

SENATE RESOLUTION

8682

By Senator Saldaña

1 WHEREAS, The state of Washington has recognized the proud history
2 of Filipino Americans, and in 2019 passed Senate Bill No. 5865,
3 declaring October of each year Filipino American history month; and

4 WHEREAS, It is imperative for the youth of the state of
5 Washington to have positive role models to instill in them the
6 importance of education, complemented with the richness of diversity
7 and the value of their legacy; and

8 WHEREAS, Previous resolutions have recognized Carlos Bulosan and
9 other Washingtonians who have made a national contribution to
10 American history and culture; and

11 WHEREAS, Carlos Sampayan Bulosan was born November 2, 1913, in
12 the Philippine city of Binalonan, Pangasinan; and

13 WHEREAS, Carlos Bulosan followed the pattern of many Filipinos
14 during the American colonial period by leaving for America on July
15 22, 1930, at age 17, in the hope of finding salvation from the
16 economic depression of his home; and

17 WHEREAS, Upon arriving in Seattle, Bulosan worked in low-paying
18 jobs, worked as a farmworker, harvesting grapes and asparagus, and
19 performed other forms of hard labor in the fields of central
20 Washington; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1936, Bulosan suffered from tuberculosis and
22 underwent three operations and stayed two years in the convalescent

1 ward. During his long stay in the hospital, Bulosan spent his
2 time constantly reading and writing; and

3 WHEREAS, Carlos Bulosan's most famous essay "Freedom From
4 Want" was published on March, 1943, chosen by the Saturday
5 Evening Post to accompany its publication of the Norman Rockwell
6 painting based on Franklin D. Roosevelt's "Four Freedoms"
7 speech. His classic novel "America is in the Heart," published
8 in 1946, is a national treasure which gives a postcolonial Asian
9 immigrant perspective to the experience of Filipinos working in
10 the United States in the 1930s and 1940s; and

11 WHEREAS, In the 1970s, the resurgence of Asian/Pacific
12 Islander American activism marked the discovery of Bulosan's
13 unpublished writings in a University of Washington library,
14 leading to releases of several unfinished works and anthologies
15 of his poetry. This included "The Laughter of my Father,"
16 originally published as short sketches; and

17 WHEREAS, Carlos Bulosan was a labor organizer and activist,
18 and was the publicity director for cannery workers local union
19 37. His writings impacted the betterment of working conditions
20 for immigrants in Washington state. His words and image appear
21 in murals and exhibits throughout Seattle's International
22 District. He inspires scholars, artists, and civil rights
23 activists;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
25 Senate hereby celebrates the life and works of Carlos Sampayan
26 Bulosan in advancing the people, culture, and history of the
27 state of Washington; and

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
29 immediately transmitted to Allen Acosta of Olympia, veterans
30 advocate and grandnephew of Carlos Bulosan, to Maricres Valdez
31 Castro, Commissioner for the City of Tacoma Commission on
32 Immigration and Refugee Affairs, and to Rey Pascua, Commission
33 on Asian Pacific American Affairs Emeritus Commissioner, for
34 further distribution to public schools and libraries, Filipino
35 American, Asian, and Pacific Islander organizations, to
36 organizations representing workers, to historical societies, and
37 to the superintendent of public instruction.

1 I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate,
2 do hereby certify that this is a true and
3 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8682,
4 adopted by the Senate
5 February 26, 2024

6 SARAH BANNISTER
7 Secretary of the Senate