



THE STATE OF TEXAS GOVERNOR

 *To all to whom these presents shall come,
Greetings: Know ye that this official recognition is presented to
all observing*

Ed Roberts Day

January 23, 2026

Texans understand that it is not our challenges that define us, but rather how we overcome them. This belief is exemplified in Ed Roberts, who overcame significant barriers throughout his life and became the driving force for independent living and dignity for those with physical and intellectual disabilities.

Having contracted polio at the age of 14, Roberts became known as a trailblazer who dedicated his life to advocating for accessibility, equality, and the empowerment of individuals with disabilities. Known as the "Father of Independent Living," Ed Roberts founded the first Center for Independent Living and the World Institute on Disability to promote the rights and autonomy of individuals with disabilities.

Despite being denied admission to the University of California Berkeley due to his disability, he fought back and became the first wheelchair user to attend the university. His determination paved the way for the establishment of the Independent Living Movement, which continues to empower people with disabilities to live with dignity and independence. It is fitting that a day in January is set aside to honor the legacy of Ed Roberts and his numerous contributions to our nation.

First Lady Cecilia Abbott joins me in encouraging all Texans to observe Ed Roberts Day with appropriate programs and activities.



In testimony whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and caused the Seal of the State of Texas to be affixed at the City of Austin this the 30th day of December, 2025.



Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas