

# RODERICK D. WRIGHT

REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT 35

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## Upcoming Events...

**Saturday, May 18** – Senator Wright will host his Annual Student Honors Luncheon at CSU Dominguez Hills!

**Monday, June 10** – Senator Wright and Assemblyman Bradford host White Suit Day in the State Capitol.

**Saturday, August 24**, is the date for the Annual School Readiness & Health Fair. Parents and students: Mark your calendars! Vendors: Get in touch with Senator Wright's Chief of Staff, [Cine Ivery](#), about participating in this wonderful community event!!!

**\*\* Applications for 2013 CA Legislative Black Caucus Scholarships are now available on-line and are due by May 31! \*\***

## Greetings!

In today's Spring 2013 E-Newsletter, I would like to share with you the events I was able to experience with residents of the 35<sup>th</sup> District in January through March of this year.

This period included my Annual 35<sup>th</sup> Senate District "Women of Distinction" Recognition Luncheon, which affords me the opportunity to personally thank dozens of our community's most committed volunteers and unsung heroines for their selfless service to others.

The next E-Newsletter will feature our Student Honors Luncheon, another annual event which is always a highlight for me, as we recognize some of the brightest students in the District.

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



Wright receives the 2012 Legislator of the Year Award from the Vietnam Veterans of America – CA State Council.

**Roderick D. Wright**  
Senator, 35<sup>th</sup> District

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## 35<sup>th</sup> Senate District “Women of Distinction” honored by Wright at annual luncheon

Some shining stars of the community were honored by Senator Wright at his Annual “Women of Distinction” Recognition Luncheon. This year’s 25 honorees included educators and PTA leaders, several women who have raised thousands for the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life and others who have offered steadfast support to our veterans, in addition to those who have fought to create safer neighborhoods and a stronger local economy.

The emcee for this celebratory event was Wendy Raquel Robinson, a popular actress and *cum laude* graduate of Howard University, best known for her roles as high school principal Regina Grier on *The Steve Harvey Show*, and as sports agent Tasha Mack on *The Game*.

Each year, Senator Wright recognizes women from throughout the 35<sup>th</sup> Senate District for their unsurpassed commitment to bettering the community in which they live. These women, who give so unselfishly of their time and talents, are nominated for recognition by the leaders of various organizations and jurisdictions.

“It is an honor for me to give back just a little to these pillars of the community who have given so much of themselves,” said Wright. “They don’t do the things they do for recognition, but for all of us to have a better society to live in, which makes it all the more important to say ‘thank you’ and let them know how very much they are appreciated.”

For the honorees’ entertainment, performance artist Kaylene Peoples debuted a dramatic, music-infused monologue from her upcoming one-woman show, *Rites of Passage*. This year’s luncheon was held at the Holiday Inn in Torrance.



**Wright with luncheon emcee Wendy Raquel Robinson.**



Wright stands among the 2013 Women of Distinction honorees. They are (alphabetically, not as pictured): Bonnie Coronado, June Chavez, Madeline Cunningham-Colston, Laura Espinoza, Mary Gant, Mary Louise Godoy, Shirley Graves, Mary Gutierrez, Dee Hardison, Esther Hatch, Harley Hoff, Ugema H. James, Dr. Kimberly C. Johnson, Dr. Lestean Johnson, Rachel C. Johnson, Vernestine Kelley, Dr. Akida Kissane-Long, Dr. Laurie Love, Charlotte Lynch, Kelly Magee, Ann M. Phillips, Desiree Rideaux, Diana Sanchez, Debbie Simpson Hays and Dr. Abimbola Williams-Ajala. ([Click here to view the photo album](#))



Wright stands with Myrlie Evers.

### *Wright honors Civil Rights heroine Myrlie Evers for Black History Month*

On Monday, February 4, Senator Wright had the great pleasure of welcoming Civil Rights heroine Myrlie Evers to the State Capitol, where she was honored by both houses of the Legislature in celebration of Black History Month.

