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**Upcoming Events...**

**Monday, December 3 –** Senator Wright and his fellow legislators will be sworn in at the State Capitol Building in Sacramento, marking the start of the 2013-14 Session.

**Our next E-Newsletter will be the New Year's edition, featuring all of this year's fabulous holiday events, and previewing the new Legislative Session.**

**Greetings!**

With Summer a memory and the holiday season approaching, we are excited to bring you the Aug. – Oct. 2012 edition of our 25<sup>th</sup> Senate District E-Newsletter.

Elections are also behind us, and I am proud to have received your support for another term as your representative in the California State Senate, for what will soon become the 35<sup>th</sup> Senate District.

Today I want to share with you some of the wonderful events I had the joy of sharing with you over the past three months.

As always, thank you for reading, and for your continued support as your State Senator.



**Aviation enthusiast Wright at the Western Museum of Flight.**



**Roderick D. Wright  
California State Senator**

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## Thousands attend Annual 25<sup>th</sup> SD School Readiness & Health Fair

Thousands of area students and their family members started the school year off on the right foot, as they participated in the annual [25<sup>th</sup> Senate District School Readiness and Health Fair](#) hosted by Senator Roderick D. Wright (D-Inglewood) and L.A. County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas at Jesse Owens County Park.

Some 5,000 people attended this fun and informative annual event in late August, where adults and children alike received important health screenings and needed school supplies.

Left undiscovered, hearing and vision deficits can hold a student back in the classroom and beyond. Wright is proud to have the platform to help local students make the most of their educational opportunities, and grateful to the more than 100 volunteers and the sponsors who gave of their time to help children.



**Senator Wright and student participants in the School Readiness & Health Fair are all smiles as they pose with some of the great items they received.**

[\(Click here to view the photo album from this event.\)](#)



**Young ladies from Courtney's School of Dance helped entertain the fair's participants.**

get their blood pressure and cholesterol tested, while also receiving other valuable nutrition and health information – such as ways to prevent lead poisoning in their children and to quit smoking.

All of this valuable information was delivered with a backdrop of outstanding entertainment, as participants enjoyed performances by hip hop/rap artist Sharp Skills from Long Beach; Jarron King, a multi-talented 9<sup>th</sup> grader from Van Nuys High School who sang his way to victory at the 48<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Talent Showcase; the multi-cultural teen girl pop group Gifted Nations, which lends its voice to a number of charitable causes; TIU Muzic Group, a group of young rappers and singers from the Los Angeles area; L.A. Dream All Stars, a cheerleading program helping local youth shape values centered on a strong work ethic, personal character, teamwork, discipline and perseverance; and the adorable young ladies of Courtney's School of Dance in Gardena.

Ronald McDonald himself was on-hand to deliver lunch to participants and help entertain students. The fair was presented in conjunction with National Family Life & Education Center and the Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce.

The UCLA Volunteer Center sent 40 volunteers as part of its “One Bus, One Cause” program, and the university’s Mattel Children’s Hospital sent its “Breathmobile” to identify students and adults with asthma.

“It is one of the highlights of my year to be able to help make these services available to the kids in my community, to give them the best start I can to the school year ahead,” said Wright. “I’m incredibly grateful to all of those who came and helped, and to UCLA for helping catch asthma early so it can be managed properly and allow kids to continue to do the things they love.”

In addition to immunizations and health, vision, dental and hearing checks for students ages 5-14, adults who attended were able to



**This young man is still smiling, dental hygiene kit in hand, even after having a check-up and getting his immunizations.**

*Remembering two greats who blazed the trail for African Americans in California government*

**Senator Ed Vincent, Jr. (06/23/34-08/31/12)**

It was with great sadness that Senator Wright informed legislators on the final night of the 2011-12 Session that Senator Ed Vincent (Ret.) had passed away.

Wright had the honor of knowing Senator Vincent for over forty years, as both a friend and mentor. Wright ran Senator Vincent's campaign when Vincent was elected the first African-American mayor of Inglewood in 1983 and later succeeded him when term limits forced Vincent to retire from the State Senate.



**Wright's friendship with the late Senator Vincent spanned more than four decades.**

Vincent served in the Assembly from 1996 to 2000. He represented the 25<sup>th</sup> Senate District from 2000-2008. An avid fan of horseracing, he championed the industry as chairman of the Senate Governmental Organization Committee and the Select Committee on the Horseracing Industry.



