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Greetings!

Session has just drawn to a close for 2013, so I would like to tell you about the measures we successfully moved through the Legislature.

This E-Newsletter also covers the events I was able to share with residents of the 35th District in April through July of this year, delayed a bit in sending so that final results on all of our bills would be available to share with all of you.

This period included my Annual 35th Senate District Student Honors Luncheon, as well as the opportunity to once again honor the CIF Track & Field Champions at the State Capitol.

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



Wright presents a certificate to 2013 Boys State participant Jared Crofts.

Roderick D. Wright
Senator, 35th District

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Wright addresses Mandela supporters at Leimert Park celebration.

Wright joins community in celebrating life and legacy of Nelson Mandela on his 95th birthday

As Nelson Mandela lay in a hospital bed in South Africa fighting for his life, Southern California residents held a series of events in the Los Angeles area celebrating the Nobel Prize winner's life, legacy and 95th birthday.

On Saturday, July 13, Senator Wright addressed a large crowd gathered to celebrate Mandela's birthday and wish him well in his health struggles. He told them about Mandela's visit to the Los Angeles area 23 years earlier, when 90,000 residents turned out to see him. The festive celebration featured music, dance and spoken word performances, and speeches by African-American actors and community leaders such as "227"'s Marla Gibbs and Congresswoman Maxine Waters.



Famed South African musical artist Johnathan Butler performs at First Church of God in Inglewood.

That Sunday morning, celebrations continued at First Church of God in Inglewood, where Wright once again spoke, and famed South African recording artist Johnathan Butler performed. The weekend's events were coordinated by the Los Angeles Free South Africa Movement, headed by Waters.



Wright tours revamped Forum.

Wright tours revamped Forum

Senator Wright and some 120 other community leaders, staff and dignitaries were able to take a VIP Construction Site Tour of The Forum in Inglewood and attend a press conference on the project's status. Mayor James Butts and Madison Square Garden's CEO both spoke at the event, where The Eagles announced they will be the first act to perform at the revamped venue when they open their tour in January.

Mitchell rewards kids for scholastic improvements

Senator Wright was pleased to join Assemblywoman Holly Mitchell in celebrating the scholastic improvement of community children, as Mitchell hosted her 3rd Annual Christmas in July at Kenneth Hahn Park. The students received vision and dental screenings and school supplies, and enjoyed an obstacle course, a rock-climbing wall and lessons on healthy cooking and protecting the environment.



Wright, Mitchell, Assemblyman Bradford and a guest at Christmas in July.

Congratulations, Vonda!



Whittaker with winning entry "Sister Soldier."

The piece "Sister Soldier" by Vonda Whittaker of Inglewood was selected as the winner of the CA Contemporary Art Collection contest for the 35th Senate District and will be on display in the State Capitol through September of 2014. Vonda's mixed-medium works focus on faces and experiences in African-American culture and combine illustrations with beads and fabrics to give them a vibrant three-dimensional appearance.

CIF Track & Field Champions

This June, Senator Wright once again honored the CIF State Track & Field Champion girls' and boys' teams on the Floor of the California State Senate.

The champion Lady Jackrabbits of Long Beach Poly HS and the Cavaliers of Junipero Serra in Gardena both hail from the 35th District represented by Wright, a former track star who honors the winners each year regardless of hometown. Wright began the tradition in 1999 with State Supt of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson and Assembly Chief Clerk Dotson Wilson.

The champion student-athletes and their coaches were treated to lunch and a talk by 1972 Olympic gold medalist Eddie Hart. The teams and Hart each received a Senate Resolution, while individual athletes and coaches received certificates and championship ring vouchers.

The 2013 Legislative CIF Committee was comprised of Wright, Senator Ricardo Lara and Assemblymember Steven Bradford. Torlakson, Hart and Assemblymember Bonnie Lowenthal joined them in honoring the student-athletes.



The champion Lady Jackrabbits of Long Beach Poly HS.



Boys' CIF champs from Junipero Serra High School. [\(Click here to view the photo album for this event.\)](#)

Happy 60th Birthday, Mayor Butts!

Senator Wright joined Assemblyman Steven Bradford, City Council members George Dotson and Eloy Morales, Jr., Inglewood Chief of Police Mark Fronterotta and City staff for a surprise 60th birthday party for a very surprised Inglewood Mayor James Butts at Truxtons. Wright presented Mayor Butts with a Senate certificate to mark the milestone birthday.



Wright, Butts and Bradford.

Hawthorne's Holly Park Movie in the Park

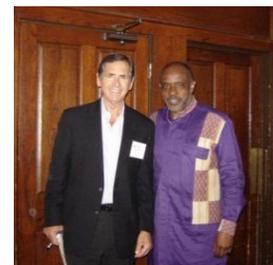


Wright with Katrina Manning.