Evers, the widow of slain National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) activist Medgar Evers, raised three children after her husband's death, enjoyed a successful career and led the NAACP back to prominence and fiscal solvency

when it was struggling. In January, at the second Inauguration of President Barack Obama, she became the first woman and first layperson to give the Invocation at a Presidential Inauguration.

In addition to introducing Evers in the Senate and Assembly, Wright hosted a small reception where she was able to meet with members of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) and greater Capitol community. Her day was capped by a meeting with Governor Jerry Brown in the Governor's Office.

As Black History Month drew to a close, Wright and Assemblyman Isadore Hall, III -- who are both members of the CLBC and chair of the Governmental Organization Committee in their respective houses -- co-hosted a reception open to everyone in the Capitol community. The crowd was shoulder-to-shoulder at this festive event, featuring wines provided by the Association of African American Vintners (AAAV).

The AAAV is a non-profit organization based in Napa, California, which was founded in 2002 to provide a supportive network to African American vintners and wine industry members worldwide. They host tastings and seminars across the country to introduce consumers to wine.



Mac McDonald, Wright, Daniel Bryant and Assemblyman Hall at the Black History Month 2013 reception.

### **Senator tours SpaceX facility in Hawthorne**

Senator Wright had the exciting opportunity to tour the SpaceX facility in Hawthorne and meet astronaut Garrett Weisman, who flew on the Shuttle Endeavour. SpaceX is the world's fastest-growing provider of launch services for satellites and spacecraft. Wright, Assemblyman Steve Bradford and Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi also enjoyed a question-and-answer session with SpaceX staff.



SpaceX's Roger Gilbertson, Assemblyman Bradford, Holly Singh, Wright and Wright's district representative Alma Marquez.

### **Wright, BOE co-sponsor free tax prep event**

Senator Wright joined BOE Chair Jerome Horton in hosting a Free Income Tax Preparation and Family Services Event at the CSU Dominguez Hills Extended Education Center. Income-eligible families were offered free tax preparation assistance, and all participants received valuable information on low-cost and free medical services, job preparation, proper nutrition, discount telephone service and low-cost auto insurance.

## Compton urges peace, unity

Senator Wright addressed a crowd of 200 at the Compton Peace and Unity Festival, held at Leuders Park, emphasizing in his remarks that Compton is a place for everybody, not just for a particular race of people. Wright also thanked the event's organizers for their efforts presented them and the City of Compton Parks & Recreation Department with certificates of recognition. The non-profit group Angels for Sight was also on-hand.



Mayor Eric Perrodin, festival founder Rev. David L. Tate, Rev. Charles Brown and Wright.

## Legislative Update

The following are the bills which Senator Wright has introduced or co-authored for 2013. Clicking on a bill number will take you to more detailed information on that bill:

- [SB 41](#) (Wiseburn Clean-up)
- [SB 51](#) (Internet Gambling)
- [SB 60](#) (Elder Financial Exploitation)
- [SB 129](#) (Deaf Telecommunications)
- [SB 190](#) (Sports Betting)
- [SB 324](#) (The Forum – Tied House Exemption)
- [SB 363](#) (Gun Storage)
- [SB 366](#) (Traffic Court)
- [SB 387](#) (Once Through Cooling)
- [SB 389](#) (Emission Offset Credits)
- [SB 390](#) (Labor Withholding Violations)
- [SB 399](#) (DGS Emergency Billing Policy)
- [SB 430](#) (Student Vision Testing)
- [SB 458](#) (Gang Database – Parent Notice)
- [SB 470](#) (Economic Development Policy)
- [SB 496](#) (Whistleblower)
- [SB 530](#) (Expunging Criminal Records)
- [SB 546](#) (School Employee Termination Form)
- [SB 608](#) (Public Entity Property/Assessors)
- [SB 616](#) (Small Business Public Works)
- [SB 620](#) (Water Replenishment District)
- [SB 655](#) (Medical Fraud)
- [SB 656](#) (PUC)
- [SB 695](#) (Science Center Parking)
- [SB 736](#) (Power Plant Upgrade Permit fees)
- [SB 760](#) (Emission Offset Credits)
- [SCR 7](#) (MLK, Jr.)



