



# NEWS

From the First Council District

## ED P. REYES, COUNCILMEMBER

200 N. Spring Street, Room 410, Los Angeles, CA 90012

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For Immediate Release

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### **REYES, COUNCIL, DEDICATE EDWARD ROYBAL BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS ROOM**— *Public meeting room renamed in memory of congressman, pioneer in Latino politics, who began his political career serving on the Los Angeles City Council*

The Edward Roybal Board of Public Works Room was unanimously named today by the City Council following a motion from Councilmember Ed P. Reyes.

“This is a small gesture to celebrate what Edward Roybal has done for this great city and this great country,” Reyes said during Tuesday’s City Council meeting. “By naming the facility in his honor, we will forever echo his accomplishments.”

Reyes’ motion, which called for the re-naming of the Los Angeles Board of Public Works Room (Room 350), was seconded by Council colleagues President Alex Padilla, Tony Cardenas, Eric Garcetti, Jan Perry and Tom LaBonge.

“Today many of our youth are lacking heroes,” Reyes said. “Naming the room in his honor is especially important to them, and to future generations, when more than 50 percent of students with Spanish surnames are dropping out of high school.”

Edward Ross Roybal was born on Feb. 10, 1916 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. At age six, he moved with his family to the Los Angeles community of Boyle Heights. After graduating from Roosevelt High School in 1934, he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps. He then continued his education at the University of California at Los Angeles, where he studied business administration, and at Southwestern University, where he studied law.

In 1949, following a groundswell support from minorities, Roybal made history when he became the first Latino to serve on the Los Angeles City Council in more than a century. He served the 9<sup>th</sup> District for 13 years.

In 1962, Roybal was elected to the House of Representatives, becoming the first Latino from California to serve in Congress since 1879. He served the 30<sup>th</sup> District of California which included the communities of Boyle Heights, Hollywood, Hancock Park, MacArthur Park and downtown Los Angeles.

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Roybal was a patriot with a passion for social justice. In 1967, he authored the first bilingual education bill. One year later he lobbied for the creation a Cabinet Committee on Opportunities for Spanish-speaking people.

During his 30-year tenure in Washington, he also pushed for bilingual court proceedings. He backed legislation outlawing age discrimination and providing benefits for the disabled.

Roybal remained in congress until 1992 when he decided not to seek reelection. That year, his daughter Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, D-Los Angeles, was elected.

In 1993, Edward Roybal used his remaining campaign funds to found the nonprofit Edward R. Roybal Foundation to award scholarships for students in public health. He also founded a research agency, now called the Edward R. Roybal Institute for Applied Gerontology at Cal State Los Angeles, to improve the quality of health for older persons.

In 1999, the Centers for Disease Control named its main campus in Atlanta in Roybal's honor and awarded him its Champion of Prevention Award.

Roybal was a founding member and first chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute. He was the founding member of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials. In 2001, President Clinton awarded Rep. Roybal the Presidential Citizens Medal for more than 50 years of "exemplary deeds of service for our nation."

Roybal died of pneumonia in Pasadena on October 24. He was 89. He is survived by three children, his wife Lucille and several grandchildren.

"Because of his passion, dedication and distinguished achievements, Edward Roybal will truly be remembered as one of the towering leaders in the history of Los Angeles," Reyes said.

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