

# Resolutions

## RESOLUTION #13

### Honoring Ron Powell

*Submitted by Timothy E. Drea, President, Illinois AFL-CIO and Delegate Steven M. Powell, Local 881 UFCW*

**WHEREAS**, the labor movement lost a great leader, activist, and friend with the passing of Brother Ronald E. Powell (April 5, 1935 – March 22, 2020), President Emeritus of Local 881 of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Powell was raised in Wisconsin, served his country in the United States Army, studied at Northern Illinois University, then in 1960, he commenced employment at the Jewel Tea Company in DeKalb, Illinois, where he successfully led the first and only recognition strike against the company; after which he joined the staff of Local 881 (formerly the United Retail Workers Union, Independent); and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Powell, for 57 and a half years, vigilantly represented the rights of Local 881 members in the workplace and in the halls of government, where he fought to strengthen worker rights throughout Illinois and Northwest Indiana during his tenure as a Field Representative, Director of Field Operations, Vice President of the Executive Board, Secretary-Treasurer, and then in 1983, was elected to the office of President, and to date, was the longest-serving Constitutional Officer of Local 881; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Powell was elected as a Vice President of the Illinois AFL-CIO Executive Board in 1986, serving as a leading voice in its governance under six Illinois AFL-CIO Presidents; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Powell held public office as a Trustee in the Village of Mundelein, Illinois, was elected as a Delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1996, 2000, and 2008, and tirelessly worked to elect and retain labor-minded political candidates, at all levels of government, who would be advocates of working people; therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that this convention of the Illinois AFL-CIO remembers our dearly respected Union brother, leader, and friend, who was a true model of what it means to be a Union man and embodied the fight for working families in all that he did; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that this convention honors and commemorates the life and legacy of Ronald E. Powell and all delegates will observe a moment of silence to remember this loyal soul of labor.