

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

## Proclamation No. 13-0388

### **Celebrating the Accomplishments of Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales, One of Denver's Prominent Activists for Racial Equality, Education, and Culture**

**WHEREAS**, born in Denver on June 18, 1928 to Federico and Indalesia Gonzales, the youngest of five brothers and three sisters, Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales (nicknamed because of his tendency to 'pop his cork') grew up listening to his father's accounts of the Mexican revolution and experiencing firsthand the impacts of poverty; and

**WHEREAS**, after graduating from Manual High School, Gonzales literally fought his way out of poverty and was recognized as one of the top 10 featherweights in the world, he won the 1949 national amateur athletic union bantamweight title, and was the first Chicano inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame in 1988, and in 1999 The Denver Post listed Corky as the fifth greatest boxer to come out of Colorado in the last 100 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales is best known for his major contributions to the Chicano Movement that includes establishing The Crusade for Justice in 1966 which developed into a nationally known cultural center that provided services in employment, legal defense, education, civil rights, political action, immigration and recreation and hosted three annual National Chicano Youth Liberation Conferences in Denver in 1969 through 1971; establishing the Escuela Tlatelolco in 1970, a nonprofit, bilingual school and health care center that continues to promote Chicano culture and activism today, and he was the author of many speeches and writings devoted to the development of all students and Latinos to become leaders and to get involved politically and to advocate for the arts and education; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1967, Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales published his epic poem Yo soy Joaquín, which gave voice to the Chicano struggle about choosing culture/heritage rather than secular acceptance; and

**WHEREAS**, Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales - legendary social and civil rights activist, charismatic Chicano leader, champion boxer, celebrated poet, and loving husband, father and grandfather – passed away on April 12, 2005, his iconic leadership continues to inspire generations of Chicanos/Latinos all over the United States to have a voice in political and social movements.

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

**Section 1.** That the Council hereby honors, celebrates, and affirms the accomplishments of Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales in crusading for justice and improving the lives of Denver citizens, especially the disenfranchised.

**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 to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to the Gonzales Family.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL June 17, 2013

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PRESIDENT