

## **RESOLUTION NO. 8**

### **Remembering the Great Scotts – Dred and Harriet**

Dred and Harriet Scott were Africans born into slavery in America. On April 6, 1846, Dred and Harriet Scott filed suit to obtain freedom for their family in the Old Courthouse in St. Louis, Missouri, initiating litigation that lasted nearly 11 years and culminated in the infamous decision of the United States Supreme Court pronounced by Chief Justice Roger B. Taney.

The Supreme Court stated the African race who came to this country, whether free or slave, were not intended to be included in the Constitution for the enjoyment of any personal rights or benefits ... and had no rights which the white men were bound to respect.

The suffering, faith, strength and the character lived by Dred and Harriet Scott is examples for all people. The historic significance of the role played by Harriet and Dred Scott in this nation's history is that their brave act drew attention to the plight of slaves in this country and hastened the onslaught of the Civil War.

#### ***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:***

The Coalition of Labor Union Women shall:

- Denounce the Dred Scott decision;
- Remember Dred and Harriet Scott and the spirit, strength, and courage it took for them and their supporters to make a stand at that time for freedom, justice, and equality for all people of the United States;
- Support the commemoration of Dred and Harriet Scott and the commissioning of statues in their images to be built in downtown St. Louis overlooking the Old Courthouse, the site of the first trials leading to the Dred Scott Decision;
- Continue to work for reconciliation between all races and continue to oppose slavery anywhere on the planet.