

Resolution Honoring John J. Sweeney

Whereas John J. Sweeney served as president of the AFL-CIO from 1995 to 2009 and is largely responsible for revitalizing the federation during his time in leadership; and

Whereas he broadened the vision for the union and championed issues of civil rights, racial justice and gender equality; and

Whereas he fought for diverse and honest leaders at every level; and

Whereas as President of the Service Employees International Union he nearly doubled the growth of its members during his 15 years of leadership; and

Whereas he successfully spearheaded the revolutionary Justice for Janitors campaign of mass civil disobedience in Los Angeles; and

Whereas he redefined activism and inclusivity while building the federation into a political force; and

Whereas he dedicated nearly 60 years of service to fight for representation and equity for workers; and

Whereas it was his vision for increased retiree activism that led to the founding of the Alliance for Retired Americans in 2001; and

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alliance for Retired Americans mourns the loss of John J. Sweeney and pledges to continue his vision of growing retiree activism.