

A Resolution To Recognize the Contribution of Pilipino Farm Workers in the Delano Labor Movement

WHEREAS, Cesar Chavez Day celebrates America's history and victory in the fight for farm workers' and laborers' rights to fair treatment and fair wages¹; and,

WHEREAS, Pilipino farm workers have contributed invaluable to the farm worker movement and to the creation and accomplishments of the United Farm Workers of America (UFW)²; and,

WHEREAS, During the first 30 years of the twentieth century, over 100,000 men left the Philippines for the U.S. By 1930, Pilipino farm workers made up approximately 15% of all California farm workers, nearly all asparagus farm workers in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys, and approximately 80% of the Salinas Valley lettuce crop workers³; and,

WHEREAS, In the 1930s and 1940s, Pilipino laborers in California began aggressively organizing various unions and associations, and engaged in successful strikes throughout the state; and,

WHEREAS, Under the leadership of the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, Pilipino farm workers initiated a five-year strike in the Delano grape fields on September 8th, 1965, which would become the most important date in the history of the farm worker movement⁴; and,

WHEREAS, In 1966, the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, under the leadership of Larry Dulay Itliong, and the National Farm Workers Association, under the leadership of Cesar Chavez, merged and formed the UFW Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO; and,

WHEREAS, Pilipino labor leaders have greatly contributed to the historic formation of the UFW and the accomplishments of the union such as the passage in California of the Agricultural Labor Relations Act in 1975 which ensures peace in the agricultural fields by guaranteeing justice for all agricultural workers and stability in labor relations⁵; and,

WHEREAS, the story of how the Pilipino American labor leaders and workers helped create the farmworker labor movement has been greatly ignored by national and international media including the Cesar Chavez movie⁶; and,

¹ <http://www.cesarchavezholiday.org/>

² <https://www.laprogressive.com/cesar-chavez-day-and-the-forgotten-asian-americans>

³ http://leginfo.ca.gov/pub/03-04/bill/asm/ab_0201-0250/acr_213_cfa_20040622_114434_sen_comm.html

⁴ <https://www.laprogressive.com/cesar-chavez-day-and-the-forgotten-asian-americans>

⁵ <http://www.pbs.org/itvs/fightfields/cesarchavez1.html>

⁶ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bino-a-realuyo/dear-filipino-organizers-cesar-chaves_b_5019283.html

WHEREAS, a new documentary titled, *Delano Manongs*, interrogates the erasure of Filipinos from the farmworkers movement and presents the story from the point of view of the leader of the movement himself, Larry Itliong⁷; and,

WHEREAS, on October 2nd, 2013, California State Governor Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill 123 into law requiring K-12 curriculum in the social sciences include instruction of the contribution of Pilipino Americans to the farm labor movement⁸; and,

WHEREAS, on October 12th, 2013, a mural dedicated to the struggles of Pilipino farm workers and labor organizers who advocated for improved labor conditions in California was unveiled at the Milpitas Library Auditorium; and,

WHEREAS, on December 1st, 2014, Assemblymember Rob Bonta (D-Oakland) announced a bill honoring Larry Itliong, AB 7, establishing Larry Itliong Day as a day of special significance in California to commemorate all Pilipino workers especially, Pilipino Farm Laborers⁹; and,

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council, recognize the contribution of Pilipino farm workers in the Delano Labor Movement; and,

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council, recognize Larry Itliong as a leader in the Delano Labor Movement along with Cesar Chavez; and,

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that USAC Office of the President, Office of the External Vice President and the Academic Affairs Commission work in collaboration with Pilipin@ organizations on campus, community organizations off campus, and with Assemblymember Rob Bonta on the passage of AB 7; and,

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council, work in collaboration with Pilipin@ organizations on campus and community organizations off campus to restore heritage and stories of Pilipin@s as a vibrant political force through the passage of the UCLA Diversity Requirement and the establishment of Pilipino Studies.

⁷ <http://www.delanomanongs.com/about>

⁸ <http://asmdc.org/members/a18/news-room/press-releases/governor-signs-bonta-s-filipino-american-farm-worker-bill-ab-123>

⁹ <http://asmdc.org/members/a18/news-room/press-releases/bonta-introduces-legislation-establishing-larry-itliong-day-in-california>