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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Dolores Clara Fernandez Huerta, born in Dawson,
3 New Mexico on April 10, 1930, has dedicated her life to
4 advancing justice, dignity, and equal rights for working
5 people across the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, Inspired by the values of service and community
7 instilled by her family, Dolores Huerta began her advocacy in
8 California's Central Valley, where as a young teacher, she
9 witnessed firsthand the poverty, hunger, and exploitation
10 endured by the children of farmworkers; and

11 WHEREAS, Determined to address the systemic injustices
12 facing working families, Dolores Huerta became a leader in the
13 Community Service Organization in Stockton, co-founding its
14 chapter in 1955 and spearheading efforts to expand voting
15 access, secure neighborhood improvements, and build political
16 power for Latino communities; and

17 WHEREAS, Through this work, Dolores Huerta helped form the
18 Agricultural Workers Association and later co-founded the
19 National Farm Workers Association in 1962, which became the
20 United Farm Workers, a historic multiracial coalition of
21 Filipino, Mexican, and other immigrant laborers fighting for
22 basic rights and humane working conditions; and

1 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta played a central role in the 1965
2 Delano Grape Strike, standing alongside a number of Filipino
3 labor leaders, including Larry Itliong, Philip Vera Cruz, Pete
4 Velasco, and Andy Imutan, and helping unite thousands of
5 farmworkers in a courageous struggle for justice; and

6 WHEREAS, As the chief negotiator for the farmworkers,
7 Dolores Huerta secured the first union contracts in American
8 agricultural history, improving wages, working conditions, and
9 protections for tens of thousands of workers; and

10 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta was instrumental in leading the
11 nationwide grape boycotts of the late 1960s and early 1970s,
12 mobilizing millions of consumers across the country and
13 helping win passage of the California Agricultural Labor
14 Relations Act of 1975, the first law in the nation to guarantee
15 farmworkers the right to organize and bargain collectively;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Throughout her career, Dolores Huerta has
18 championed safer working conditions, including the elimination
19 of harmful pesticides, and has been a powerful voice for
20 women's rights, gender equity, and the leadership of women
21 within social justice movements; and

1 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta coined the iconic phrase "Si Se
2 Puede", a rallying cry that has inspired generations of
3 organizers, workers, and civil rights advocates in the ongoing
4 struggle for justice; and

5 WHEREAS, Despite facing violence and intimidation,
6 including a near-fatal beating by police during a peaceful
7 protest in 1988, Dolores Huerta has remained steadfast in her
8 commitment to nonviolence and principled activism; and

9 WHEREAS, In recent months, Dolores Huerta has shown
10 profound resilience and courage in sharing her own experiences
11 of harm, doing so in order to uplift the stories of countless
12 women whose voices were overlooked or silenced; and

13 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta's willingness to speak openly,
14 even after decades of service and sacrifice, reflects the same
15 integrity that has defined her leadership and continues to
16 strengthen the broader movement for justice; and

17 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta has received numerous national
18 honors, including induction as the first Latina into the
19 National Women's Hall of Fame in 1993, the Eleanor Roosevelt
20 Human Rights Award in 1998, and the Presidential Medal of
21 Freedom in 2012, the highest civilian honor in the United
22 States; and

1 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta has continued her lifelong work
2 through the Dolores Huerta Foundation, founded in 2003, which
3 trains new generations of community organizers, advances civic
4 engagement, and advocates for the rights of working families,
5 women, immigrants, and youth; and

6 WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta's legacy is one of courage,
7 integrity, and unwavering dedication to the belief that every
8 person deserves dignity, respect, and a voice in shaping their
9 future; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
11 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we declare April 10, 2026 as Dolores Huerta Day in the State of
13 Illinois in recognition of Dolores Clara Fernandez Huerta's
14 lifelong commitment to justice and her enduring impact on
15 generations of activists and working families; and be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That we commend Dolores Huerta for her
18 extraordinary contributions to civil rights, labor rights,
19 gender equity, and social justice; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That we recognize her resilience in sharing her
21 story and her commitment to uplifting the experiences of women

1 whose narratives have too often been overlooked; and be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
4 presented to Dolores Huerta and the Dolores Huerta Foundation
5 a symbol of our respect and gratitude.