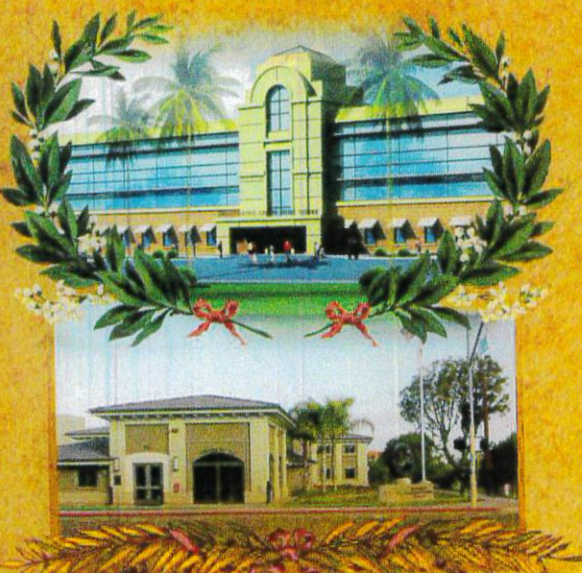


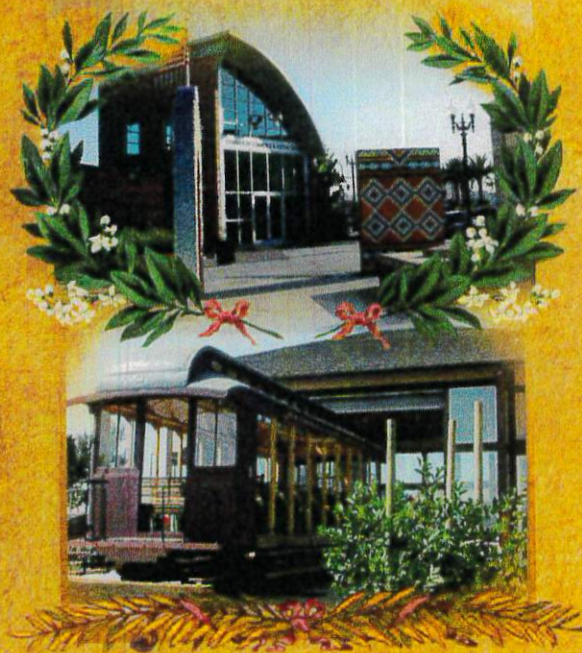


# Proclamation



**WHEREAS**, Mateo R. Camarillo was a lifelong advocate for social justice, a civil rights leader, educator, veteran, entrepreneur, and community builder whose work advanced equity and opportunity for underserved communities throughout San Diego County; and

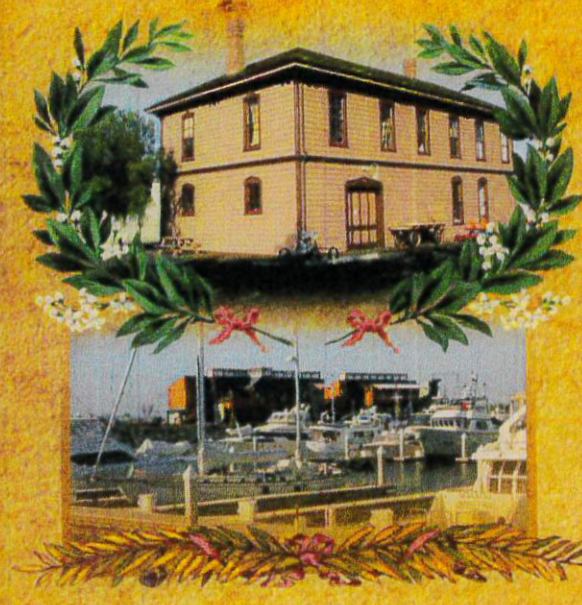
**WHEREAS**, born in 1941 in Tijuana, Mexico, he immigrated to the United States as a child and was raised in circumstances marked by poverty and resilience, working to support his family while attending school and learning English as a young immigrant laborer in Mission Valley. He served honorably in the United States Army during the Vietnam War era and, following his service, earned undergraduate and master's degrees in social work from San Diego State University, becoming the first in his family to pursue higher education; and



**WHEREAS**, under the mentorship of Dr. Maria Sardiñas, Mateo Camarillo began community organizing in San Ysidro that helped lay the foundation for Casa Familiar and contributed to the creation of the San Ysidro Health Center, now one of the region's most significant community health providers; and

**WHEREAS**, beginning in the 1960s, he played a critical role in advancing civil rights by expanding bilingual access in public institutions, founding Trabajadores de la Raza, and advocating for equitable compensation for bilingual workers in government and industry; and

**WHEREAS**, he later served as Executive Director of the Chicano Federation, where he worked with community members, elected officials, and law enforcement to address systemic inequities through dialogue, accountability, and advocacy; and



**WHEREAS**, Mateo Camarillo also served in regional and national leadership roles, including as Vice Chairman of San Diego's Convention and Visitors Bureau, was instrumental in founding the House of Mexico in Balboa Park, and was an entrepreneur and educator who owned and operated businesses and taught at San Diego State University and San José State University; and

**WHEREAS**, his contributions were recognized by the Library of Congress through an extensive oral history interview, and he was the author of *An Immigrant's Journey in Search of the American Dream*; and

**WHEREAS**, Mateo Camarillo passed away on November 25, 2025, and is remembered as a devoted husband, father, and grandfather whose humility, compassion, and belief in community embodied the promise of the American Dream and leave an enduring legacy of service and justice;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, I, Ron Morrison, Mayor, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the City of National City, do hereby affix the official seal and, on behalf of the **City Council**, proclaim January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026 as

Mateo R. Camarillo Day

Ron Morrison  
MAYOR

Luz Molina  
Vice-Mayor

Marcus Bush  
Councilmember

Jose Rodriguez  
Councilmember

Ditas Yamane  
Councilmember