**Above: Wright presents a Memoriam to Vincent's daughters at his repast.**

In earlier years, Vincent earned Big-Ten and All-American honors while playing football for the University of Iowa and went on to play for the Los Angeles Rams. After serving his country in the U.S. Army, Vincent went on to a 35-year career with the Los Angeles County Probation Department.

Wright sent his condolences to Vincent's wife, Marilyn, children and grandchildren and presented his daughters with a Memorial Resolution at his repast.

**Lt. Gov. Mervyn Dymally (05/12/26-10/07/12)**

In October, California lost another great political trailblazer in former Lieutenant Governor Mervyn Dymally. Originally from Trinidad, Dymally served in the State Assembly from 1963-1966.

He then served in the State Senate from 1967-1975, going on to serve as Lt. Gov. under Jerry Brown from 1975-1979. When elected in 1974, he became one of only two blacks elected to statewide office since reconstruction.



**Dymally, Assemblyman Hall & Wright.**

Dymally went on to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1981-1993. He later came out of retirement and returned to his roots to once again serve in the Assembly from 2002-2008.

**CITEA honors Wright for his continuing support of vocational education**

Senator Wright was honored to be named Legislator of the Year for the California Industrial and Technology Education and Association (CITEA) Foundation. The honor was formally announced at CITEA's conference, and a handsome plaque memorializing the occasion was recently delivered to his Inglewood District Office, where it is now proudly displayed.



**Wright holds up his CITEA plaque.**

**Vietnam Veterans thank Wright for fighting for military parents' rights**

In October, Wright was also honored as 2012 Legislator of the Year by the Vietnam Veterans of America-California State Council. The award recognizes Wright for leading the fight "for equality in family law for military parents who have faced the loss of child custody right when called up for active duty on short notice." The organization also thanked Wright for his strong support of veterans' outreach events in his community.



## Wright recognized as champion of early child education

Preschool California honored Senator Wright with the 2012 Early Learning Champion Award, for his leadership in support of transitional kindergarten (TK) and early child care and education over the course of his career. The presentation was made at Juan Cabrillo Elementary School in the Wiseburn School District, which has pioneered TK for a decade. This is the first year that districts are required to offer TK for younger students, and the first time a new grade level has been launched in the state since 1891. More than 2,000 TK classrooms are now up and running.

Left: Senator Wright learns how to play ABC Bingo from Juan Cabrillo TK students.

## Compton welcomes new superintendent

Senator Wright joined several hundred teachers, staff, students, local residents and community leaders at a welcome reception for the new superintendent of the Compton Unified School District (CUSD), Darin Brawley. Wright spoke to those gathered about the challenge posed to public schools by the reduction in per-pupil spending, as well as the loss of public school students to private or charter schools. Those who attended the event at the CUSD Education Service center’s courtyard enjoyed musical presentations by both students and staff from the district.



Wright with CUSD’s Darin Brawley.

## Inglewood welcomes Space Shuttle Endeavour home



Wright speaks at Endeavour welcome ceremony.

At a welcome ceremony for Space Shuttle Endeavour at the Forum in Inglewood, Senator Wright spoke proudly of the role companies in the Los Angeles area played in building the aerospace marvel, as it slowly made its way to its new home at the California Science Center. While Houston, Texas, and others with ties to the Shuttle undoubtedly hoped it would take its permanent place in one of their cities, Wright called Endeavour’s final journey to Los Angeles a “homecoming.” Endeavour took a final tour of the state while riding piggyback on a 747, including circling the State Capitol in Sacramento and flying over San Francisco’s Golden Gate Bridge before its slow drive through the streets of Los Angeles.



Space Shuttle Endeavour circled the State Capitol Building while riding piggyback on a 747 in a tour of the state en route to its Los Angeles home.

## Inglewood schools’ administrator appointed



Wright addresses the Inglewood community as Kent Taylor and Tom Torlakson look on.

Senator Wright joined Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson in introducing Kent Taylor to more than 120 residents, teachers and Inglewood Unified School District (IUSD) staff as the newly appointed state administrator of the IUSD. Wright expressed his hopes for the district’s future success under the

leadership of Taylor, who comes to Inglewood from the Southern Kern Unified School District. He talked about the challenge the IUSD has to attract and retain students, and he emphasized that parents must support the district by sending their children to its schools. Wright thanked the school board and the superintendent for all of their support during this “bittersweet” transition and received a warm ovation.

