

SENATE RESOLUTION

8641

By Senator Saldaña

1       WHEREAS, On October 25, 1913, Larry Itliong was born in San  
2 Nicolas, Pangasinan, which was a territory of the United States at  
3 that time; and

4       WHEREAS, At 15 years of age, Larry immigrated to the United  
5 States and despite only receiving formal education up to the sixth  
6 grade, taught himself about law and soon became involved in political  
7 and labor organizing; and

8       WHEREAS, Larry became a farmworker and worked in canneries and  
9 agricultural fields across the country, putting labor organizing  
10 lessons into practice; and

11       WHEREAS, In 1965, Larry Itliong led the "Great Delano Grape  
12 Strike" as a means to protest the working conditions of agricultural  
13 workers, specifically highlighting their low wages and physically  
14 detrimental working environment, a strike that set the stage for a  
15 civil rights struggle and a movement to achieve justice for  
16 farmworkers; and

17       WHEREAS, In 1966, Larry Itliong led the Agricultural Workers  
18 Organizing Committee, which merged with the National Farm Workers  
19 Association led by Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, thereby creating  
20 the United Farm Workers Union — a union that organized marches,  
21 national consumer boycotts, and fasts, which attracted national  
22 headlines, gained labor contracts with higher wages, and improved  
23 working conditions for thousands of agricultural workers; and

1       WHEREAS, In 1970, Larry Itliong founded and became the president  
2 of the Filipino American Political Association, the first national  
3 political Filipino American organization in the country; and

4       WHEREAS, Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, Larry Itliong, and the  
5 United Farm Workers continue to inspire farmworkers in Washington  
6 state to organize and advocate for a more just world;

7       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington state Senate  
8 recognize and celebrate the historical contributions of individuals  
9 like Larry Itliong in our efforts to achieve a more equitable, just,  
10 and fair labor and economic system; and

11       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Washington state Senate  
12 encourage the people of Washington state to celebrate the countless  
13 social, political, economic, and cultural contributions Filipino  
14 Americans have established in Washington state and across the  
15 country.

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