Senator Wright joined the Holly Park Homeowners Association, led by president and founder Katrina Manning, for the organization's 3rd Annual Movie in the Park. The event seeks to bring together residents, law enforcement, community leaders and business owners and strengthen their sense of community. Attendees of this year's event were treated to a performance by the Hawthorne High School Band.

Wright, legislators brief LA Apartment Association

Senator Wright attended the Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles' 6th Annual State Legislator Legislative Breakfast at The Proud Bird Restaurant. Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg was the keynote speaker, and Wright, himself a longtime apartment owner and landlord, also addressed the group's members.



Wright with Steve Carlson of AAGLA.

Wright tours Kaiser facility



Wright with Kaiser's Dr. Nguyen.

Senator Wright was invited to tour the Kaiser Permanent Carson Medical Offices in Gardena, a new facility with a vision center, pharmacy, coffee shop, gift shop and conference rooms. Many more Kaiser facilities are scheduled to open within the next year. Dr. Brian-Lihn Nguyen, chief executive of the facility, provided Wright with a wealth of information on the complex.

Harbor City Neighborhood Council

Senator Wright spoke to the residents gathered at the monthly meeting of the Harbor City Neighborhood Council, led by chair Olive Reed. In well-received remarks, he addressed such issues as the State Budget, school funding, the push to corporatize education through charter schools, enterprise zones and the loss of redevelopment.



Senator Wright addresses Harbor City Neighborhood Council members.

Wright takes in Little Italy Street Fair



Councilman Buscaino is sworn in at the Little Italy Street Fair.

Senator Wright was on-hand to show his support at the swearing in ceremony for Los Angeles City Councilman Joe Buscaino, which was held in conjunction with the Little Italy Street Fair at Watts Towers. Council President Herb Wesson emceed the event, attended by dignitaries including Congresswomen Maxine Waters and Janice Hahn.

Watts Taskforce talks gang database

Senator Wright gave the Watts Gang Taskforce an in-person update on the State Budget and his CalGang Database bill, SB 458. He also took questions about funding for K-12 public school and economic development in Watts and discussed the impact of the loss of enterprise zones on job growth in blighted areas.



Wright discusses SB 458.



Wright joins residents for Del Amo Woods BBQ

Senator Wright attended the Palo Del Amo Woods HOA Annual BBQ organized by Jerrie Shepherd, an event which draws about 400 people each year in a community of 870 homes. The enclave is entirely on Los Angeles County land, and residents of the community of 1960s tract homes told Wright they prefer to keep it that way, rather than be annexed to the City of Los Angeles to the west or Carson to the east.

Wright chats with residents of Del Amo Woods at their annual BBQ.

Memorial Day 2013 in the 35th SD



Wright stands with Mayor Harold Hofmann at Lawndale event.

Senator Wright started Memorial Day by attending the ceremony at the Lawndale Memorial Wall in front of Lawndale City Hall. Some fifty people attended, including the entire City Council, City Manager, Community Services Manager and other City staff. Wright thanked the City for honoring its veterans and presented a certificate to Mayor Hofmann. As in years past, the Harbor Lights Dixieland Band performed for attendees.

Wright then went to the Hawthorne Memorial Wall in Memorial Park for a celebration of our veterans sponsored by the Hawthorne VFW Post 2075 and American Legion Post 314. Wright, Congresswoman Waters and Assemblyman Bradford all spoke, and Wright presented a commendation to emcee Jan Blomsterberg, outgoing VFW Commander and Life Member. There was a presentation of memorial wreaths as names of the deceased were read.



Wright stands with a representative of American Legion Post 314 and VFW Commander Jan Blomsterberg (L).



Wreaths honoring the deceased stand at the Inglewood Memorial Wall.

Finally, Wright participated in the 65th Annual Inglewood Memorial Day Service held at that Inglewood's Memorial Wall, which is also in front of City Hall. RDW thanked the assembled veterans for their service and the City for hosting the event, which featured music and readings. Wright's office was also represented at the VFW Post 2967 Memorial Day ceremony at the Wilmington Cemetery, attended by about 150 people.



Essay contest \$500 scholarship winners and presenting sponsors (L to R): Diamond Moore, Angela Gibson of AT&T, Michael Martin, Mike Harriel of the Southern California gas Company, Isabel Marie Monroy, Bobby Sears of the South Bay Workforce Investment Board, Compton City Councilwoman Lillie Dobson, Diana Borja Rodriguez, Senator Wright Assemblyman Bradford, Karnell Davis, Jr., Gardena City Councilman Dan Medina and Andrew Jimenez.

self-image and combat bullying, served as co-emcees for the event. A jazz band and dancers from the university provided the afternoon’s entertainment.

Every honoree received a Senate certificate and goodie bag, while six essay contest winners earned \$500 scholarship checks and dozens took home raffle prizes donated by generous sponsors, ranging from amusement park passes to flat-screen televisions and touch-screen PC tablets.

