

Miguel E. Rodriguez

ONE MAN. GENERATIONS OF IMPACT.



BACKGROUND

Miguel "Don Mike" Rodriguez was born in 1934 in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, and immigrated to the continental United States before settling permanently in Newark, New Jersey, in 1960. After pursuing higher education, he earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science with a concentration in City Administration from Seton Hall University, preparing him for a lifetime of public service. His personal journey, from Puerto Rico to one of America's most diverse cities, mirrored the broader story of Puerto Rican migration and the growing political influence of Latino communities in the United States.

CAREER

Don Mike dedicated more than five decades to public service, civic leadership, and community empowerment. He was appointed as the first Hispanic Deputy Mayor of Public Affairs of Newark, and was one of four Directors of Newark's Model Cities Program. He was active in government and also founded MER Productions, which promoted acclaimed Latin artists. He hosted New Jersey's first Spanish-language community affairs television program,. He also helped establish and lead numerous organizations dedicated to economic development, education, culture, and civic engagement throughout New Jersey.

IMPACT

Miguel "Don Mike" Rodriguez broke barriers as Newark's first Hispanic and Puerto Rican Deputy Mayor of Public Affairs, helping expand Latino representation in government and public life. Through decades of civic leadership, nonprofit service, and advocacy, he strengthened opportunities for various communities and inspired future generations of Latino leaders in New Jersey and across the United States.

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