



NEWS

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MTA BOARD RENAMES METRO RAIL STATION IN HONOR OF ROSA PARKS, MOTHER OF THE MODERN DAY CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

The MTA Board of Directors today renamed the Imperial/Wilmington Metro Rail station to mark the contribution of Rosa Parks to the cause of racial equality. The station, which stands at the intersection of the Metro Blue and Green lines, now will be called the Rosa Parks Station.

Parks' refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus in 1955 was a milestone in the modern day civil rights movement.

"Rosa Parks is clearly a symbol of civil rights in the 20th Century," said Los Angeles Mayor and MTA Board Chairman Richard J. Riordan. "We are honored to recognize her contributions to American history in this public way. I hope MTA's passengers will recall her actions when passing through the Rosa Parks Station."

Parks was arrested as the result of her quiet protest. Her defiance touched off a wave of other non-violent civil rights demonstrations throughout the South and the rest of country, and led to a boycott of Montgomery's city bus system which lasted 381 days.

The renaming follows a celebration on March 20, 1998 when officials unveiled an artist's rendering of a bronze plaque to be installed at the station in Parks' honor. The dedication was spearheaded by MTA's African-American Employees Association (AAEA) and Los Angeles County Supervisor and MTA Board 1st Vice Chair Yvonne Brathwaite Burke who authored the MTA Board motion that called for the renaming of the station.

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"No one is more deserving of this honor," said Burke. "We all owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Rosa Parks for her resistance to racial injustice."

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