

Avondale

PROCLAMATION

HONORING BELEN SOTO MORENO

May 29, 1935 – February 9, 2026

WHEREAS, Belen Soto Moreno, a beloved educator, community leader, and inspirational figure, passed away on February 9, 2026, at the age of 90, leaving behind a remarkable legacy of service, faith, and dedication to the community; and

WHEREAS, Belen was born on May 29, 1935, in Marinette, Arizona, and was raised in Camp 54 of Goodyear Farms in Litchfield Park, where she developed the strong values of perseverance, faith, and commitment that would guide her throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, she attended Litchfield Elementary and Litchfield High School, graduating as valedictorian and becoming the first Hispanic woman from the West Valley to attend college, blazing a trail for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Belen pursued higher education at Arizona State College (now Northern Arizona University) and later earned a master's degree in education from Arizona State University, where she was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, further demonstrating her commitment to academic excellence and leadership; and

WHEREAS, she devoted 37 years of service to Avondale Elementary School as both a teacher and Federal Programs Administrator, profoundly shaping the lives of countless students and families through her passion for education, unwavering advocacy, and generous spirit; and

WHEREAS, her influence extended beyond the classroom through her active involvement in the community, including her service with the Litchfield Park Historical Society and co-authoring the book *Los Campos*, preserving the history of migrant camps in Litchfield Park for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Belen was a woman of deep faith and longtime parishioner of St. John Vianney Catholic Church, where she served as a lector and, alongside her husband Rudy, became the first couple married during a Sunday Mass at the parish on June 28, 1959; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to education and the community, her legacy lives on through Belen Soto Elementary School in the Litchfield School District, a lasting tribute to her lifelong commitment to learning and service.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mike Pineda, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Avondale, Arizona, and along with the entire Avondale City Council, do hereby proclaim our deepest appreciation and honor the life and legacy of Belen Soto Moreno and celebrate her enduring contributions to education, her pioneering spirit, and her unwavering dedication to the families and children of Avondale.

Proclaimed this 26nd day of March 2026.



Mayor

Attest: 

City Clerk