## Wright's 2011-12 Legislative Wrap-Up

Senator Wright was pleased to announce a great record of success in getting legislation to benefit the residents of the Los Angeles area and California signed into law in the 2011-12 Legislative Session, including measures to aid local school districts and pave the way for an overhaul of the region's outdated emergency communications system.

Wright served as [principal co-author of a bill to remove obstacles impeding the timely completion of the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System \(LA-RICS\)](#), a modern communications system that will support coordinated communication between 34,000 first responders and protect the region's ten million residents. The action also preserved \$154.6 million in federal stimulus funds, which would have been lost if project-delivery deadlines were not met.

On the local education front, Wright was able to secure an emergency loan to aid the financially-struggling Inglewood School District ([SB 533](#)), as well as enact a measure that enables the Wiseburn School District to pursue unification without causing financial harm to its neighboring districts ([SB 477](#)).

This year, Governor Jerry Brown also signed into law:

- [SB 475](#) to allow Board Members of local health authorities to establish a quorum via teleconferencing;
- [SB 937](#) to make necessary annual changes to the California Alcoholic Beverage Control Act;
- [SB 965](#) to permit stakeholders to have limited *ex parte* communications with members of the State Water Resources Control Board while their permit is under consideration;
- [SB 991](#) to allow County Supervisors to perform marriage ceremonies;
- [SB 1099](#) to require that all new business regulations take effective on one date each quarter, and that all pending regulations be posted on one website, enabling small business to improve compliance with a web of state laws;
- [SB 1103](#) to make comparative information on California's Cal Grant eligible colleges available to prospective students and their parents on one website, along with information on career prospects in various fields;
- [SB 1255](#) to clarify existing law regarding an employee's right to receive a complete and accurate itemized wage statement from his or her employer;
- [SB 1299](#) to help ensure prompt payments by, and lower administrative costs in, the Victims of Crime Program;
- [SB 1510](#) to prevent sham companies from posing as small businesses to take advantage of the state's set-aside small business goals;
- [SB 1578](#) to make clarifying changes to outdated provisions of law relating to the State Treasurer's Office, in order to modernize its business practices; and,
- [SB 1580](#) to authorize the Director of the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Adjutant General, to sell specified armories, with proceeds of each sale going to the Armory Fund.

All in all, seventeen bills championed by Senator Wright over the course of the two-year Legislative Session were signed into law by Governor Brown before the September 30 midnight deadline, including fourteen in 2012.

In 2011, Brown also signed Wright's [SB 380](#) (Nutrition Education), [SB 422](#) (Health) and [SB 610](#) (Concealed Weapons).

## Hawthorne remembers 9/11



United Airlines Captain Leslie Ochsner and Wright speak at Hawthorne 9/11 ceremony.

Senator Wright addressed some 300 people gathered at Hawthorne's City Hall to pay tribute to the victims of 9/11. Participants in this year's memorial ceremony included Sheriff Lee Baca, the entire Hawthorne City Council, Carson Councilman Mike Gibson and representatives of the City's police and fire departments, Air Force, US Postal Service, 9-11 Foundation, the VFW and American Legion Post #314.

## Wright supports legislation to lower cost of college



Three bills which Senator Wright supported to help lower the cost of a college education were recently signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown. [Senate Bills](#)

[1052](#) and [1053](#), respectively, fund open-source textbooks and establish a Digital Open Source Library to host them. Students will now have free or low-cost internet access to textbooks for some of the most popular college courses. Wright also supported [Assembly Bill 970](#), which looks to reign in skyrocketing tuition costs by setting tough standards which must be met before any UC or CSU fee increase can be adopted.

## Jeter honored at Gardena Heritage Festival



Wright dances with Jane Hall at the Gardena Heritage Festival.

Senator Wright joined more than a thousand residents for the 19th Annual Gardena Heritage Festival & Street Fair. Wright addressed the crowd, congratulating the City of Gardena for an outstanding event which honored “Gardena’s own” 2012 Olympic gold medalist Carmelita Jeter. There were more than 100 booths at the event, including one staffed by Wright’s office. The Gardena Valley Lions Club’s mobile unit provided vision screenings and glucose tests.

