



RESOLUTION 2020.16

Declaring October 25, 2019 as Larry Itliong Day in the Milpitas Unified School District

WHEREAS, California's farm labor movement during the 1960s was more diverse than many realize; and

WHEREAS, among the leaders was Larry Itliong, a native of the Philippines, born on October 25, 1913, in San Nicolas, Pangasinan. He moved to the United States at the age of 14 in 1929 to seek out the land of "milk and honey." But due to the Great Depression, Itliong was forced to work on the railroads and later as a migrant farmworker.; and

WHEREAS, on September 8, 1965, Itliong organized a group of 1,500 Filipino American grape workers, members of the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, in what would become known as the Delano Grape Strike of 1965. The walkout was against Delano-area table and wine grape growers, protesting years of poor pay and conditions; and

WHEREAS, Itliong asked Cesar Chavez, who led a mostly Latino farm workers union, the National Farm Workers Association, to join their strike. Chavez' union voted to join the Filipino workers' walkouts on Mexican Independence Day, September 16, 1965. The strike was the first major collaboration between Filipino and Mexican workers, who had traditionally been recruited to work during the other group's protest actions; and

WHEREAS, due partly as a result of Itliong's perseverance and tenacity, the two groups combined, establishing the United Farm Workers of America Organizing Committee of the AFL-CIO; and

WHEREAS, Itliong moved on to become the President of the Filipino American Political Association, the first national political Filipino American organization and a crucial alliance between Filipino professionals and laborers that grew out of the Delano Grape Strike; and

WHEREAS, under a bill signed by Gov. Jerry Brown in 2015, October 25 will now be observed as Larry Itliong Day each year and have special significance in public schools and educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires to recognize and honor Larry Itliong for his legacy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Milpitas Unified School District encourages the recognition and commemoration of Larry Itliong on October 25, 2019 each year at the District's school sites including the teaching and discussion of his contributions to our local history.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Milpitas Unified School District Board of Education this 22nd day of October 2019 by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Chris Norwood, President
Milpitas Unified School District
Board of Education

Kelly Yip-Chuan, Clerk
Milpitas Unified School District
Board of Education