

## **Robert Broadbent**

**June 19, 1926- August 9, 2003**

**Elected 1968, 1972, 1976, 1980 (resigned)**

**Robert "Bob" Broadbent was a lifelong resident of Nevada and spent most of his adult life as a public servant in a variety of capacities. His contributions to southern Nevada include helping McCarran Airport grow into one of the busiest airports in the nation and the development of a monorail system for Las Vegas.**

**Bob Broadbent was born in 1926 in Ely, Nevada where his father served as mayor for sixteen years and also on the Board of Regents for the higher education system. Broadbent graduated from White Pine High School in 1944. He served in the army during World War II. After his service, he attended Cal-Tech and the University of Nevada, Reno. Broadbent decided to follow in his father's footsteps and study pharmacology. He received his degree from Idaho State University in 1950.**



**After graduating, Broadbent began working in as a pharmacist in Boulder City at Rexall Drugs for a friend of his father's. When the drugstore was put up for sale later that year, Broadbent and his father purchased the drugstore. Broadbent quickly became involved in the Boulder City community. During the mid-1950s, he led the effort to raise money to buy the Boulder City Hospital from the federal government and keep it running. When Boulder City was incorporated in 1960, Broadbent was elected to the city council and appointed the town's first mayor, a position he held from 1960-1962 and again from 1966-1968. His position as mayor of Boulder City led to a seat on the Las Vegas Convention and Visitor's Authority, one he held for twenty years.**

**In 1968, Broadbent set his sights on the Clark County Commission. He ran as a Republican for the commission and became one of the only Republicans elected to the commission during the period. He aimed "to bring respect to a vital public office." During his tenure on the commission, Broadbent consistently worked to maintain the integrity of the commission. In the 1970s, he opposed a gaming license for Lefty Rosenthal, an unpopular stance and one that led to threats on his life. While on the County Commission, he worked on regional planning issues for the valley and to enhance the reputation of southern Nevada. In 1977, Las Vegas Sun readers rated Broadbent as the most honest commissioner.**

**In 1980, shortly after winning his fourth election for the commission, Broadbent was offered an opportunity to work in Ronald Reagan's administration. He was appointed Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation in the Department of Interior. In his new position, he was instrumental in reallocating the power generated by Hoover Dam and helped southern Nevada secure a more adequate share. He considered a run for Nevada governor in 1982, but declined to run in order to stay in Washington, D.C. and continue working at the Bureau of Reclamation.**

**Broadbent returned to southern Nevada in 1986 and was named the Clark County Aviation Director. He oversaw a substantial expansion of the terminals and rehabilitation of the runways. As aviation director, he also rebuilt the North Las Vegas Air Terminal and bought the Henderson Airport.**

**Broadbent retired as aviation director in 1997. Following his retirement, he became a consultant with Rogich Communications. In that position, Broadbent worked to secure private financing to build the Las Vegas Monorail.**

**Broadbent died at the Boulder City Hospital in 2003 at the age of 77 following a battle with cancer. During his time in southern Nevada, he served on a number of board and commissions including the Chamber of Commerce, Clark County Health District, Las Vegas Valley Water District, and the Regional Planning Commission. In August of 2003, the Las Vegas Monorail was named in his honor. Bob Broadbent left an indelible mark on southern Nevada with his commitment to public service and his insistence on high standards for public servants.**