Wright receives the ACEC Award from John Moossazadeh.

## Engineering companies name Wright legislator of the year

Senator Wright was honored to be named Legislator of the Year for 2012 by the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of California. The plaque memorializing this honor says that he was given the award "in recognition of his tireless and outspoken efforts to create jobs and improve California's business climate."

Last year Wright authored SB 1299, to make it easier for small businesses to comply with the myriad of new regulations imposed on them yearly.

## Wright gives business keynote

Senator Wright gave the keynote at the Business 2 Business Breakfast Roundtable hosted by Assemblyman Hall at CSU Dominguez Hills. Among the topics addressed were California's high unemployment rate and the onerous business regulations negatively impacting the California economy, as well as legislation he has authored to help improve the climate for small business, including last year's SB 1099 on regulations, as well as SB 964 and 965 on storm water permitting.



Wright speaks at CSUDH.

Co-Author:

- [AJR 13](#) (Campos: Job Corp).
- [SB 140](#) (Leno: Enforcement of Gun Laws)

## Officials help break ground for Harbor Gateway South "pocket park"



Wright, Assemblyman Muratsuchi, Congresswoman Waters and Councilman Buscaino walk with residents to park.

Senator Wright joined colleagues and residents to break ground on a "pocket park" in the Los Angeles community of Harbor Gateway South. Several years ago, residents noticed their neighborhood had a high concentration of registered sex offenders. A group of neighborhood activists began to take steps to find a vacant piece of land to convert into a park in order to invoke "Jessica's Law," passed by voters, which strictly limits where registered sex offenders can live. After nearly four years of hunting for a suitable property, activists and police found a City-owned lot at the intersection of Denker Avenue and Torrance Boulevard. Councilman Joe Buscaino filed motions in Council to convert the property into a park and, within two months, hosted the groundbreaking. "This is about everybody working together as a team to make something good happen," said Wright.

**New Frontier Dem Awards**



New Frontier Democratic Club president Patt Sanders, honoree Congresswoman Maxine Waters and Wright, who had the honor of introducing Waters at the club's Installation & Awards Dinner. Wright also provided certificates to all honorees.

**Hollywood Park bids adieu to Leo and Ivy Chu**

Senator Wright and residents and leaders of the City of Inglewood honored Leo and Ivy Chu for their many contributions to the City and their community in the years they have owned the Hollywood Park Casino, with a 'Thank You' farewell party held in the Breeders' Cup Room at Hollywood Park. Wright presented the couple with a framed Senate Resolution, and also gave a lovely flowering plant to Ivy, whose love for gardening and cooking is surpassed only by her love for Leo and her community.



Ivy and Leo Chu and Wright.

**South Bay Chambers name Wright Legislator of Year**

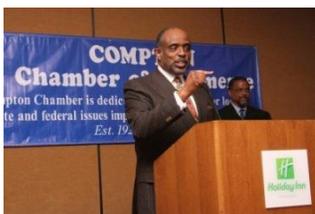
Senator Wright joined business and community leaders for the South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce Annual Installation Luncheon in Torrance, where he was honored with the Shaun Lumachi Legislator of the Year Award. Wright was presented the award by Senator Ted Lieu. He also received recognition from Congressman Henry Waxman, Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal, Supervisor Don Knabe, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and the City of Carson. In his remarks, Wright thanked SBACC for their commitment to the business community and congratulated outgoing president Patricia Donaldson and Creasie James of AT&T, who received the John J. Parsons Award.



SBACC's Joe Ahn and Wright.

