



From left, Bettye Dixon, wife of the late U.S. Congressman Julian Dixon; MTA Board Chairman John Fasana; the late congressman's son Cary Dixon, and County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky at Thursday's ceremony.

PHOTOS: BILL HEARD

MTA Unveils Plaque Honoring Late Congressman Julian Dixon

- **Plaque to be Placed in 7th/Metro Center/Julian Dixon Station**

BY RICK JAGER

(Aug. 2, 2001) In a ceremony, Thursday, on Patsaouras Plaza, MTA officials unveiled a plaque honoring the late U.S. Rep. Julian Dixon. The plaque will be placed in the recently renamed 7th/Metro/Julian Dixon Metro Rail station.

Joining in the unveiling of the plaque were the late congressman's widow, Bettye Dixon, and his son Cary, MTA Board Chairman John Fasana, Supervisors Yvonne Brathwaite Burke and Zev Yaroslavsky, City Council President Alex Padilla, City Councilman Nate Holden, CEO Julian Burke and some 100 guests.

Dixon, a member of Congress for 22 years, was a longtime supporter of public transit projects in Los Angeles, including the Metro Rail and Metro Bus systems. He died of an apparent heart attack last December at age 66.

In his remarks, Fasana cited Dixon's experience and credibility as "essential to the success" of the MTA. He noted that the congressman was the leader of a bipartisan coalition that was responsible "for bringing hundreds of millions of dollars to the Los Angeles region, well beyond the MTA."

"Julian Dixon never wavered in his belief that Los Angeles needed a rapid transit system or that Los Angeles would embrace its transit



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system when it opened," Fasana said. "Certainly he was our champion of rail, but he also helped us by providing for all the bus operators in this county."

Devoted to the future of Los Angeles

Supervisor Burke, who proposed the motion to name the 7th/Metro station for Dixon, said the congressman "knew that Los Angeles County needed a viable public transportation system. He fought for rail; he fought for subway; he fought for buses. He devoted himself to ensuring the future for Los Angeles County transit."

She said the more than 60,000 passengers that use the station each day will have an opportunity to view the plaque placed in honor of Dixon. "That station, alone, is a vibrant part of this system. It serves a crucial hub of our rail system and is a fitting memorial to the man who worked so hard to bring it about."

"He was 'The Voice' of Los Angeles County transportation in Washington, leading the effort to secure federal funding for Metro Rail and, together with the late Tom Bradley and Kenny Hahn, put together the combination of federal, state and local funding that established this critical component of Los Angeles' mass transit system," Burke said.

"Julian was always at the crossroads of everything when it came to Los Angeles and Southern California," said Yaroslavsky. "Not just in transportation, but in a whole variety of issues. He was a man for all reasons, all seasons, all issues."

Text of plaque

Above, Cary Dixon, MTA CEO Julian Burke and Bettye Dixon. Below, County Supervisor and MTA Board Member Yvonne Brathwaite Burke leads unveiling ceremony.



Supervisor Burke and Mrs. Dixon, above, and awaiting the ceremony with other dignitaries that include Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, foreground, left, and City Councilman Nate Holden, back row, second from left.



Julian C. Dixon

1934 – 2000

United States House of Representatives,
1978 – 2000

Seeing beyond the boundaries of his own congressional district, Julian Dixon knew the importance of viable transportation alternatives for all of Los Angeles County. He was a voice for Los Angeles County in Washington, D.C., and the effort to secure federal funding for Metro Rail. This station is dedicated to him.

"We have built the subway to the Valley, to Hollywood, to Wilshire and to downtown LA. A subway that links other modes of transportation and lies in wait for future projects. We did not get all that we wanted and our system did not come without cost, but significant accomplishments seldom do. Today, we come together to acknowledge the significance of this accomplishment and pledge to continue our great partnership to meet the transit needs of all Angelenos."
-- Julian Dixon at the opening of the Metro Red Line to North Hollywood on June 23, 2000.



More than 100 guests attended. Below, Rick Hittinger, at right, and the Long Beach City College Saxophone Quartet.

