

H. Res. 1759

In the House of Representatives, U. S.,

December 15, 2010.

Whereas Edward Verne Roberts was born January 23, 1939;

Whereas Roberts acquired polio as an adolescent in 1953 and
had to spend vast expanses of time in an iron lung;

Whereas Roberts' career as an advocate began when a high
school administrator threatened to deny him a diploma
because he had not completed driver's education and
physical education;

Whereas in 1962 Roberts was admitted to the University of
California at Berkeley (UC Berkeley) where he became
the first student with a severe disability to attend UC
Berkeley;

Whereas when his search for housing at the university met
resistance, the director of the campus hospital offered
Roberts a room in an empty wing, which Roberts accept-
ed on the condition that it was considered a dormitory
space;

Whereas other students with significant disabilities joined
Roberts in the empty wing over the next few years and
called themselves the "Rolling Quads";

Whereas at UC Berkeley the Rolling Quads began advocating
for curb cuts, opening access to the wider community and

creating the first student-led disability services program at a university in the Nation;

Whereas the student program led to the creation of the Nation's first center for independent living;

Whereas Roberts assumed leadership of the Center for Independent Living, Berkeley and guided its development as a model for disability advocacy and self-help services across the Nation and around the world;

Whereas in 1975 Roberts was appointed the Director of the California Department of Rehabilitation;

Whereas in 1983 Roberts co-founded the World Institute on Disability, an organization committed to eliminating barriers to full social integration for persons with disabilities;

Whereas Ed Roberts died from natural causes on March 14, 1995; and

Whereas Ed Roberts was a leader and champion in the disability rights movement: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of an “Ed Roberts Day”; and

(2) acknowledges the accomplishments of Ed Roberts in helping reduce barriers, increase access, and improve lives for persons with disabilities.

Attest:

Clerk.