## Dodger great Lasorda joins Wright, community for Centinela’s annual health and safety fair

Some 600 people turned out for Centinela Hospital Medical Center’s Third Annual Community Health and Safety Fair in Inglewood, which offered valuable information on health and safety, as well as glucose, blood sugar and blood pressure screenings and flu



Centinela CEO Linda Bradley, Dodger great Tommy Lasorda and Senator Wright.

vaccinations. Senator Wright had the honor of introducing Tommy Lasorda on the Dodger great’s 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. The crowd extended warm birthday wishes. Centinela’s heart institute is named for Lasorda, who was a patient at Centinela Hospital and spoke glowingly of the treatment he received there. Both Lasorda and Centinela CEO Linda Bradley thanked Wright for his leadership and continuous support of the hospital. Vendors from throughout Inglewood and the South Bay provided a wealth of information, as did a booth staffed by Wright’s office.

## Community Spotlight

### City of Palos Verdes Estates



Neptune Fountain in Malaga Cove Plaza.

The beautiful City of Palos Verdes Estates (PVE) is one of the cities Senator Wright has been honored to represent in the 25<sup>th</sup> Senate District which he will lose to redistricting when the district becomes the 35<sup>th</sup>.

PVE is the oldest of four cities on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, and one of the oldest master-planned residential community in the country. It was designed by the Olmstead Brothers, sons of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., who designed New York City’s Central Park. The city was incorporated in 1939 due to residents’ concerns their parkland would be sold to pay taxes owed to Los Angeles County on the heels of the Depression.

Malaga Cove Plaza is home to some of PVE’s oldest buildings, including the PV Public Library designed by Pasadena architect Myron Hunt, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995.

PVE’s coastline features rocky shores and high cliffs, as well as three popular surfing beaches: Haggerty’s, PV Bluff Cove beach and Lunada Bay.

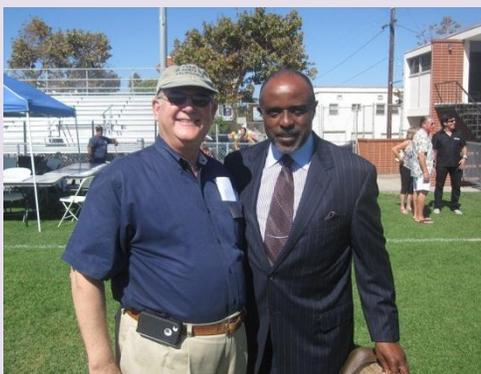
With its beautiful Pacific Coast location, PVE has been governed by the vision of its founders, with an emphasis on preserving its natural assets.

*In upcoming E-Newsletters we will begin to highlight some of the cities which are new to Senator Wright’s redrawn 35<sup>th</sup> Senate District.*



## ***Boys & Girls Club of the Los Angeles Harbor celebrates 75 years***

Senator Wright helped celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Boys & Girls Club of the Los Angeles Harbor. Originally founded in 1937 to serve residents of San Pedro, the club merged with the Wilmington Boys & Girls Club a decade ago. The club offers a safe, supervised place for kids to get tutoring, do homework, create art and participate in recreational activities. Wright presented a Senate resolution to Executive Director Mike Lansing and Board Chair Yvonne Bogdanovich.



**Senator Wright stands with Derald Sidler, director of development for the Boys & Girls Club of the Los Angeles Harbor, at the club's recent 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.**

## ***Wright commends City and Chamber for supporting Grandma's House Catering***

Senator Wright attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for Grandma's House Catering, a Texas/ Oklahoma-style catering service promising local residents high-quality BBQ and Louisiana crawfish and shrimp and exemplary service in Torrance. Wright marked the business's opening with a Senate Certificate and praised the City and Chamber for working with entrepreneurs to revitalize the economy. Wright's presentation was discussed at the Harbor City Neighborhood Council meeting, as was his love of cooking... and eating!

**Wright presents a certificate to mark the grand opening of Grandma's House Catering, a new Texas/ Oklahoma-style catering service offering BBQ, crawfish and shrimp in Torrance.**



## **Wright thanks Dennis Lord for community service at retirement**



**Wright celebrates retirement of Dennis Lord.**

Senator Wright attended a retirement reception at the Western Museum of Flight for Dennis Lord of Southern California Edison, speaking warmly of the man who has helped with many community events hosted by the Senator. Wright presented Lord a resolution signed by several legislators. Some 200 community members, business leaders and elected officials came to wish Lord well. Lord served the Gas Company for 40 years.

## **Charles R. Drew reports State of the University; thanks Wright**



**Wright chats with Dr. David Carlisle of Charles Drew.**

Senator Wright joined more than 100 people for the Charles R. Drew University State of the University Address, given by the school's President, Dr. David Carlisle, who thanked Wright for his continuous support of the university.

