



P r o c l a m a t i o n

*Epifania “Epi” Tavarez
100th Birthday
January 19, 2021*

- WHEREAS,** Epi’s friends and family wish to honor her journey through life of 100 years and counting; and
- WHEREAS,** Epi’s mother, Cornelia Lopez Ramirez, immigrated from Mexico and raised her seven children in Castroville, California; and
- WHEREAS,** Epi met Fermin Tavarez and married at the age of 26, after which they moved to Watsonville and started a family; and
- WHEREAS,** Epi and Fermin had three children, Cornelia, Teresa and David, whom they raised while Fermin worked for Watsonville Canning, among other jobs, to provide for his family; and
- WHEREAS,** after years of dedication and hard work, Epi and Fermin had enough saved to purchase a gas station in Pajaro and named it Ferm’s Exxon, and in the late 1950s built their family home on Fruitland Avenue; and
- WHEREAS,** the station’s property included a small building that Epi used to open a second hand store she stocked with finds from her frequent garage sale visits; and
- WHEREAS,** the store was later replaced by Pajaro Video, which Epi operated for several years, happily assisting those who went to rent movies and engage in lengthy conversations; and
- WHEREAS,** Epi’s family grew as her kids married and had children of their own, and she now has five living grandchildren, David “Doza” Gugale, Jimmy Dutra, Lori Dutra, Phillip Tavarez and David Tavarez, but sadly lost her firstborn grandson Tommy Gugale in 2017, and seven great grandchildren, Marc Gugale, David Gugale, Tom Gugale, Carson Arellano, Xander Arellano, Elle Tavarez and Quinn Tavarez; and
- WHEREAS,** Epi has lived through various monumental events, such as the Great Depression, World War II, the Korean War, the Civil Rights era, desegregation, 9/11, marriage equality and now Covid-19 as well as being a lifelong voter who has seen the terms of 19 presidents; and
- WHEREAS,** Epi enjoys playing cards with her friends as well as spending time with all her family; and
- WHEREAS,** Epi has created a long lasting legacy for her family and is a highly valued member of our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jimmy Dutra, Mayor of the City of Watsonville, in the State of California, on behalf of the City Council hereby congratulate Epi Tavarez on her 100th birthday, with well wishes for many more joyful years to come.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Watsonville to be affixed this 19th day of January, Two thousand and twenty one.

Jimmy Dutra, Mayor