



# Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard Reports *To the 33rd District*

August 2002

Dear Friends,

As we approach the first anniversary of September 11th, it is clear that much about our lives has changed. We have come together as a nation in new ways, and we are joined in our common desire to safeguard our nation from terrorism. However, our country faces many other challenges and opportunities as well, including the need to improve our community's health, provide educational opportunities for our children, and ensure the success of our businesses.

This newsletter contains information about how I am working with other lawmakers to improve our national security and to meet the needs of our community. It also includes updates on activities and special events in our neighborhood. I hope that you will find it interesting and useful.

If there is anything I can do to assist you, or if you would like to share your opinion on issues before Congress, please call my District Office at 213/628-9230. I look forward to hearing from you.

Warmest regards.

*Lucille Roybal-Allard*

Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress

## ***Safeguarding Our Nation***

As a member of the Democratic Caucus's Homeland Security Task Force, Congresswoman Roybal-Allard is actively working to ensure that the new Department of Homeland Security protects the rights of its employees and the public. Specifically, she is:

- ❖ Fighting President Bush's plan to abolish Civil Service protections for employees of the new department;
- ❖ Working to guarantee "whistleblower" protections for workers who discover misconduct or abuse of power by the new department;
- ❖ Advocating for the establishment of an Office of Civil Rights in the Homeland Security Department to protect our civil liberties; and
- ❖ Supporting proposals that ensure high-quality, just immigration services.

In addition, the Congresswoman is working to make certain the Department of Homeland Security is responsive to our local communities. She believes that hometown security equals homeland security. Congresswoman Roybal-Allard is pushing to:

- ❖ Ensure that the new department is created with input from local firefighters, police, doctors and community healthcare providers – the real experts on their community's needs;
- ❖ Bring the needed federal funding to our local governments to enable them to respond to future threats; and
- ❖ Protect successful programs already working in our local communities, like the COPS and FIRE Act programs, which benefit our local public safety offices.

## ***Honoring a Veteran***

Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard pinned seven military honors, including the Bronze Star, on Jesus Ybarra, a World War II veteran and resident of East Los Angeles in a ceremony at Patriotic Hall in Los Angeles on May 30th.

Congresswoman Roybal-Allard's office helped Mr. Ybarra receive the medals he had earned over 50 years ago during World War II. This service is available to all local veterans who would like help in obtaining medals they have earned.

Jesus Ybarra grew up in Los Angeles and joined the Army at age 22. After training in the United States, he was deployed in Oran, North Africa. In 1944, he joined Company E 351st Infantry

Regiment of the 88th Infantry Division in Italy, where he fought on the ground. He received: the Bronze Star Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, and the Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII.



The ceremony with Congresswoman Roybal-Allard was a special moment for Mr. Ybarra, his family, and friends. It was covered by several local newspapers and television stations,

and many friends called Mr. Ybarra to congratulate him. Sadly, two weeks after the ceremony, Mr. Ybarra passed away.

# Providing Opportunities to Students



**Congresswoman Roybal-Allard** is pleased to congratulate Greg Garcia on his graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy. Greg was nominated to the Academy by Congresswoman Roybal-Allard in 1997. A graduate of Warren High School, Greg grew up in Bell Gardens. At the Academy, he earned a Bachelor's degree in Economics. This summer, Greg will be training in Florida and continuing his service in the U.S. Navy.

## Attending a Military Academy

Students in the 33rd Congressional District who are interested in earning a college degree at one of the prestigious U.S. military academies should call Veronica Prado in the Los Angeles office (213/628-9230) for more information. Details are also available on the Congresswoman's web site: <http://www.house.gov/roybal-allard/academies.htm>

## Congressional Internship Program

Five local students are working as interns in the Congresswoman's Los Angeles office: Amelia Bonilla, a Roosevelt Magnet High School student; Elizabeth Amezcuita, a graduate of Alameda College; Adriana Payan, a UCLA student; Robert Yeh, a member of the Taiwanese American Citizens League; and Yobana Cordero, an alumna of Roosevelt High School. The photo shows Adriana Payan (right) and Robert Yeh (left).