**Senator joins Compton Chamber for annual installation**

Senator Wright joined 200 people for the Compton Chamber of Commerce Annual Board Installation, including Councilmembers, the City Clerk, City Treasurer, City Manager, the President of El Camino College Compton and numerous other community leaders. Wright provided certificates to the outgoing Chamber board and spoke of the importance of chambers of commerce to communities. Chamber officers were sworn in by Judge Kelvin Filer, and Congresswoman Janice Hahn gave the keynote address.



Wright speaks at the Compton Chamber Board Installation.

**Community Spotlight: Torrance**

Torrance, which is new to Senator Wright's recently redrawn 35<sup>th</sup> Senate District, is a city of almost 150,000 on 20 square miles along a mile and a half of beach in southwest Los Angeles County.

Consistently named one of the safest cities in LA County, it has a mix of residential and high-tech industry, as well as a wealth of parks, natural habitats and jogging trails.

The city was part of a Spanish land grant purchased by developer Jared Sidney Torrance, who hired renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr. to create a planned community. A town was founded and named in Torrance's honor in 1912, and incorporated in 1921.

Old Town Torrance features some acclaimed architecture

that is over a century old and is under review to become a historical district.

Torrance is the birthplace of the American Youth Soccer Association (AYSO). It is also home to Del Amo Fashion Center – one of the five largest malls in the country – and the Torrance Cultural Arts Center, with year-round events in music, ballet and theater. Torrance also hosts the longest-running city-sponsored military parade.



Torrance Cultural Arts Center.

Two of Japan's three largest car manufacturers – Honda and Toyota – have their U.S. headquarters in Torrance, which has weathered the economic recession better than many U.S. cities.

## 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 gives 'White Coat' keynote

Senator Wright gave encouraging keynote remarks at Charles R. Drew University's 13th Annual Saturday Science Academy II "White Coat Ceremony," honoring the program's young graduates. Wright's comments touched on topics including minorities in medicine, Cesar Chavez,



Wright gives Charles R. Drew University keynote address.

MLK, Jr., and the Japanese-American soldiers who served in WWII even as their families were held in internment camps.

### Senator celebrates MLK Day at annual Gardena parade

Senator Wright once again attended the Annual Gardena MLK Parade, which this year featured an appearance by the Power Rangers, much to the delight of young parade-goers who received autographed posters from them. Grand marshals for this year's parade were Marilyn White and Olympic track-and-field medalist Carmelita Jeter. Also on-hand for the event were the entire Gardena City Council, Assemblyman Bradford and Congresswoman Waters.



Wright celebrates with Purche Avenue Elementary School students in Gardena.

### Harbor Gateway Chamber speech touts manufacturing



CA Secretary of Veterans Affairs Peter Gravett and wife Blanche, with Lonna Calhoun and Wright.

Senator Wright addressed the members of the Harbor City/Harbor Gateway Chamber of Commerce at the organization's annual awards and installation luncheon, touching on the issue of manufacturing and telling the crowd, "We have to choose what kind of California we wish to have." The line from his speech most popular with the crowd of 150 was, "If it don't make dollars, it don't make sense." Congresswoman Waters also spoke at the event, held at the Palos Verdes Golf Club, discussing the "Fiscal Cliff."

### California State Senator Roderick D. Wright – District 35

Senator Wright represents the communities of Alondra Park, Carson, Compton, East Carson, East Compton, Gardena, Harbor City, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lennox, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Rancho Dominguez, San Pedro, Torrance, Watts, West Athens, West Carson, West Compton, Willowbrook and Wilmington.

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### Cancer Prevention Study

The American Cancer Society is seeking **Los Angeles County residents ages 30-65 who have never been diagnosed with cancer** to enroll in a historic study to change the face of cancer for future generations.

All you need to do is enroll, complete a survey and make an appointment at one of several local sites to donate a small blood sample. Participants will also complete periodic follow-up surveys about their lifestyle habits.

The study – CPS-3 – will help identify risk factors for cancer.

To learn more or enroll, [go on-line](#) or call 1-888-604-5888.