

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1847

A RESOLUTION recognizing and honoring Penney Schwab for her work with the United Methodist Western Kansas Mexican-American Ministries.

WHEREAS, On February 4, 2008, after nearly 22 years as the executive director of United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries based in Garden City, Penney Schwab retired from that position. MAM, as the agency is usually known, has six centers in Southwest Kansas and offers a comprehensive range of medical, social, educational and spiritual services for people of all races, colors and faiths. The clinics see more than 25,000 patients annually; and

WHEREAS, When hired in 1986, Ms. Schwab oversaw the establishment of a medical clinic that in 1997 became a Community Health Center with sites in Garden City, Dodge City, Liberal and Ulysses. Almost 22 years ago, when Ms. Schwab first began working at MAM, the organization had only six employees; it has since grown into a dynamic agency with 65 employees and a budget over \$3 million. The organization's growth is due to Ms. Schwab's passion, dedication and vision; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, under Ms. Schwab's direction, MAM clinics provided health care for 6,173 unduplicated clients. Social services include a food bank, clothing and household items, school supplies, immigration documentation assistance, citizenship classes, VITA tax assistance, youth camp and other services. Most recently, Ms. Schwab worked to establish MAM's first dental clinic, which opened December 10; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Schwab is the second elected lay delegate to the General Conference of the United Methodist Church by the laity of the Kansas West Conference. She has been a member of Copeland United Methodist Church since 1969. Ms. Schwab credits her service in the United Methodist Church to her love of people, stating that "it has been my greatest joy and privilege to serve people of all races, colors and faiths as executive director of Mexican-American Ministries"; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Schwab is a member of the Chickasaw Nation and is married to Don Schwab and has three children, Patrick, Michael and Rebecca, and six grandchildren. The Schwabs have lived on a farm south of Copeland for 38 years; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Schwab will continue working with MAM by writing grants and conducting research. She plans to do some traveling with her husband Don and to spend more time with family and friends. Ms. Schwab will also continue writing for "Daily Guideposts", which she has done for nearly 30 years: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we congratulate, commend and express our gratitude to Penney Schwab for her selfless and dedicated work with the United Methodist Western Kansas Mexican-American Ministries and for improving the lives of many Kansans through her caring concern; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to provide four enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Stephen Morris.

Senate Resolution No. 1847 was sponsored by Senator Stephen Morris.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.