



# NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
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**Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi,  
U.S. Rep. Veronica Escobar and U.S. Rep. Van Taylor to Join NALEO for  
Edward R. Roybal Legacy Gala**

*Representatives to provide tribute remarks as U.S. Rep. Sylvia R. Garcia is honored with the 2019 Edward R. Roybal Award for Outstanding Public Service on March 6, 2019*

**Washington, D.C.** – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) announced today that U.S. Rep. and Former NALEO President Sylvia R. Garcia will be presented with the 2019 Edward R. Roybal Award for Outstanding Public Service at the organization's annual *NALEO Edward R. Roybal Legacy Gala* in Washington, D.C. on March 6, 2019.

Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, U.S. Rep. Veronica Escobar (D TX-16) and U.S. Rep. Van Taylor (R TX-03) will provide remarks during the event. A special tribute to the Former NALEO President and late Congressman Ed Pastor, whose family will be in attendance for the event, will also be included in the evening's program.

The Edward R. Roybal Award for Outstanding Public Service is presented annually to individuals who have distinguished themselves as devoted public servants to the nation and the Latino community. The award pays tribute to the organization's founder and President Emeritus, the late Congressman Edward R. Roybal.

"NALEO is pleased to honor a distinguished Latina public servant who has made invaluable contributions to our organization and to the nation's Latino community throughout her accomplished career," stated Pauline Medrano, NALEO President and Dallas County Treasurer. "Making history as one of the first two Latinas to represent Texas in Congress, Sylvia has paved the way for future Latina leaders and set the bar for what it means to use public office as an avenue to increase opportunities for Latinos and protect the most vulnerable segments of our community. Her ability to break through barriers and tireless dedication to the state of Texas and nation truly exemplifies the spirit of service demonstrated by the late Congressman Roybal."

A native of Palito Blanco, a South Texas farming community, NALEO's 2019 awardee U.S. Rep. Garcia has dedicated her life to her community and to public service. As a social worker and legal aid lawyer early in her professional career, she protected our community's most vulnerable, old and young, and ensured no one was forgotten. Garcia served an unprecedented five terms under two Mayors as Director and Presiding Judge of the Houston Municipal System

before being elected as the first Latino and woman elected to serve on the Harris County Commissioners Court in 2002.

She went on to serve in the Texas State Senate, becoming the seventh woman and the third Latina to serve in the upper chambers when she was sworn-in in 2013. As a three-term Texas State Senator, Garcia fought for her district and advocated for veterans, immigrant rights, women's health and access to healthcare. U.S. Rep. Garcia passed numerous bills during her time in the Texas state legislature including the Truckers Against Trafficking Bill, which requires human trafficking training for commercial drivers, and the School Bus Safety Act, which requires school buses in Texas to have seat belts.

"For more than 20 years, Wells Fargo has worked with NALEO to empower the Latino community, and we're honored to serve as the chair of this year's Gala and to congratulate Rep. Garcia on this important award," said Ruben Barrales, Senior Vice President for External Relations at Wells Fargo. "Through our support of the NALEO Educational Fund, hundreds of legal permanent residents have been able to apply for U.S. citizenship, and a growing number of Latino elected officials have benefited from financial education resources through the NALEO Policy Institute on Public Finance. We are proud to have been a part of NALEO's accomplishments over the last two decades, and we look forward to collaborating with NALEO for years to come."

Garcia became one of the first two Latinas in history to represent the state of Texas in Congress (D TX-29) when she took the oath of office earlier this year. She joins the 37 other Latino U.S. Representatives and four Latino U.S. Senators in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, forming the largest class of Latino congressional leaders in history.

NALEO is also pleased to recognize the support of two long-standing corporate partners, Wells Fargo and PepsiCo, which will serve as the Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the 2019 NALEO Edward R Roybal Legacy Gala.

For more information about the event, please visit our [website](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

### **Additional Details:**

#### **2019 NALEO Edward R. Roybal Legacy Gala**

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

7 – 8:30 p.m. ET

Marriott Marquis Washington, D.C.

901 Massachusetts Ave NW

Washington, DC 20001

### **Media:**

The 2019 NALEO Edward R. Roybal Legacy Gala is open to media. Advance registration is required. Media can contact Amanda Bosquez at [abosquez@naleo.org](mailto:abosquez@naleo.org) or Paula Valle Castanon at [pvalle@naleo.org](mailto:pvalle@naleo.org) to register.

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**About NALEO**

*The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials is the non-partisan leadership organization of the nation's more than 6,700 Latino elected and appointed officials.*