

Introduced by Senator Lara

March 31, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 126—Relative to Honorable Edward Ross Roybal.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 126, as introduced, Lara. Honorable Edward Ross Roybal.

This measure would recognize the contributions of Honorable Edward Ross Roybal on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Edward Ross Roybal was among
2 the country's most influential Latino leaders, serving in the United
3 States Army during the Second World War, as a member of the
4 Los Angeles City Council for 13 years, and as a Member of the
5 United States Congress for 30 years; and
6 WHEREAS, Edward Ross Roybal was one of 10 children born
7 to Baudilio Roybal, a carpenter, and Eloisa Roybal on February
8 10, 1916, in Albuquerque, New Mexico; and
9 WHEREAS, At the age of six, Mr. Roybal moved with his
10 family to Los Angeles, California, where he attended local public
11 schools and graduated from Roosevelt High School; and
12 WHEREAS, After graduating high school, Mr. Roybal worked
13 for the Civilian Conservation Corps before studying accounting
14 and business administration at the University of California, Los
15 Angeles, and Southwestern University; and
16 WHEREAS, Mr. Roybal worked as a public health educator
17 with the California Tuberculosis Controllers Association and later

1 served four years as director of health education for the Los
2 Angeles County Tuberculosis and Health Association; and

3 WHEREAS, In World War II, Mr. Roybal served as an
4 accountant for an infantry unit in the United States Army; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Roybal married Lucille Beserra on September
6 27, 1940, and the couple raised three children: Lucille, Lillian, and
7 Edward, Jr; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Roybal helped start the Community Service
9 Organization (CSO), which sought to ally the city's diverse
10 neighborhoods to push progressive issues such as challenging
11 discrimination in southern California, especially its effects on
12 economic, education, and housing conditions around Los Angeles;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, In 1949, Mr. Roybal was elected as a Los Angeles
15 City Council member, becoming the first Latino to hold that
16 position since 1881 and one of the highest-ranking Latinos in
17 California municipal government; and

18 WHEREAS, As a city council member, Mr. Roybal worked to
19 defuse tensions between the Mexican American community and
20 the Los Angeles police and fought the city after it ceded a huge
21 swath of residential land to its professional baseball team,
22 displacing many Mexican American families; and

23 WHEREAS, In 1962, Mr. Roybal was elected to the United
24 States Congress where he served for 30 years fighting ethnic, racial,
25 and age discrimination and working to reform the public education
26 system to increase access to bilingual education; and

27 WHEREAS, In 1976, Mr. Roybal helped found the
28 Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), a legislative service
29 organization that monitored policy directly affecting the nation's
30 Latino communities. Mr. Roybal became the first chairman of the
31 CHC and encouraged United States President Jimmy Carter to hire
32 more Latino Americans in his administration; and

33 WHEREAS, During his chairmanship of the CHC, Mr. Roybal
34 founded the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed
35 Officials (NALEO), a nonpartisan organization that facilitates full
36 Latino participation in the American political process, from
37 citizenship to public service, and that provides national leadership
38 on key issues that affect Latino participation in our political
39 process, including immigration and naturalization, voting rights,

1 election reform, the federal census, and the appointment of
2 qualified Latinos to top executive and judicial positions; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1993, Mr. Roybal retired from the United States
4 House of Representatives and moved back to Los Angeles, where
5 he lived for 12 more years until his death in 2005, still deeply
6 involved in the community he had long served; now, therefore, be
7 it

8 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
9 *thereof concurring*, That on the 100th anniversary of his birth, the
10 Legislature recognizes the contributions of Honorable Edward
11 Ross Roybal, a cofounder and the first chairman of the
12 Congressional Hispanic Caucus and a celebrated Latino leader in
13 Los Angeles, California, and the United States; and be it further

14 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
15 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.