos; alongside activist César Chávez, she founded the
2 National Farm Workers Association (NFWA) in 1962, which was
3 the predecessor of the United Farm Workers' Union (UFW) formed
4 three years later; she served as UFW vice president until
5 1999; and

6 WHEREAS, Despite facing ethnic and gender bias, Dolores
7 Huerta was a talented negotiator, securing services for
8 farmworkers in California in the form of Aid to Families with
9 Dependent Children and disability insurance in 1963; she
10 helped organize the 1965 Delano strike of 5,000 grape workers
11 and was the lead negotiator in the workers' contract that
12 followed; throughout her work with the UFW, she organized
13 workers, negotiated contracts, and advocated for safer working
14 conditions, including the elimination of harmful pesticides;
15 she also fought for unemployment and healthcare benefits for
16 agricultural workers; she was the driving force behind the
17 nationwide table grape boycotts in the late 1960s that led to a
18 successful union contract by 1970; and

19 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta led another consumer boycott of
20 grapes in 1973 that resulted in the ground-breaking California
21 Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975, which allowed farm
22 workers to form unions and bargain for better wages and
23 conditions; she worked as a lobbyist to improve workers'
24 legislative representation throughout the 1970s and 1980s;

1 since the 1990s and 2000s, she has worked to elect more Latinos
2 and women to political office and has championed women's
3 issues; and

4 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta continues to work tirelessly,
5 developing leaders and advocating for the working poor, women,
6 and children; as founder and president of the Dolores Huerta
7 Foundation, she travels across the country in support of
8 campaigns and legislation that work toward equality and defend
9 civil rights; she continues to be a voice for social justice
10 and public policy; and

11 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta has been honored for her work as a
12 fierce advocate for farmworkers, immigrants, the working poor,
13 and women; she has received numerous awards, including the
14 Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights in 1998, the
15 Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012, the Ohtli Award from
16 the Mexican Government, the James Smithson Award of the
17 Smithsonian Institution, and multiple honorary doctorates from
18 universities throughout the United States; she was inducted
19 into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1993 and the
20 California Hall of Fame in 2013; and

21 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta's accomplishments and
22 contributions should be properly memorialized within the
23 history and culture of the United States, as she deserves

1 proper recognition for her numerous sacrifices in the name of
2 justice and the amelioration of severely inadequate working
3 conditions; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
5 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
6 we recognize Dolores Huerta for her activism as a labor
7 organizer, her contributions to workers' rights, and her
8 dedication to social justice; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That we additionally recognize Dolores Huerta
10 for continuing to fight the good fight, serving as an
11 inspiration to everyone; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to Dolores Huerta as an expression of our esteem and
14 respect.