SENATE RESOLUTION

8700

By Senators Fortunato and Wagoner

WHEREAS, This resolution recognizes and celebrates Yolanda Cortinas Trout-Manuel as the first Latina Queen of Walla Walla Cinco de Mayo, a title she earned at the age of 16, honoring her historic achievement and her lifelong dedication to community service, cultural representation, and public leadership; and

WHEREAS, Yolanda Cortinas Trout-Manuel was crowned the first Latina Queen of Walla Walla Cinco de Mayo in 1968, in a pageant led by Linda Franco and her mother, Emma Cortinas, marking a meaningful milestone for the Latino community and reflecting progress, inclusion, and the celebration of cultural heritage in Washington state; and

WHEREAS, Born in Corpus Christi, Texas, and raised in Walla Walla, Washington, Yolanda Cortinas Trout-Manuel is the eighth of 18 siblings and the daughter of the late Mike and Emma Cortinas, experiences that shaped her lifelong commitment to leadership, family, and service; and

WHEREAS, For more than 15 years, Yolanda Cortinas Trout-Manuel operated a bilingual early learning and daycare program in Walla Walla, through which she supported working families, strengthened early childhood education, and promoted bilingual and bicultural learning, including service throughout 1996-2007; and

WHEREAS, Yolanda Cortinas Trout-Manuel's lifelong commitment to service began in early learning and family advocacy, through which

she ensured that children and families had access to safe, nurturing, and culturally responsive environments; and

WHEREAS, Yolanda Cortinas Trout-Manuel served on the Auburn City Council beginning in 2014, providing years of dedicated leadership focused on transparency, public safety, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, Yolanda Cortinas Trout-Manuel demonstrated a strong commitment to youth empowerment, and she supported and expanded youth leadership programs and engaged young people with local government; and

WHEREAS, Yolanda Cortinas Trout-Manuel consistently emphasized the importance of community engagement through regular town halls, thoughtful surveys, and open dialogue, believing that accountable and accessible government empowers residents and strengthens democracy; and

WHEREAS, Yolanda Cortinas Trout-Manuel's guiding belief that progress is achieved through collective action, often expressed in her words, "It's not about me, it's about all of us," shaped her approach to leadership and public service; and

WHEREAS, Yolanda Cortinas Trout-Manuel retired from all formal leadership and committee roles, after years of service on regional, statewide, and national boards, including the Sound Cities Association, King County Domestic Violence Initiative Regional Task Force, National League of Cities Human Development Committee, Hispanic Elected Officials, and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, as well as service as Chair of the Wellness Committee and participation on children, youth, public safety, justice, and water quality advisory committees; and

WHEREAS, Yolanda Cortinas Trout-Manuel has resided in Auburn, Washington since 2000, and, with her husband Ron Manuel, has built a life rooted in service, family, and community engagement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate of the state of Washington recognize and honor Yolanda Cortinas Trout-Manuel as the first Latina Queen of Walla Walla Cinco de Mayo and commend her for breaking barriers and uplifting cultural pride across Washington state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate of the state of Washington acknowledge Yolanda Cortinas Trout-Manuel's significant contributions as a business owner, early learning advocate, and public servant, and express appreciation for her dedication to transparency, equity, and community-centered leadership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate of the state of Washington celebrate Yolanda Cortinas Trout-Manuel's lifelong commitment to youth, families, and community wellness, and affirm the importance of inclusive leadership that reflects and serves the diverse communities of Washington state.

I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate,
do hereby certify that this is a true and
correct copy of Senate Resolution 8700,
adopted by the Senate
March 4, 2026

SARAH BANNISTER
Secretary of the Senate