



## HENRY C. GONZALEZ

May 03, 1935 – March 28, 2020

*In Your Memory We Dedicate Our 2021 Season to You  
Our Founding Father. May you Rest in Heavenly Peace  
and Continue to Inspire & Protect Us.*

On the early evening of March 28<sup>th</sup> Henry, 84, earned his angel wings with his family at his side. A resident of South Gate since 1962, Henry leaves this earth as a “legend” in his community having served 27 years as a former Councilman and Mayor, 7 times.

***“There is no greater calling than to serve your fellow man. There is no greater contribution than to help the weak. There is no greater satisfaction than to have done it well.” -Walter Reuther***

His service to the city of South Gate is highlighted by decades of community youth involvement and educational advancements. He was known as, Mr. South Gate, Mr. G and South Gate’s Keeper, to his many city colleagues and youth groups. His life otherwise was filled with many accolades in his professional life as well in his community; founded the South Gate High School Booster Club in 1974—never missing a game since, founder of the South Gate Youth Football & Cheer Organization in 1989. He was the first Latino to be elected to the South Gate City Council and became the first Latino Mayor in 1984, retired from the UAW International Union, having served 33-years on staff and 12-years as Assistant Director of UAW Region 6, he was a member of the Labor Council for Latin-American Advancement (LCLAA) for over 20-years and served as its National President for 3-terms: 1996, 1998 and 2000, as well as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Labor Ad Hoc Committee for Plaza de La Raza located in Lincoln Park, Los Angeles. He also served on the Executive Boards of Plaza De La Raza and TELACU in the late 70’s. He has worked with the youth of his community most of his adult life and is most proud of his service with the Boy Scouts of American, serving as District Chairman for the San Antonio District from 1995-1997. Mayor Gonzalez was awarded the Beaver Award, one of the highest recognitions for raising money for the district every year since 1995 and for recruiting many adult volunteers. He was awarded the Siepre Juntos Award in December 2000. He shares this distinguished honor with prior recipients such as, Edward James Olmos in 1998 and Verne Aguirre of Banco Popular in 1999. Mayor Gonzalez retired from politics in March 2015.