Through their internships, these students are learning first-hand how the federal government works. Local students interested in earning school credit and gaining valuable work experience through the **Congressional Internship Program** should contact Congresswoman Roybal-Allard's office at 213/628-9230.



## Financial Aid Forum

Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard held several forums for parents and students on how to complete the financial aid application for college. She invited student aid specialists to help families learn how to complete the necessary forms. From left to right, they are: Frank Reyes, Associate Director of Financial Aid for Occidental College; Ernesto Guerrero, College Counselor at Elizabeth Learning Center; and Pati Piñeiro-Goodenberger, Associate Director of Financial Aid at Occidental College.

# Assisting Local Businesses & Their Employees



## Helping Local Manufacturers

Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard is concerned about cuts to the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program, which helps small and medium-sized manufacturers with technical assistance. In Los Angeles, MEP is run by the California Manufacturing Technology Center (CMTCC). It has assisted over 100 local businesses in the 33rd Congressional District.

Unfortunately, President Bush has proposed severe cuts to the MEP budget. Roybal-Allard championed the MEP program at a Congressional hearing with the Secretary of Commerce, and challenged the Secretary's recommendation that the MEP budget be dramatically reduced. As a member of the powerful Appropriations Committee, the Congresswoman is in a strong position to continue fighting for this program, which is creating jobs and helping businesses in southeast Los Angeles.

Jesus Gonzalez, from Downtown Los Angeles (second from the right), was joined by fellow union members from California, Clare Butterfield (center) and Edward J. Rendon (left), and others, on a visit with Congresswoman Roybal-Allard. The men were in Washington, D.C. for the Teamsters 2002 Legislative Conference. During their meeting, they talked with the Congresswoman about trade issues, worker protections, and prescription drug benefits.

Accompanied by Selma Fisch, Congresswoman Roybal-Allard took the trolley to tour the Los Angeles Fashion District this spring. She saw first-hand some of the recent economic development projects in the area and talked with business owners in the community.



# Improving the Health of Our Community



Congresswoman Roybal-Allard congratulated graduates of the Arthritis Foundation's Spanish Language Arthritis Program at the Edward R. Roybal Comprehensive Health Center in East Los Angeles. The program of Spanish-language self-help and exercise classes was funded by a grant Congresswoman Roybal-Allard obtained for the Arthritis Foundation.

## **Reminder:** **Grown-ups Need Shots Too!**

To help promote immunizations for adults, Congresswoman Roybal-Allard is sponsoring the *Underserved Adult and Adolescent Immunization Act*. This bill will provide funding for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to increase the number of adults who are immunized – especially seniors and minorities who are less likely to be up-to-date on their shots.

August is “National Immunization Awareness Month” – a good time to think about getting your recommended shots. Vaccines help prevent diseases, like Hepatitis, Influenza and Chickenpox, that affect millions of adults every year. It is especially important that the elderly and the sick receive these important immunizations; it can be the difference between life and death. Shots are available in October to protect against the influenza season.

Please note: Free flu immunizations will be available for seniors beginning at the end of October at The Roybal Comprehensive Center in East Los Angeles (323/780-2445) and the Clínica Monseñor Oscar Romero in Los Angeles (213/989-7700). Please call the numbers listed here for more information, or contact your local health provider.

## **Important Warning** **for Parents**

Advertisements for new drinks like Mike's Hard Lemonade, Smirnoff Ice, and Bacardi Silver, among others, are common on television. Although the packaging of these drinks, known as “alco-pops,” makes them look similar to sports drinks or flavored iced teas, they are **alcoholic beverages**.

Congresswoman Roybal-Allard is very concerned about the huge number of ads for alco-pops and their influence on children. To combat the influence of these ads, she is a vocal advocate of stronger guidelines for alcohol advertisements on television.

This summer, Congresswoman Roybal-Allard is hosting a briefing on Capitol Hill to warn Members of Congress and the public about the dangers alco-pops pose to America's children. The briefing is part of her on-going effort to inform teens and their parents about the dangers of underage drinking. She is also the sponsor of the *Underage Drinking Prevention Act*, a bill to create a national media campaign to educate families about the risks associated with drinking alcohol before age 21.

