



## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **U.S. Rep.-Elect Sylvia R. Garcia to Receive 2019 Edward R. Roybal Award for Outstanding Public Service**

*Garcia will be honored for her contributions to the Latino community at a Houston reception on December 13, 2018 and at the NALEO Edward R. Roybal Legacy Gala on March 6, 2019 in D.C.*

*The Former Texas State Senator and NALEO President will become one of the first two Latinas to represent Texas in Congress when she is sworn-in next month*

**Washington, D.C.** – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) announced today that U.S. Rep.-elect and Former NALEO President Sylvia R. Garcia will be presented with the 2019 Edward R. Roybal Award for Outstanding Public Service. Garcia will be honored at a reception in Houston on Thursday, December 13, 2018 and at the organization's annual *NALEO Edward R. Roybal Legacy Gala* in Washington, D.C. on March 6, 2019.

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.-elect 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 Hispanic woman 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. She passed numerous bills during her time in office 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.

Next month, Garcia will become one of the first two Latinas in history to represent the state of Texas in Congress (D TX-29) once she takes the oath of office. She will join 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.

The NALEO Houston Reception honoring U.S. Rep.-elect Sylvia Garcia as the recipient of the 2019 Edward R. Roybal Award for Outstanding Public Service is made possible thanks to the generous support of Host Garcia Hamilton & Associates, L.P.

### **Additional Details:**

#### **NALEO Houston Reception Honoring U.S. Rep.-Elect Sylvia R. Garcia**

Thursday, December 13, 2018

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. CT

Offices of Garcia Hamilton & Associates, L.P.

5 Houston Center

1401 McKinney, 16th Floor

Houston, TX 77010

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

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

7 – 8:30 p.m. ET

Marriott Marquis Washington, DC

901 Massachusetts Ave NW

Washington, DC 20001

*The NALEO Houston Reception and 2019 NALEO Edward R. Roybal Legacy Gala are 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 6,600 Latino elected and appointed officials.*