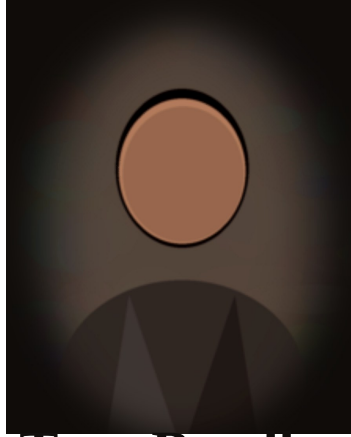




Tom Bradley

December 29, 1917 - September 29, 1998

Los Angeles, California

Thomas J. "Tom" Bradley - American mayor who led Los Angeles for twenty years and remade the city's international profile while navigating riots, Olympics, and the hard mathematics of a sprawling metropolis - died in Los Angeles on September 29, 1998. He was eighty. Born December 29, 1917, in Calvert, Texas, to sharecropper parents, he moved west as a boy, star-ran track at UCLA, joined the Los Angeles Police Department, earned a law degree at night, and entered City Council politics with the patience of someone who had already worked every shift.

Elected mayor in 1973, he became the first African American to lead a predominantly white major U.S. city, then won four more terms. He pushed downtown redevelopment, transit, and the 1984 Olympics that showcased a sunny Los Angeles to the world; he also governed through the 1992 riots after the Rodney King verdict, when the city's fractures outpaced any single office. Two near-misses for California governor left him a national figure who never quite left City Hall's gravity.

Kaiser Permanente West Los Angeles Medical Center closed the public life. He died of a heart attack, having spent decades proving that a Texas childhood and a LAPD badge could lead to a global mayor's desk.

Calvert cotton fields taught scarcity; UCLA tracks taught pace. He governed as if coalition were a daily craft, not a slogan.

He died in Los Angeles on September 29, 1998. Somewhere a city seal still catches Olympic sunlight and riot smoke in the same reflection.

Bradley's gift was steady ambition - widening who could run a great American city. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 29 remembers the Calvert-born mayor who made Los Angeles look like its future.

Services

Died in Los Angeles, California, September 29, 1998. Mayor of Los Angeles (1973-1993); 1984 Olympics; first African American mayor of a major U.S. city of that era.

NN-OBIT-2026-H192

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