
THIRD READING

Bill No: SCR 190
Author: Cabaldon (D), et al.
Introduced: 6/17/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: Larry Itliong Day

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution proclaims October 25, 2026, as Larry Itliong Day in California and encourages all public schools and educational institutions to conduct exercises remembering his life, recognizing his accomplishments, and familiarizing pupils with the contributions he made to California.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Activist and union organizer Modesto “Larry” Dulay Itliong was a prominent figure in the farmworkers movement, described as “one of the fathers of the West Coast labor movement”.
- 2) After immigrating to the United States in 1929, when he was 15 years old, Itliong began his work as a labor organizer in the State of Alaska, where he organized cannery and agricultural unions, and would later organize workers in the State of Washington, California, Montana, and South Dakota. His fluency in Ilocano, Pangasinense, Tagalog, English, Japanese, Cantonese, and Spanish complemented his oratory skills to galvanize workers, emboldening them with words of great encouragement, saying, “Let’s go, don’t be scared! I’ll be in the front, just follow me.”
- 3) In 1948, Itliong, along with Philip Vera Cruz and other labor leaders, participated in the 1948 asparagus strike in the City of Stockton. The asparagus strike was the first major United States. agricultural strike after World War II. In 1956, Itliong continued his organizing work with the Filipino Farm Labor Union in Stockton. Itliong was asked to organize for the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC), a newly chartered union in the AFL-CIO in

1959. Though the union was largely Filipino, it included Mexican, Arab, Black, and White workers within its ranks.

- 4) On September 8, 1965, Filipino American agricultural labor leaders, including Itliong and Vera Cruz, organized more than 1,500 farmworkers from AWOC in the Delano Grape Strike of 1965, in partnership with Mexican American labor leaders of the National Farm Workers Association, sparking one of the greatest social, economic, and racial justice movements in the history of California and the United States and leading to the establishment of the United Farm Workers of America (UFW).
- 5) The first union contracts were signed on July 29, 1970, in a great victory for the farmworkers. It took five years of striking, plus an international boycott of table grapes, before growers signed contracts with UFW. Ninety-five percent of the strikers had lost their homes, cars, and most of their possessions. But in losing those things, they also had found themselves. Despite all the disagreements, a powerful bond existed across ethnic lines.
- 6) The contributions of Larry Itliong and the farmworkers, who were vital in pushing for farmworkers' rights in California, deserve proper recognition for their accomplishments and for paving the path for the betterment of the millions of workers.

This resolution proclaims October 25, 2026, as Larry Itliong Day in California and encourages all public schools and educational institutions to conduct exercises remembering his life, recognizing his accomplishments, and familiarizing pupils with the contributions he made to California.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 6/22/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 6/22/26)

None received

Prepared by: Hunter Flynn / SFA / (916) 651-4171
6/22/26 14:47:30

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