

Resolution to Honor Labor and Social Justice Leader Tefere Gebre

WHEREAS as a political refugee teenager from Ethiopia, Tefere Gebre early on learned the value of hard work and securing a permanent voice for working men and women and thereafter devoted the rest of his life fighting for justice and equality in the workplace and in bringing not only clearer societal consciousness – but game-changing solutions – to everyday struggles facing members of our community including roles as: legislative aid to Assembly Speaker Willie L. Brown, Jr.; Director of Government Relations for Laborers Local 270; Southern California Political Director of the California Labor Federation; and twice elected President for the California Young Democrats making him the first African American and first immigrant to hold that position; and

WHEREAS under Tefere Gebre's leadership as Executive Director of the Orange County Labor Federation representing more than 200,000 working men and women through ninety local unions, the political capacity of the labor movement in Orange County has more than doubled and since 2008 the Federation has been honored every election cycle as one of the highest performing labor councils as well has been singled out as an "agent for change" by the California Labor Federation; and in less than a year as Executive Director, Tefere Gebre increased the federation's power with the addition of more than 15,000 new members, established a first-ever communications division as well as expanded political operations and program staff and these efforts contributed to the election of President Obama, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva and many more elected democrats at the state and federal level; and

WHEREAS through Tefere Gebre's strategic vision, the labor movement in Orange County is redefining itself through unprecedented growth in building a broader community coalition of members committed to the tough work of social and economic justice and civil rights; not only is the federation building a new culture of cutting edge advocacy to improve the lives of all workers but has led the way in establishing California's only year-round professionally run voter registration program targeting working family communities and has also put critical resources and boots on the ground to train local underserved and underrepresented communities in taking ownership of civic engagement in order to secure local policy changes including the creation in 2012 of the first ever, ten week leader initiative program at local schools to educate parents and students on city government, public speaking, and securing appointments to local boards & commissions while also giving participants an understanding that work connects us all thereby earning recognition as a "Partner in Education" from the Santa Ana Unified School District and establishing that the leadership programs remain in full force in all schools and communities around the county; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Orange County pays tribute to the far-reaching contributions and growing legacy of Tefere Gebre and reaffirms its commitment to the spirit of Tefere Gebre's work by serving as a regional leader and coalition partner in fighting on the frontlines for social and economic justice and dignity for all people.

Submitted by: Jeff LeTourneau, Gloria Alvarado, Valerie Amezcua, Ana Cabral, Bernardo Enriquez, Carina Franck-Pantone, Priscilla Luviano