

2019 -- H 5980

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LC002401
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**PROCLAIMING APRIL 10TH OF 2019, TO BE "DOLORES HUERTA DAY" IN THE STATE
OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Tobon, Shekarchi, Maldonado, Barros, and Diaz

Date Introduced: April 10, 2019

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Dolores Clara Fernandez was born in the mountains of northern New
2 Mexico, the daughter of Juan Feranández, a farm worker and miner by trade, who became a union
3 activist, and ultimately won a seat in the New Mexico Legislature; and

4 WHEREAS, Growing up in California, Ms. Fernandez was raised by her mother Alicia, a
5 strong and independent woman, widely-known for her kindness and compassion to others, who
6 taught the young Dolores to respect cultural diversity and admire community involvement; and

7 WHEREAS, As a student, Dolores became involved with numerous school clubs, was a
8 member of the Girl Scouts, and ultimately earned her provisional teaching credential from the
9 University of Pacific's Delta College in Stockton. She married Ralph Head and together the
10 couple had two daughters; and

11 WHEREAS, As an organizer, serving in the leadership of the Stockton Community
12 Service Organization, Dolores founded the Agricultural Workers Association, set up voter
13 registration drives, and pressed local governments for barrio improvements which eventually led
14 to her launching the National Farm Workers Association with César E. Chávez in 1962; and

15 WHEREAS, Dolores became an expert at lobbying and negotiating. In 1963, she secured
16 Aid For Dependent Families ("AFDC") and disability insurance for farm workers in the State of
17 California, was instrumental in the enactment of the Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975,
18 and consistently broke down one gender barrier after another; and

19 WHEREAS, Directing the first National Boycott of California Table Grapes out of New

1 York, Dolores began actively challenging gender discrimination, advocating for entire family
2 participation in the farm movement, and expounding on the fact that women and children were
3 also in the fields with the men; and

4 WHEREAS, Although an ardent advocate for non-violence, at the age of 58, Dolores was
5 struck at a protest, breaking four ribs and shattering her spleen. Following a long recovery, she
6 traveled the country for two years on behalf of the Feminist Majority's Feminization of Power:
7 50/50 by the year 2000 Campaign, encouraging Latina's to run for office, and also served as
8 National Chair of the 21st Century Party; and

9 WHEREAS, At the age of 83, Dolores is still reaching out to others, teaches individuals
10 that they have personal power, speaks with students and organizations on issues of social justice
11 and public policy, and engages in campaigns and influences legislation that supports equality and
12 defends civil rights; and

13 WHEREAS, The recipient of a plethora of awards and recognitions, Dolores was
14 presented with The Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United
15 States, and The Eleanor Roosevelt Humans Rights Award. She has had four schools named in her
16 honor and has nine honorary doctorates from universities throughout the United States, to name
17 but a few; and

18 WHEREAS, For most of her life, Dolores Huerta has fought an extraordinary battle to
19 ensure fair and safe work places for migrant workers, provide and encourage women to have a
20 voice in world affairs, and teach children to become involved in civic causes and their
21 communities. She is a teacher, a mother, a friend, a warrior, an organizer, and a peacemaker, and
22 she is truly deserving of our gratitude and highest esteem; now, therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
24 Providence Plantations hereby proclaims April 10th of 2019, to be "Dolores Huerta Day" and
25 moreover wishes her good health and continued success in all her endeavors; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
27 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Dolores Huerta.

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