



**Proclamation No. 20-0810
Honoring the life of Geraldine Gonzales**

WHEREAS, Geraldine Gonzales, a ninth-generation Coloradoan, was born in Brighton, Colo. the 11th of 12 children, and moved with her family to east Denver in 1941. As a teenager, Geraldine met the love of her life, Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales and, in 1949 at the age of 17, she married Corky, then 20, and the young couple had six daughters and two sons; and

WHEREAS, Geraldine was the heart and soul of the family, being known for her delicious tortillas and green chili, warm heart and community spirit, she would feed everyone who visited her home, creating a sense of family and community for all, always embracing those who were less fortunate; and

WHEREAS, when in 1966 her husband, a former celebrated professional athlete, was, again, thrust into the spotlight when he formed The Crusade for Justice, a civil, human rights and service organization advocating Chicano nationalism and social change, Geraldine walked beside her husband, not behind him. She hosted many national civil rights leaders in her home and for five decades helped organize and support social justice actions, pushing for equity and peace; and

WHEREAS, despite not having graduated from high school, Geraldine challenged herself and, along with Corky, in 1970 co-founded Escuela Tlatelolco, a school that for 47 years provided a quality education for Chicano students while also focusing on social justice and cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, Geraldine loved Mexican music and helped spotlight the musical voices of the women in the Crusade, she used her talents to sew costumes for the Escuela Tlatelolco dance troop El Ballet Chicano de Aztlan that also supported the Chicano movement’s efforts; and

WHEREAS, family was always at the center of Geraldine’s life, she enjoyed living with family until, at the age of 83, as her family jokes, she “ran away from home” and lived independently until she died of natural causes at the age of 89; and

WHEREAS, Geraldine’s eight children, 20 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren will miss her terribly, so will her neighborhood, the community of Denver and all those associated with the Chicano civil rights movement across our Nation. The family asks that those who miss her, honor her by dedicating their own lives to the good will of all.

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

Section 1. The Council hereby recognizes and honors the dedicated, selfless life and work of Geraldine Gonzales; and

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 delivered to the Gonzales family.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL August 10, 2020

PRESIDENT