## Wright meets with local aerospace company leaders

Senator Wright enjoyed a tour of Marvin Engineering in Inglewood. The aerospace company has been in business for nearly 50 years, having made parts for the Space Shuttle and now participating in the F-35 Program. Wright’s visit included a working lunch with the company’s CEO and others, where they discussed the desire to keep their business in California and the challenges California’s regulatory environment presents that make that difficult.



Right: Senator Wright tours aerospace company Marvin Engineering in Inglewood.



## South Bay launches entrepreneurial center

Senator Wright celebrated the grand opening of the South Bay Entrepreneurial Center, a city-funded small business incubator in Torrance to help South Bay entrepreneurs establish or expand a business, offering assistance with permitting and licensing, as well as doling out advice to aid in profitability. The center, which first opened in August, has meeting space and internet access. An advisory board is comprised of local business owners and other experts who will help entrepreneurs network with seasoned professionals.

Left: South Bay Entrepreneurial Center celebrates ribbon-cutting.

## Council of Governments discusses legislation to eliminate regulatory confusion

Senator Wright addressed the South Bay Cities Council of Governments Legislative Briefing, expressing his respect for the important role COGs play. Wright discussed the 14 bills he had signed into law this year by Governor Jerry Brown, including a measure to make it easier for small businesses to comply with a myriad of regulations by having them all take effect on one day each quarter. Wright expressed his opposition to cap and trade, and his concern that South Bay refineries are losing capacity. He argued that the state is bankrupting some manufacturers and driving others out of the state with excessive costs and regulations, losing tax revenues in the process. Wright also discussed his wariness with private post-secondary vocational schools and their use of misleading advertising.



Assemblyman Bradford and Torrance City Councilman Pat Furey listen as Wright discusses his 2012 legislation.



Senator Wright presents Torrance Mayor Frank Sotto a certificate marking the launch of rapid transit projects.

## Wright joins city leaders for launch of ambitious rapid transit pilot projects

Senator Wright joined Torrance Mayor Frank Scotto and almost all of the Torrance City Council in celebrating Torrance Transit’s launch of lines 3 and 4, the E-W Rapid Bus and N-S Express Lane Bus respectively. Wright addressed the crowd and presented Scotto with a Senate certificate to mark the occasion. Line 3 runs from Redondo Beach to Torrance, while Line 4 will run on the toll lanes of the 110 Freeway. The tolls collected will subsidize the purchase of new busses. Both are 25-year pilot projects.

### **Center of Hope installs Pastor Geremy Dixon**

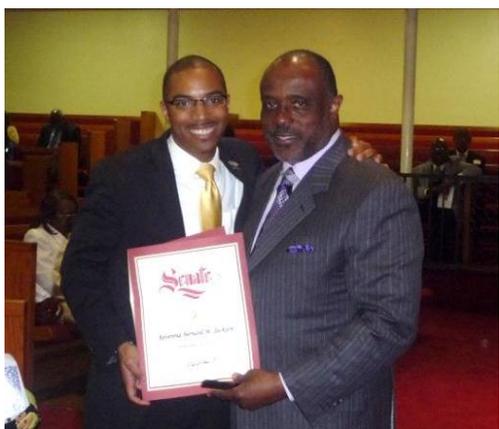
Senator Wright joined with congregants at First Church of God Center of Hope in celebrating the installation of Senior Pastor Geremy L. Dixon, the son of his friend and classmate from Washington Prep High School, Bishop Gregory Dixon. Wright spoke to the crowd about the love of teaching Gregory Dixon instilled in his son, and of his great expectations for the church’s future under Geremy’s leadership. He also provided a Senate certificate to mark the occasion.



Wright enjoys installation of Pastor Dixon.

### **Reverend Bernard Jackson joins Phillips Temple CME**

Wright was also on-hand for a special program held to welcome new young pastor Reverend Bernard M. Jackson to Phillips Temple CME Church in Los Angeles. He gave welcoming remarks and presented Reverend Jackson with a Senate certificate to mark the occasion.



Wright congratulates Reverend Jackson.

### **Wright honored by Congress of Racial Equality of CA for his exemplary community service**

Senator Wright was proud to be honored by the Congress of Racial Equality of California with a CORE Award for his exemplary community service. Also recognized at the event at the Proud Bird Restaurant in October were Sheriff Lee Baca, Senator Curren Price, Assembly Member Fiona Ma, Assembly Member Steven Bradford and Assembly Member Curt Hagman.



