



NEWS

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CONTACT: JOSE UBALDO/MARC LITTMAN
MTA MEDIA RELATIONS
(213) 922-3087/(213) 922-2700
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Arthur Winston, still going strong at 93

L.A. OFFICIALS HONOR A "LIVING TREASURE" FROM MTA TEAM

At age 93 nothing seems to slow Arthur Winston down, not even 70 years of intense labor has kept him away from his job as a MTA bus maintenance supervisor.

Winston is a driven, enthusiastic, veteran maintenance worker with an impeccable work attendance record as sparkling as his attitude.

The Transportation Foundation of Los Angeles last December named him "Transportation Employee of the Century".

Winston drives himself to work everyday where he makes sure the buses are clean and fueled. It has been like that since he was hired by the then Los Angeles Railway Company in 1924. Although Winston took a short hiatus in the early 1930s to work at another job, he returned to public transit in 1934.

Today, city officials honored Winston in recognition of his indefatigable labor and his incredible record: never been late to work in 70 years as a transit employee and missed only one working day when his wife of 65 years passed away.

"I don't want to make it sound like I took off one day and then came back the very next day," Winston says. "I had four weekend days that I had accumulated. I used those days when my wife died plus one regular workday."

He married his wife, Frances, a seamstress, in 1924. "Lord, how I do miss her," he says softly. Winston now shares quarters with his great-granddaughter, Brandy.

Also today the documentary, "Arthur Winston: A Living Treasure," was screened during the Pan African Film & Arts Festival at the Magic Johnson Theater in the Crenshaw District of Los Angeles. This is the nation's largest independent Black film festival.

The 27 minute film was nominated for Best Documentary, Best Short Subject and the Audience Award. The film is about the 93 year-old Winston, the MTA's sterling example of energy and dependability.

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Arthur Winston...

An Oklahoma native born in 1906, Winston moved to Los Angeles with his family in his early 20s and is a graduate of Jefferson High School. His father, who died at 99, found work with the Los Angeles Railway Company and in 1924, the youngest Winston did the same, signing on as a janitor at South Park.

Winston supervises five employees on the weekday day shift and leads the charge to rid graffiti on buses.

A trim man with a marvelous smile, Winston has survived six transportation agency mergers and takeovers and has outlived three of his four children.

For the second time a transportation maintenance facility will bear his name. The MTA named Division 5 as "Arthur Winston Division" in January 1997. In March, a local transportation company will break ground on a maintenance facility in Hyde Park that also will be named for the MTA's most senior employee.

The Arthur Winston Maintenance Center will be a major element of the Hyde Park Commercial Transportation Hub and Occupational Training Education Center at 67th Street and Crenshaw Boulevard. The facility, which will include a large child care center for children of transit workers, is expected to open in March.

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