

**BY:** Senator WEBB

**MOURNING** the death of Dolores Huerta, pioneering labor leader, civil rights icon, and lifelong advocate for working families, women, and children

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge those distinguished individuals whose lives of service and advocacy have left an indelible mark upon our State and Nation, and to mourn the loss of Dolores Huerta, who died on Wednesday, October 28, 2026, at the age of 96, a pioneering labor organizer and civil rights leader who devoted her life to advancing economic justice, equality, and the rights of working people; and

**WHEREAS,** Dolores Clara Fernandez Huerta was born on April 10, 1930, in Dawson, New Mexico, and spent much of her childhood and early adult life in Stockton, California, where she witnessed firsthand the difficult conditions endured by migrant farm workers and their families; and

**WHEREAS,** Raised by her mother Alicia, a compassionate and independent businesswoman who was deeply involved in community affairs, Dolores Huerta developed at an early age a profound commitment to helping others and promoting dignity, opportunity, and equality for all; and

**WHEREAS,** After earning a provisional teaching credential from the University of the Pacific's Delta College in Stockton, Dolores Huerta began her career as an educator, but became increasingly determined to address the poverty and economic hardships she saw affecting her students and their families; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1962, Dolores Huerta co-founded the National Farm Workers Association, an organization that would become the United Farm Workers and grow into the nation's largest farm worker organization, bringing national attention to the civil and human rights of agricultural workers; and

**WHEREAS,** A tireless and strategic organizer, Dolores Huerta played a leading role in the five-year Delano grape strike and helped lead successful national grape boycotts which resulted in improved wages and working conditions for farm workers, demonstrating the power of grassroots organizing and collective action; and

**WHEREAS,** During the nationwide grape boycott, Dolores Huerta relocated to New York City to direct the boycott's efforts on the East Coast, where she mobilized labor unions, religious organizations, community groups, students, and consumers in support of farm workers, bringing her message of economic justice and workers' rights directly to communities throughout New York State and beyond; and

**WHEREAS,** Throughout her extraordinary career, Dolores Huerta

championed the rights of farm workers, women, children, immigrants, and other marginalized communities, working to empower individuals to participate in the democratic process and advocate for positive change in their own communities; and

**WHEREAS,** As founder and president of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, she continued her life's work by developing community leaders, supporting grassroots campaigns, influencing public policy, and advancing equality and civil rights across the nation; and

**WHEREAS,** Dolores Huerta's remarkable contributions to the labor and civil rights movements earned her numerous prestigious honors, including the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award, the Smithsonian Institution's James Smithson Award, the Ohtli Award from the Government of Mexico, numerous honorary doctorates, and induction into the California Hall of Fame; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2012, President Barack Obama bestowed upon Dolores Huerta the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor of the United States, in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to the nation; and

**WHEREAS,** Dolores Huerta's remarkable life was defined by an unwavering commitment to justice, dignity, and opportunity for those too often without a voice, and her tireless efforts to empower working families, advance civil rights, and strengthen communities have left a lasting legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Dolores Huerta, pioneering labor leader, civil rights icon, and tireless advocate for working people and marginalized communities; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Dolores Huerta.