

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 350

Introduced by Vargas, 7.

WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta was born on April 10, 1930, in the mining town of Dawson, New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta is the daughter of Juan Fernandez, a coal miner and migrant laborer who harvested beets in Nebraska and went on to become a legislator in New Mexico, and Alicia Chavez, a businesswoman who owned a hotel and restaurant; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta became interested in civil rights as a young girl after observing her mother welcome low-wage workers and farm worker families into her hotel and participate in community affairs, civic organizations, and church; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta became involved in school activities in high school and was a dedicated member of the Girl Scouts until the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating high school, Dolores Huerta went on to earn a provisional teaching credential and, after seeing her students come to school hungry and without shoes, left the classroom to help found the Stockton Chapter of the Community Service Organization and fight for economic improvements for Latinx workers and families; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, Dolores Huerta met Community Service Organization Executive Director Cesar Chavez. They went on to co-found the National Farm Workers Association, which later expanded nationally to become the United Farm Workers of America (UFW); and

WHEREAS, in 1963, the organizing efforts of Dolores Huerta were successful in securing Aid for Dependent Families and disability insurance for farm workers in California; and

WHEREAS, the advocacy efforts of Dolores Huerta led to the enactment of

the Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975, which granted farm workers in California the right to collectively organize and bargain for better wages and working conditions; and

WHEREAS, despite her personal belief in nonviolence, Dolores Huerta was assaulted while protesting against the policies of then-presidential candidate George H.W. Bush in San Francisco in 1988. She was beaten with a baton by a police officer, who broke her ribs and shattered her spleen, which led the San Francisco Police Department to change its crowd control and officer discipline policies; and

WHEREAS, throughout her life, Dolores Huerta has been a strong advocate for equality for women, traveling the United States to encourage Latina women to run for office and serving as an honorary co-chair of the historic Women's March on Washington on January 21, 2017; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, Dolores Huerta was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States, by President Barack Obama, and portraits and artwork depicting Huerta hang in the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 87, Dolores Huerta continues her work with the Dolores Huerta Foundation, established in 2002, to develop leaders and advocate for the working poor, women, and children; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta is the mother of eleven children, the grandmother of fifteen children, and the great-grandmother of seven children, and the most widely acclaimed Mexican-American woman of our time and has been an unparalleled community organizer and activist for the last 50 years who continues to inspire millions of people across the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature designates April 10, 2018, as Dolores Huerta Day in Nebraska.

2. That the Legislature recognizes the accomplishments and service of farm workers in this state and across the country.

3. That the Legislatures encourages Nebraskans to participate in community service projects and events to celebrate Dolores Huerta's life and work.