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Chick Hearn Plaque to be Dedicated at Pico Station



The Metro Blue Line Pico Station will be renamed for the late sportscaster Chick Hearn.

(Jan. 28, 2004) The late Los Angeles Lakers announcer Chick Hearn will be memorialized during ceremonies scheduled for 3:30 p.m., Thursday, at the Metro Blue Line's Pico station.

Mayor James Hahn, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Deputy CEO John Catoe and Lakers officials, along with Hearn's widow Marge, will unveil a plaque in honor of the two-time Basketball Hall of Famer.

The MTA Board voted in September, 2002 to name the Pico station – the nearest Metro Rail station to the Staples Center –for Hearn, who died Aug. 5, 2002 at age 85. The plaque will be installed on the platform of the station platform.

In his motion to dedicate the station to Hearn, Hahn said, "Chick Hearn was more than an announcer. He was a pioneer, an innovator, a promoter, a friend, a father and a husband. He will be sorely missed."

Play-by-play man

A native of Aurora, Ill., the Lakers' play-by-play man was noted for having broadcast 3,338 consecutive games over a 36-year period that stretched from Nov. 21, 1965 to Dec. 16, 2001.

He invented the terms "slam dunk," "air ball," "finger roll" and "no harm, no foul."

"For more than four decades, Chick Hearn brought millions of people together throughout Southern California through their love of the Lakers," says Lakers General Manager Mitch Kupchak. "He had such a huge impact on this city that it is a very fitting tribute for the Metro to honor him in this way. And as...passengers...see his plaque on a daily basis, it will keep his memory alive in a very positive way."

Francis Dayle "Chick" Hearn began his career in 1956 broadcasting USC football and basketball games. He won two Emmy Awards for a nightly radio sports show. He also was twice named national Sportscaster of the Year.

Over nearly 50 years as a sportscaster, he provided play-by-play and incisive commentary for NCAA and NFL football, UNLV basketball, PGA golf, the first Ali-Frazier fight, the Rose Bowl and NBC's Triplecast coverage of the 1992 gold-medal U.S. Olympic Basketball "Dream" Team in Barcelona.