# Keeping the Community Informed

## **Sending Money Home –** **The High Cost of** **Money Transfers**

Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard is concerned that consumers are losing millions of dollars as a result of expensive money transfer fees.

Since so many residents of the 33rd Congressional District send money to their families abroad, the Congresswoman has the following suggestions on how to ensure you are getting the best price on money transfers – also known as a remittances or “envios.”

## **How to Save Money**

The best way to ensure that you are getting a good price is to open and maintain an account at a local bank or credit union. The cost of sending money from a bank or credit union is much lower than the cost of using a check cashing or money wiring service.

Whether you use a bank or a money service business, Congresswoman Roybal-Allard suggests you watch out for **excessive fees** and find out about the **exchange rate** being used.

- ❖ The **fee** is usually a set amount, averaging about \$10.
- ❖ The **exchange rate** is the price at which one currency trades for another. A poor exchange rate would require the buyer to spend more dollars to purchase foreign currency.

These costs can add up to 15% of the amount sent. Some financial institutions advertise a low flat fee for each money transfer, but provide a poor exchange rate, which results in an overall higher charge.

Finally, it is wise to check with several companies to determine the best price for your transaction. Exchange rates change daily, so Congresswoman Roybal-Allard urges you to ask each company to calculate exactly how much money your family will actually receive after all the fees and charges are calculated.

For more information about how to protect your self as a consumer, see the Consumer Action web site:

<http://www.consumer-action.org>.  
Information is available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese.

# Congresswoman Roybal-Allard Constituent Office Hours

Congresswoman Roybal-Allard's Los Angeles District Office is located at 255 East Temple Street, Suite 1860, in Los Angeles. The office hours are Monday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Tuesday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Please feel free to come to the office and seek assistance from Congresswoman Roybal-Allard's staff.

*In addition to regular office hours at the District Office, Congresswoman Roybal-Allard has special Constituent Office hours staffed by caseworkers to provide individual assistance to you and your family at the following locations:*

## 2nd Tuesday of Each Month

Boyle Heights/East Los Angeles  
8:30 a.m. - 12 noon  
Salazar Park Senior Center  
3864 East Whittier Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90023

## Maywood

1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Maywood City Hall  
4319 East Slauson Avenue  
Maywood, CA

## 2nd Wednesday of Each Month

Bell  
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
Bell Community Center  
6250 Pine Avenue  
Bell, CA

## 2nd Wednesday of Each Month

Commerce  
1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Commerce City Hall Annex  
5550 Harbor Street  
Commerce, CA

## 3rd Thursday of Each Month

Huntington Park  
8:30 a.m. - 12 noon  
Huntington Park City Hall  
6550 Miles Avenue  
Huntington Park, CA

Cudahy  
1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Cudahy City Hall  
5220 Santa Ana Street  
Cudahy, CA

## 1st Thursday of Each Month

Bell Gardens  
8:30 a.m. - 12 noon  
Bell Gardens City Hall  
7100 South Garfield Avenue  
Bell Gardens, CA

## South Gate

1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
South Gate City Hall  
8650 California Avenue  
South Gate, CA

## 4th Tuesday of Each Month

Florence  
8:30 a.m. - 12 noon  
Franklin D. Roosevelt Senior Center  
7600 Graham Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90001



*Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (left) was honored by The East Los Angeles Community Union (TELACU) for her demonstrated dedication to public service and continued efforts to improve the community. She received the CREO Award at TELACU's annual event. The Congresswoman was joined by fellow award recipients Rocky Delgado, Los Angeles City Attorney (middle), and Rosario Marin, U.S. Treasurer (right).*

Para información en español, llame a mi oficina al 213-628-9230

## Contact Us/ Comuniquese con Nosotros

### Los Angeles

255 E. Temple Street, #1860  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
PHONE: 213-628-9230  
FAX: 213-628-8578

### Washington, DC

2435 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515  
PHONE: 202-225-1766  
FAX: 202-226-0350

[www.house.gov/roybal-allard](http://www.house.gov/roybal-allard)

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



*Lucille Roybal-Allard*

MC  
PRSRT STD