

1 [Creating an official holiday for March 31st, the birthday of Cesar Chavez.]

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3 **Resolution declaring March 31 “Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta Day.”**

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5 WHEREAS, Dolores C. Huerta is a labor rights leader and the co-founder and First
6 Vice President Emeritus of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO ("UFW"); and

7 WHEREAS, in 1955 Huerta served as a founding member of the Stockton chapter of
8 the Community Service Organization ("CSO"); and,

9 WHEREAS, IN 1960, recognizing the needs of farm workers while working for the
10 CSO, Huerta organized and founded the Agricultural Workers Association; and

11 WHEREAS, Huerta, a lobbyist in Sacramento, in 1961 succeeded in obtaining the
12 citizenship requirements removed from pension, and public assistance programs. She was
13 instrumental in passage of legislation allowing voters the right to vote in Spanish, and the right
14 of individuals to take the driver’s license examination in their native language; and,

15 WHEREAS, in 1962 she lobbied in and Washington DC for an end to the "captive
16 labor" Bracero Program. Through her work with Cesar Chavez at CSO, their combined
17 interest and activism in farm labor, in 1962, they formed the National Farm Workers
18 Association ("NFWA"), the predecessor to the UFW; and,

19 WHEREAS, in 1963 was instrumental in securing Aid For Dependent Families
20 ("AFDC"), for the unemployed and underemployed, and disability insurance for farm workers
21 in the State of California; and,

22 WHEREAS, on September 16, 1965 over 5,000 grape workers walked off their jobs in
23 what is now known as the famous "Delano Grape Strike;" and,

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1 WHEREAS, in 1966, Dolores negotiated the first contract with the Schenley Wine
2 Company. This was the first time in the history of the United States that a negotiating
3 committee comprised of farmworkers negotiated a collective bargaining agreement with an
4 agricultural corporation; and,

5 WHEREAS, Huerta set up the hiring halls, the farm worker ranch committees,
6 administered the contracts and conducted over one hundred grievance procedures on the
7 workers behalf. These contracts established the first health and benefit plans for
8 farmworkers; and,

9 WHEREAS, Huerta spoke out early and often against toxic pesticides that threaten
10 farm workers, consumers, and the environment. These early UFWOC agreements required
11 growers to stop using such dangerous pesticides as DDT and Parathyon. Dolores lobbied in
12 Sacramento and Washington D.C., organized field strikes, directed UFW boycotts, and led
13 farm workers campaigns for political candidates; and,

14 WHEREAS, Huerta directed the UFW's national grape boycott taking the plight of the
15 farmworkers to the consumers. The boycott resulted in the entire California table grape
16 industry signing a three-year collective bargaining agreement with the United Farm Workers;
17 and,

18 WHEREAS, in 1974 Huerta was instrumental in securing unemployment benefits for
19 farmworkers. The UFW continued to organize not only the grape workers but the workers in
20 the vegetable industry as well until violence erupted and farm workers were being killed. Once
21 again the UFW turned to the consumer boycott. Dolores directed the east coast boycott of
22 grapes, lettuce, and Gallo wines. The boycott resulted in the enactment of the Agricultural
23 Labor Relations Act, the first law of its kind in the United States, which granted farm workers
24 the right to collectively organize and bargain for better wages and working conditions; and,
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1 WHEREAS, in 1975 Dolores lobbied against federal guest worker programs and
2 spearheaded legislation granting amnesty for farm workers that had lived, worked, and paid
3 taxes in the United States for many years but were unable to enjoy the privileges of
4 citizenship. This resulted in the Immigration Act of 1985; and,

5 WHEREAS, for more than thirty years Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez worked
6 together to secure rights for farmworkers. Together they founded the Robert F. Kennedy
7 Medical Plan, the Juan De La Cruz Farm Worker Pension Fund, the the Farm Workers Credit
8 Union, the first medical and pension plan and credit union for farm workers. They also formed
9 the National Farm Workers Service Center, Inc., an community based affordable housing and
10 Spanish language radio communications organization with five Spanish radio stations; and,

11 WHEREAS, in 1984 the California State Senate bestowed upon her the Outstanding
12 Labor Leader Award. In 1993 Dolores was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame.
13 That same year she received the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Roger Baldwin
14 Medal of Liberty Award; and the Eugene V. Debs Foundation Outstanding American Award,
15 and the Ellis Island Medal of Freedom Award. She is also the recipient of the Consumers’
16 Union Trumpeter’s Award. In 1998 she was one of three Ms. Magazine’s, "*Women of the*
17 *Year*", and the *Ladies Home Journal’s*, "*100 Most Important Women of the 20th Century*;" and,

18 WHEREAS, Dolores received honorary doctorate degrees from: New College of San
19 Francisco, 1990, San Francisco State University, 1993 and S.U.N.I. New Palz University,
20 1999; and,

21 WHEREAS, aside from serving as the Secretary-Treasure of the United Farm
22 Workers, she is the Vice-President for the Coalition for Labor Union Women, the Vice-
23 President of the California AFL-CIO, and is a board member for the Fund For The Feminist
24 Majority which advocates for the political and equal rights for women; and,

1 WHEREAS, Huerta served on the board of Democratic Socialist of America, Latinas
2 for Choice, FAIR (Fairness in Media Reporting), Center for Voting and Democracy. In
3 addition, she was on the Federal Commission for Minority Apprentice Programs, 1965, the
4 Advisory Committee on Immigration, 1980, the Commission of Agricultural Workers, 1988 to
5 1993 and well as the State Commissions like the Industrial Welfare Commission, 1960 and
6 the Board of Directors of the California State Library Services, 1980-1982; and, now,
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City of San Francisco designates
9 March 31st to hereafter be known as “Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta Day” in San
10 Francisco.

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