



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

March 7, 2018

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U.S. House of Representatives Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer and U.S. Rep. Sean Duffy to Join NALEO for Edward R. Roybal Legacy Gala

Representatives to provide tribute remarks as Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez is honored with the 2018 Edward R. Roybal Award for Outstanding Public Service in Washington D.C.

Washington D.C. – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) announced today that Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez will be presented with the 2018 Edward R. Roybal Award for Outstanding Public Service during the organization's annual [Edward R. Roybal Legacy Gala](#) in Washington D.C on Tuesday, March 13, 2018.

U.S. House of Representatives Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D CA-12), Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer (D MD-5) and U.S. Rep. Sean Duffy (R WI-7) will provide tribute remarks at the awards gala, with Emmy Award-winning journalist and senior correspondent for Noticias Telemundo Vanessa Hauc serving as the Emcee for the event.

In 2016, Democratic Leader Pelosi appointed Rep. Velázquez to the bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico. Rep. Velázquez has worked alongside Democratic Whip Hoyer, Rep. Duffy and others to ensure that disaster aid for Puerto Rico following Hurricanes Irma and Maria goes directly towards relief and recovery efforts on the Island.

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.

"Rep. Velázquez is a true Latina trailblazer who has broken barriers throughout her accomplished career in Congress," stated Pauline Medrano, NALEO President and Dallas County Treasurer. "By using her public office as a vehicle to fight for meaningful equal economic opportunity for the working class and low-income communities, and to improve the day-to-day lives of her constituents, Latinos and all Americans—Rep. Velázquez has exemplified the true spirit of service demonstrated by the late Congressman Roybal."

The first Puerto Rican woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, Rep. Nydia Velázquez is currently serving her thirteenth term in Congress. Born in Yabucoa, Puerto Rico - a small town of sugar-cane fields – Rep. Velázquez has made history several times during her

tenure in Congress. In 2006, she was named Chairwoman of the House Small Business Committee, making her the first Latina to chair a full Congressional committee. She was recently ranked as one of New York City's 100 most powerful people.

New York's 7th Congressional District is home to a large number of immigrants and is home to a large part of the Puerto Rican diaspora living in the mainland United States.

Following Hurricane Maria, Rep. Velázquez has used her platform to promote a sustainable future for Puerto Rico. Immediately after the disaster, Rep. Velázquez was on the ground with Governor Andrew Cuomo and Assemblyman Marcos Crespo—visiting the island with urgently needed medical supplies. Her advocacy work has also translated into solid legislative policy: Rep. Velazquez was a key advocate on Puerto Rico-related funding in the 2017 Disaster Supplemental Package.

NALEO is pleased to also recognize the support of its corporate partner, Comcast NBCUniversal Telemundo, which will serve as the Chair of the 2018 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:

2018 NALEO Edward R. Roybal Legacy Gala

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

7:00 – 8:30 pm ET

JW Marriott Washington D.C.

1331 Pennsylvania Ave NW

Washington D.C. 20004

The 2018 NALEO Edward R. Roybal Legacy Gala is open to media. Advance registration is required. Please contact Amanda Bosquez at abosquez@naleo.org or Daniel Ramirez at dramirez@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.