

The 50-year-plus member of Mount Zion Baptist Church said she doesn't need "spoiling" just yet from the community, "but when I holler for some help, I hope somebody will come and help me," she said.

For now, "as the young people say, 'You've got to roll with the punches,'" she said.

It's something she has been doing since the age of 5 when she lost her mother to cancer.

"I didn't know what it meant to have a mother," Greene said, reflecting on her days growing up in Madisonville, Tenn.

The second oldest of four children—her two brothers and sister are deceased Greene said her father was all she needed to make it in a world where "I didn't even know I was discriminated against."

Walking beside her to school every day was "a little white girl. She lived right down the road from me. She was one of my best friends," Greene said.

The two would walk together for two miles before parting ways; Greene would walk another mile to get to her school, the colored school.

Her father, a horticulturalist, believed in education, even though he could neither read nor write. But Greene didn't figure that out until her teen years "when I saw him with the (newspaper) upside down."

"He bluffed me all that time," she said with a chuckle.

The son of a slave, Greene's father didn't teach "bitterness or hatred to us."

The lessons of hate came later, after she moved to Knoxville in her early 20s.

"I really didn't know I wasn't liked because of my skin color until I came here," Greene said.

"I was all about equality and fair treatment of everyone," said Greene of her roles during the civil rights movement.

Education was and still remains a passion of hers.

"This is what I dedicated my life to and I have no regrets," said Greene, who was married for more than a decade before divorcing.

Knox County has "not always had kindergarten," said Greene, who operated a private kindergarten in East Knoxville during the 1930s. "This was something I pushed as a school board member. I was laughed at . . ." "That was my platform."

A platform she has not wavered from. Times have changed and technology has evolved but Greene still believes children are the most precious beings of our time.

"Your beliefs and dreams will come to pass if you have some hope and someone believes

in you," said Greene, who doesn't have children of her own but considers the children of Knoxville hers.

When she was a child it was family members and friends who planted her seeds of hope: "They tell me I was walking at 8 months and my mother said I was going to be somebody great," she recalls.

Children at the Sarah Moore Greene Magnet Technology Academy don't realize the enormity of the Knoxville matriarch when they ask: "Why did your mother name you after our school?"

She gives a sheepish smile, knowing her legacy is one they will come to know.

Greene spends her days striving for the betterment of all people.

"If we all spent time doing this, in a unified way, then all the problems of the world would be solved," she said.

"Some may consider me old, but age is just a figure, not a mindset," she said. "I am going to do all I can, for as long as I can, for all people."

"I want my name to be always attached to the betterment of all of God's children, which I hope we all are."

ANNOUNCING          PASSING          OF  
FORMER CONGRESSMEN ED ROYBAL  
AND BOB BADHAM

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Representative Ed Roybal, a towering figure whose tireless work on behalf of civil rights and health care were the hallmarks of his distinguished career. For three, decades, Representative Roybal served with distinction and honor in the House, and it is with sadness that we now recognize his passing.

Born in Albuquerque only 4 years after New Mexico gained statehood, Ed Roybal's childhood was spent in the Land of Enchantment. His family had resided in the Southwest for several generations, its family lineage stretching to the founding of Santa Fe, the oldest

capital in the Nation. When he was 6, Ed Roybal's father became unemployed during a railroad strike, and in 1922 they moved to Los Angeles, California.

Over the next two decades, Ed Roybal became passionate on issues of discrimination, minority rights, health care, and senior citizens. After forming an organization to combat against housing and education discrimination against minorities, and after serving on the Los Angeles City Council, Ed Roybal in 1963 became the first Mexican-American from California elected to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. During his three decades in this role, he became a national leader and outspoken advocate for health care and minority rights, while at the same time being revered by his constituents for his never-ending attention to their needs.

Representative Roybal can also be credited with creating the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO), one of the leading Hispanic political organizations in the Nation. Several locally elected officials throughout my district often visit me while in Washington for NALEO conferences, and each and every one of them extol the virtues of the organization and its successes in promoting Hispanic action and service in the political field. I have no doubt that it is because of Representative Roybal's ceaseless and caring service that so many Hispanics serve today. I know for certain that one member of our own body was front and center for Representative Roybal's wonderful lessons in civics and public service. Representative LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, who now represents the district her father once represented, has continued her father's advocacy for the poor, for the voiceless, and for the disenfranchised. She, like so many of us, was able to learn from his exemplary service, and he was extremely proud of her.

Mr. Speaker, Representative Ed Roybal added immensely to this distinguished body during his three decades of service. He is to be remembered for his hard work and his dedication and leadership on so many noble causes. I extend my sympathies to my colleague and to the rest of her family on this loss. We share their sadness on this occasion.