

HONORING JAMES ANDREWS FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE AFL-CIO

Whereas, James, originally from Warren County, North Carolina, began his career in the labor movement after helping his co-workers at Perfect Pack Product Company in Henderson, North Carolina, organize into UFCW Local 525; and

Whereas, James took his first union-related job in 1974, being paid \$90.00 a week by Frontlash to organize young workers in North Carolina; and

Whereas, James, under a special grant from the A. Philip Randolph Institute, joined the staff of North Carolina State AFL-CIO as its Outreach Director on March 25, 1975; and

Whereas, James was elected in 1985 as the state federation's Secretary-Treasurer, serving for 12 years with President Christopher Scott; and

Whereas, James was elected and served as President of the state federation for two decades, from 1997-2017; and

Whereas, during that time James organized and attended hundreds of legislative receptions, legislative conferences, and candidate screenings; spent hundreds of days at the North Carolina General Assembly; made hundreds of trips to CLC meetings, to local union halls, to strikes and picket lines; and ran countless Executive Board meetings, Annual Conventions, Carolina Labor Schools, and other events; and

Whereas, James has earned the respect of union members across the state, of politicians from across the aisle, and from labor leaders across the country; and

Whereas, James was both the first elected full-time African-American president of any AFL-CIO state federation and the first state federation president in history to be elected to the national AFL-CIO's Executive Council; and

Whereas, James' leadership helped establish the North Carolina State AFL-CIO as one of the most respected state federations in the nation; and

Whereas, James has received many awards and much recognition for his lifetime of work on behalf of working people, including being recognized September 10, 2016 as a "Champion of Justice" by the North Carolina Justice Center; and

Whereas, James will be remembered not just for his brave and tireless work on behalf of North Carolina's working people, but also for his unwavering warmth and openness to all he met, and for his incredible optimism and enthusiasm in the face of all challenges; and

Whereas, James served his country with honor in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, being awarded a Purple Heart for that service; and

Whereas, James is a dedicated family man, with six children, fifteen grandchildren, and an increasing number of great grandchildren, and has been assisted and supported in all he has done by his wonderful and patient wife, Pat; and

Whereas, there will never be another labor leader like James Andrews; and

Whereas, James has shown, in so many ways, that he is an extraordinary human being; now

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the members of the North Carolina State AFL-CIO jointly express their thanks and appreciation to James Andrews for the incredible time and energy he has given to our labor movement; for the passion, intellect, honesty, and courage of his leadership; and to hope that he will enjoy his well-deserved retirement for many years to come.