



NEWS

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CONTACT: ED SCANNELL/JIM SMART
MTA MEDIA RELATIONS
(213) 922-2703/922-2700
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Revised

ROSA PARKS, MOTHER OF THE MODERN DAY CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT HONORED

The woman whose refusal to surrender her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus in 1955 served as a lightning rod for the modern day civil rights movement, was honored today at a Metro Rail station.

A celebration was held at the Imperial/Wilmington Metro Blue Line/Green Line Station to mark the contribution of Rosa Parks to racial equality. Ms. Parks was ill and unable to attend today's event during which officials unveiled an artist's rendering of a bronze plaque which will be installed at a later date.

The dedication was spearheaded by MTA's African-American Employees Association (AAEA) and MTA Board Member and Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke.

"The Imperial/Wilmington Station serves as a crossroads not only for the Metro Blue and Green lines, but also for ten Metro Bus lines, the Watts DASH, the Kenneth Hahn Shuttle and several municipal bus lines," said Burke. "It is truly fitting to honor someone who stood with such great dignity at a crossroads of conscience and helped lead all Americans down the path of racial justice."

Parks was arrested as the result of her quiet, yet courageous, act of defiance. The event sparked a 381-day boycott of Montgomery's city bus system and a wave of other non-violent civil rights demonstrations throughout the south and the rest of the country.

More...

Page 2 MTA Honors Rosa Parks

"The plaque will be a source of community and cultural pride," said AAEA Executive Committee President Jerry Kiper. "The surrounding Watts-Willowbrook community has a large transit-dependent population and so it is a most appropriate location to honor Ms. Parks for her lasting contribution to the cause of civil rights."

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