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From left, Buffalo Soldiers Trooper Lennister Williams, Arthur Winston, Metro South Bay GM Dana Coffey and Trooper Ronald Jones. *Photo by Rich Morallo.*



Friends, Family and Media: Arthur Winston Marks 99th Birthday at Arthur Winston Division Celebration

By RICH MORALLO

It was almost another typical Arthur Winston birthday - balloons, birthday cake and speakers lined up to wish the 99-year-old service attendant crew leader congratulations and best wishes.

But Metro Director Pam O'Connor showed why today's celebration at the Arthur Winston Division in Chesterfield Square was a special event when she started the countdown. "I'm coming back here next year for your 100th birthday," proclaimed O'Connor.



Maintenance Manager Alex DiNuzzo reads a birthday message from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger at Arthur Winston Division celebration. *Photo by Rich Morallo.*

Amid shouts and applause, Arthur simply stood beside the program's emcee, Metro South Bay General Manager Dana M. Coffey, and smiled before his fellow-workers, family members and guests. Earlier he remembered how this day had started. "My great granddaughter Brandy wished me Happy Birthday at home," Arthur said, adding , "I don't feel older."



Photo op - Metro Choir delivered a musical birthday wish to celebrant Arthur Winston. At left, Metro choir Director Renee Willis. *Photo by Luis Inzunza.*

The Metro Choir honored Arthur with a medley and a birthday song, representatives from his division and Carson Division 18 delivered messages, and maintenance manager Alex DiNuzzo read a message from Governor Schwarzenegger. Special guest speakers included the pastor of the Crenshaw United Methodist Church, a representative of the Amalgamated Transit Union, and O'Connor, currently mayor of Santa Monica.

"From now on we'll be addressing Arthur as Trooper Arthur," proclaimed Lennister Williams with the Buffalo Soldiers, as he made the Metro staffer an honorary member of the Ninth and Tenth (Horse) Cavalry Association.

Several media reporters and broadcasters



shadowed Arthur, conducting interviews and photographing him at work. "What was his best birthday gift ever?" Arthur said, "It was a huge Metro plaque with several transit decals and logos on it."

Arthur, first employed by the Pacific Electric Railway Company in 1924, has worked for the agency for 71 consecutive years. He is a recipient of a Congressional Citation as "Employee of the Century" in 1997 from then President Clinton.

Channels 2/9, 5, 7, and 18 (Korean TV), Daily News, L.A. Times, Associated Press, KNX radio, and the LA Watts Times covered today's birthday celebration for Arthur Winston.

Photo by Rich Morallo.

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