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Arthur Winston to Celebrate 70 Years With MTA

- MTA's most senior employee turns 98 in March

By ADRIENNE FIGUEROA

(Jan. 16, 2004) It was January 24, 1934, when the Los Angeles Railway – one of MTA's predecessors – hired the 28-year-old Arthur Winston to what would become one of this country's longest individual employment records.



Arthur Winston at 2002 "Best of the Best" awards.

On Friday, Jan. 23, at the division named in his honor, MTA's most senior employee will celebrate 70 consecutive years of dedicated service.

"Arthur is MTA's legendary Bob Hope," says Dana Coffey, South Bay Sector general manager. "He was dealt a good hand of cards."

Initially employed by Los Angeles Railway in 1924, Winston left the company in 1931 only to return three years later. Over the span of seven decades, he has watched the agency's name change several times, transportation technology evolve and co-workers come and go.

Service Attendant Leader

The 97-year-old is a service attendant leader at Arthur Winston Division 5. At this location in South Los Angeles, he oversees a group of 11 employees who maintain MTA buses.

Coffey believes Winston's infectious positive attitude and his refusal to let life's little hardships inconvenience him are two factors that make him a key leader and role model.

"Arthur holds an impeccable record as a leader," she says. "His focus is coming to work and doing what he has to do. He provides energy, and that's inspiring."

This inspiration has been recognized and honored outside the agency on a national level. In 1996, Winston received a Congressional Citation from former President Clinton as "Employee of the Century."

'Citizen of the Week'

The following year, he appeared on Oprah Winfrey and, in 2002, was named "Citizen of the Week" by KNX Radio.

With his 98th birthday approaching March 22, Winston is still going strong with no plans to retire.

"He sees the Arthur Winston Division as his second home," Coffey says.

“He’s surrounded by friends and co-workers that genuinely care about him.”

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