



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors



SUPERVISOR RAYMOND VERN DARBY

Term: 1944 - 1953
District: Fourth
Date of Birth: Dec. 11, 1896
Death: March 5, 1953

Raymond Vern Darby served four-and-a-half terms as county supervisor. He was elected in 1944, 1946, 1948, 1950 and again in 1952. On March 5, 1953, he was struck in the Board of Supervisors hearing room by an irate property owner and died later of a brain hemorrhage.

Born Dec. 11, 1896 in Washington, Kan., he was the son of Rezin and Eva Darby. Young Darby attended public schools in his hometown, and went on to graduate from the University of Kansas with an emphasis in geology.

After spending four years in Oklahoma working as a geologist, he moved to Inglewood, Calif. He became a contractor and real estate developer, and began to get involved in politics. Beginning in 1927, he served as a city councilman in Inglewood for four years and then as mayor for 14 before he was elected to the Board of Supervisors for the Fourth District in 1944.

He was attributed with being a guiding force in Inglewood's growth – and the county's—for more than a quarter of a century. Darby is credited with helping establish the Airports Department for county government; the formation of modern thoroughfares beginning with the paving of a portion of the Los Angeles River as a major freeway option between San Fernando Valley and the ocean; pioneering the push to study the reclamation of ocean water for domestic purposes; promoting the idea of controlling weather by seeding clouds during dry seasons to produce rain; and originating a policy to acquire all possible ocean frontage from private ownership for public beaches, with the plan becoming a statewide mandate later.

Honors included membership in the League of California Cities and the (charter) co-orgn. Los Angeles County American Legion Post 810. He served in the U.S. Navy in 1917 during World War I. Hobbies included lecturing, public speaking, and involvement in civic organizations.

Darby died March 5, 1953. He was 56, and was survived by his wife, Ivey, and four children: Helen Virginia (Darby) Friess; Betty (Darby) Long; Robert Rezin; and Raymond Vern Jr.

Sources: Los Angeles County Records; Who's Who in Los Angeles County, Los Angeles Times, March 10, 1953.