

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

## **Proclamation No. CP21-0879 Honoring the Life of Ethel Sandos-Skripko**

**WHEREAS**, Ethel Mae Sandos-Skripko, was born on Aug. 31, 1929, in Guion, Ark., the fourth of 15 children to William and Flossie McCance, and became the matriarch of the family at age 6 when her mother died in childbirth; and

**WHEREAS**, at age 14, after working cotton fields in Arkansas, Ethel moved to Kansas and then to Denver, working during the war effort at Gates Rubber Co., where after a late-night shift she caught the eye of Manuel “Sam” Sandos, eventually marrying in 1947; and

**WHEREAS**, Ethel and Sam were married for 40 years during which they had 10 children and 15 foster children, living on the west side of Denver where in the 1960s she and her husband became civically active, establishing youth centers for west side children; and

**WHEREAS**, Ethel worked hard by Sam’s side when he ran for and won election to the Denver City Council in 1975, becoming one of the first two Hispanic members of this body, and on which he served for three terms from District 3, each time with the help of his wife and their family: and

**WHEREAS**, in 1978, in the kitchen of their home, Ethel and Sam started a west side holiday tradition by providing a Christmas tree and food baskets to several needy neighbors, which grew exponentially a few years later with the help of neighbor Joe Lucero and the St. Vincent de Paul Society into the District 3 Christmas Basket Program, and which continues today, 43 years later, serving thousands of families in Denver, Adams, Arapahoe and Jefferson counties; and

**WHEREAS**, Ethel remained politically active after Sam’s passing in 1987, and was tenacious in her support for the rights of people through her involvement in the Democratic Party and her advice and counsel to numerous political figures; and

**WHEREAS**, Ethel was a wizard in the kitchen, whipping up southern dishes from her native state such as biscuits and chocolate gravy, as well as Mexican favorites pozole and especially her consistently award-winning chili; and

**WHEREAS**, Ethel was a devout Catholic who dressed all her children in matching suits for Sunday Mass, and who prayed relentlessly for the needs of everyone who came to her, and who never spoke poorly of anyone; and

**WHEREAS**, Ethel remarried to William Skipko in 1993 and continued to live in southwest Denver until her last days, which came to an end on July 21, 2021, surrounded by her children and their families,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

**Section 1.** The Council of the City and County of Denver honors and memorializes Ethel Sandos-Skripko for the outstanding life of service she led, and the legacy she leaves to our city.

**Section 2.** That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver’s seal to this proclamation and that a copy shall be delivered to the Sandos family.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL August 2, 2021

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PRESIDENT