Right: Wright receives CORE Award.

### **Business community honors SWIB successes**



Senator Wright joined 300 local dignitaries and key local employers for the 17th Annual South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) Alumni & Awards Breakfast Banquet at the Ayres Hotel in Hawthorne. The event’s keynote speaker was Rep. Maxine Waters, and the banquet highlighted employed workers who are clients of the SWIB.

Above: Wright talks with Congresswoman Waters, Hawthorne Mayor Danny Juarez and SWIB board member Bernie Konig.

### **Trinity Baptist Church hosts panel discussion**

Trinity Baptist Church hosted a panel discussion regarding ballot issues in the November election, drawing a crowd of some 200 interested citizens like OV Smith. Wright participated in the panel, as did Congresswoman Waters and Assembly Members Isadore Hall, III, and Mike Davis.



Wright stands with long-time community activist OV Smith at the Trinity Baptist Church gathering.

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

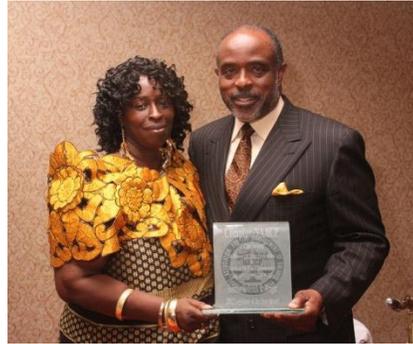
Please don't hesitate to contact our Inglewood District Office if you require assistance in any of these areas:

- Medi-Cal
- Auto insurance
- Consumer complaints
- Unemployment insurance
- Child support and child care
- Disability insurance
- Department of Motor Vehicles
- Workers' compensation
- Franchise Tax Board
- Government forms and applications
- Complaints about state departments
- Small business assistance

If you have an idea for a local project, or have a problem with a state or local agency that is not getting solved, our office can also:

- Mediate between you and government agencies or offices;
- Assist you in obtaining funding for local projects, such as bikeways, parks, schools, or senior citizen programs;
- Bring state experts into your community for technical assistance or advice on local issues;
- Help communicate your concerns to local, state and federal officials;
- Bring state administrators into your community so they hear first-hand about local needs;
- Visit your neighborhood or group to discuss state legislation or programs.

### Wright honored with "I Can" Award by Compton NAACP



NAACP Compton's Paulette Simpson-Gipson presents award to Wright.

In October, Senator Wright was honored as Legislator of the Year by the Compton branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) at the organization's "I Can" Awards ceremony, held at the Holiday Inn in Torrance. The event was attended by Dr. Lestean Johnson of the Compton Chamber of Commerce, Compton Councilmembers Lillie Dobson and Janna Zurita, community leaders, clergy members and Congresswoman Laura Richardson, who also presented Wright with an award. Nine other people were also honored by the Compton NAACP at this year's "I Can" Awards ceremony.

### Senator pays surprise visit to SW Community Association

Senator Wright paid a surprise visit to a meeting of the Southwest Community Association, enjoying an engaging conversation with 100 or so members present. The conversation focused on the changes in store for the Inglewood Unified School District, as well as the potential impact of measures up for a vote on the November ballot. The Senator also gave a recap of the recent School Readiness and Health Fair. Mr. Henry Porter, the association's president, thanked Wright for his visit, and for his recent help with issues involving the West Basin.



Henry Porter looks on as Wright addresses SW Community Association.

### Wright addresses minority apartment owners' dinner



The Minority Apartment Owners Association celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a dinner at the Double Tree in Culver City. Senator Wright, an apartment owner and landlord for many years, spoke to the crowd about his experiences and what it means to be a landlord, while thanking those assembled for providing quality housing for the community. Congresswoman Richardson also presented a commendation to MAOA president and founder Malcolm Bennett. Richard Green, chair of USC's Lusk Center for Real Estate, provided the keynote address.

Senator Wright stands with MAOA's Malcolm Bennett.

### California State Senator Roderick D. Wright – District 25

Senator Wright represents the communities of Alondra Park, Athens, Compton, Gardena, Florence-Graham, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Ladera Heights, Lawndale, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Palos Verdes Peninsula, San Pedro, Watts, Westchester, Westmont and Willowbrook

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