

# Program

## Welcome & Opening Remarks

Maria S. Salinas and David Eads

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## Remembrance

Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard

Mayor Eric Garcetti

Chris Martin, 2005 Chair, L.A. Area Chamber

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## Remembrance Panel

Moderator: David Eads, Lucy Dunn, Fran Inman

Sam Garrison, Joe Czyzyk, and David Rattray

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## Closing

Maria S. Salinas and David Eads

Refreshments to follow program, with gratitude to Joe Czyzyk

# Celebration of Life

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



## Gary Lee Toebben

MARCH 4, 1948 - AUGUST 16, 2022



# Celebration of Gary Toeppen

Gary L. Toeppen has been described as a true servant leader who never saw obstacles: he only saw opportunities. Gary's impact on his family, colleagues, and the communities he serviced will be remembered long after his death.

He is survived by his wife, Janice, four children: Andrew Toeppen (Julia), Seth Toeppen, Devon Kim (Tony), and Wyatt Haase (Ann), nine grandchildren: Jonah Kim, Emeth Toeppen, Josie Kim, Matthias Toeppen, Fyodor Toeppen, Sawyer Haase, Becket Toeppen, Teo Toeppen, and Kai Toeppen. He also leaves two sisters: Beverly Toeppen, Sue Wolfe (Dan) and a brother-in-law, Mark Burquest (Wanda).

Gary was born to Kenneth and Loraine Toeppen on March 4, 1948, in Fremont, Nebraska. He received a B.S. in Mathematics at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln in 1970, and an Honorary Doctorate of Business from Pepperdine University in 2018.

Gary retired in 2018 from the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, after a 43-year career as a Chamber of Commerce executive in four communities. He was recognized in those communities for his leadership in economic development, access to quality education, infrastructure investments, and legislative reforms. In 2003, he was elected by his peers to serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE).

He began his Chamber career in 1975 at the North Platte, Nebraska Chamber of Commerce, served as President of the Lawrence, Kansas Chamber of Commerce, and the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce. Prior to entering the Chamber of Commerce profession, Gary was Director of Facilities Development for the Tourism Division of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and a math teacher in Lincoln.

At the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, Gary championed the development of the largest and most comprehensive education and workforce development program of any Chamber of Commerce in the nation. Gary was a leader in transforming Mobility 21 from an L.A. County focused organization, into a regional organization in 2008. He also served as Chairman of the Seven-county Coalition. Gary and the L.A. Area Chamber were key leaders in two successful Los Angeles County transportation measures: Measure R in 2008 and Measure Min 2016. He created a national coalition of chambers of commerce in support of America Fast Forward in the 2012 Federal Surface Transportation Bill and was a strong proponent of SB I to generate \$5 billion per year in new revenue for California transportation projects. During Gary's tenure, the L.A. Area Chamber championed hundreds of projects to support transportation, housing for the homeless, and improved facilities for the nine colleges in the Los Angeles Community College District.

# The Gambler

by Kenny Rogers

You've got to know when to hold 'em  
Know when to fold 'em  
Know when to walk away  
And know when to run  
You never count your money  
When you're sittin' at the table  
There'll be time enough for countin'  
When the dealin's done

