

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Ron Kirk stepped down as the United States Trade  
2 Representative on March 15, 2013, concluding four years of service  
3 as a member of President Barack Obama's cabinet; and

4           WHEREAS, Mr. Kirk became the first African American to serve  
5 in that post when he was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in March 2009;  
6 as the president's chief advisor, negotiator, and spokesperson on  
7 issues concerning international trade, he led his office in  
8 developing and implementing a robust trade and investment strategy  
9 while establishing the United States as a conscientious voice on  
10 such issues as the environment and workers' rights; and

11           WHEREAS, Recognizing the impact of trade policy on job  
12 creation, Ambassador Kirk directed efforts to expand market access  
13 for American goods and services; he oversaw the implementation of  
14 bilateral free trade agreements with Korea, Colombia, and Panama,  
15 the advancement of regional Trans-Pacific Partnership talks, and  
16 the productive engagement of the United States in the World Trade  
17 Organization; his accomplishments further include assisting small  
18 businesses seeking opportunities in foreign markets and  
19 strengthening intellectual property law at home and abroad; and

20           WHEREAS, A native of Austin and a prominent name in Texas  
21 politics, Ron Kirk served as Texas Secretary of State under  
22 Governor Ann Richards, and he was elected to two terms as mayor of  
23 Dallas in the 1990s; he subsequently forged a successful career as a  
24 partner in the international law firm of Vinson & Elkins, and in

1 2008, he had the distinction of being named one of the "50 Most  
2 Influential Minority Lawyers in America" by the *National Law*  
3 *Journal*; and

4 WHEREAS, Ambassador Kirk holds a bachelor's degree from  
5 Austin College and a juris doctorate from The University of Texas  
6 School of Law, and today he practices with Gibson Dunn; he enjoys  
7 the support of a loving family that includes his wife, Matrice  
8 Ellis-Kirk, and his daughters, Elizabeth Alexandra and Catherine  
9 Victoria, as well as his mother, veteran Austin civil rights  
10 advocate Willie Mae Kirk; and

11 WHEREAS, Protecting our national interests in the global  
12 marketplace is an endeavor of vital import, and Ron Kirk may reflect  
13 proudly on the notable strides he made to ensure that American  
14 families and businesses can achieve prosperity now and into the  
15 future; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas  
17 hereby honor Ron Kirk for his service as United States Trade  
18 Representative and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued  
19 success and happiness; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
21 prepared for Ambassador Kirk as an expression of high regard by the  
22 Texas House of Representatives and Senate.

Giddings

Maria Newhurst

President of the Senate

Joe Straus  
Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 116 was adopted by the House on May 8, 2013, by a non-record vote.

Robert Harey  
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 116 was adopted by the Senate on May 21, 2013, by a viva-voce vote.

Antony Spaw  
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 14 JUNE '13

Date

Rick Peery  
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE

10pm O'CLOCK

JUN 14 2013

[Signature]  
Secretary of State