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

Student Honors Luncheon recognizes student achievement, improvement

In May, Senator Wright once again recognized hundreds of top students at his Annual 35th District Student Honors Luncheon, held for the second consecutive year at CSU, Dominguez Hills in Carson.

The elementary school, middle school, high school and adult school graduates selected by their schools were celebrated for their academic successes, community involvement and overall self-improvement.

Twin of a Kind, a dynamic duo comprised of twin sisters Desiree Glover and Erin Green who are on mission to share a message about positive youth



Senator Wright with Joseph Jimenez, Leatha Clark, Haily Garcia and Lt. Scott Gage.



Watts Men’s Health Fair ‘13

Senator Wright once again participated in the Annual Watts Healthcare Men’s Health Fair, not merely paying lip-service to the need for preventative health care, but leading by example. Wright had his blood pressure and blood glucose tested at the event, earning a clean bill of health. He thanked Watts Healthcare for providing quality service to the community and presented them with a certificate.

Wright visits with San Pedro YWCA meeting

Senator Wright surprised many with his visit to the San Pedro YWCA’s annual meeting. Wright delivered a certificate recognizing outgoing President Phyllis Weatherspoon, which was accepted on her behalf by former President Sonia Bailey. The non-profit is recently back under the direction of its former executive director Margaret Hernandez.



Wright and Sonia Bailey.



Greater Liberty Baptist Church celebrates 50 years

Senator Wright joined some 200 residents for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Greater Liberty Baptist Church in Inglewood, presenting the congregation with a Senate Resolution. Mayor James Butts and Councilman George Dotson also presented commendations to the church.

L: Wright with the ladies of Greater Baptist.

**Community Spotlight:
Harbor City**

Harbor City is a diverse community of some 36,000 residents on 2.58 square miles of land in the L.A. Harbor region of the City of Los Angeles.

The City of Los Angeles purchased the land which is now Harbor City, originally part of the Rancho San Pedro Land Grant, in 1906 as a negotiating tool to get the independent cities of San Pedro and Wilmington to agree to annexation. L.A.'s proposal to create their own port in Harbor City worked, and San Pedro and Wilmington were annexed by 1909.

Harbor City features several parks, one of which – Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park – earned a degree of notoriety when Reggie the Alligator was found living in its Lake Machado. Reggie was first spotted in 2005, but managed to evade capture until 2007. Having spawned a children's book and fan base, Reggie now resides at the L.A. Zoo.

Harbor City Park is home to the Harbor City Recreation Center and the Harbor City Childcare Center. The HC Recreation Center is an LAPD drop-in center with a gymnasium, a lighted baseball diamond, a soccer field, indoor and outdoor basketball courts, picnic grounds, a children's play area, a community room and a senior center.

The community is also home to a hospital and Kaiser Permanente medical offices located on Pacific Coast Highway.



Reggie the alligator gained fame as he managed to evade capture in Harbor City's Lake Machado from 2005-2007. He now resides at the Los Angeles Zoo.

Wright honors Rolling Hills small business leader



Wright honors small business leader Patrick Wilson.

Senator Wright once again honored a top local small business leader at the annual California Small Business Association "Salute to Small Business" Luncheon in Sacramento. This year's honoree for the 35th Senate District was Patrick Wilson of Rolling Hills, founder and president of Fast Lane Transportation, Inc. Wilson started as a truck driver in 1976. Over the years he grew his staff and added other owner-operators. The business now also includes a 50-acre intermodal repair and storage facility in Wilmington.

Wilson, the father of three children with his wife Nancy, somehow makes the time to coach youth sports and serve on a wide range of community and non-profit boards. He is a founding board member of the Wilmington Neighborhood Council and has served as president of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce since 2004.

Wright addresses ILWU convention

Senator Wright addressed ILWU Local 56 members as they opened their first-ever pre-bargaining convention in the Boys & Girls Club gym. Some 400 people were on-hand, including Long Beach Councilman Steve Neal, ILWU lead organizer Peter Olney, International VP Ray Familathe and his wife Cathy, So. Cal. District Council President.



Wright addresses the ILWU pre-bargaining convention.

Wright fetes Williams' retirement



Wright and Linda Williams.

Senator Wright attended a festive retirement party honoring Linda Williams, who provided 33 years of diligent service to the Los Angeles Unified School District. More than one hundred people came out to celebrate Ms. Williams, who received a Resolution from Wright thanking her for her contribution to the education of young people in the community.

Community marks Juneteenth

Senator Wright joined with the community for the 15th Annual Watts/Willowbrook Juneteenth Celebration, where he assisted with the flag salute and gave remarks on the meaning behind Juneteenth and the contributions of minorities throughout American history. Wright also provided certificates to recognize the event's honorees for their work in the community.



Stephanie Richardson, Les Jones, Wright, Deputy Karen Velasquez and Freddie Bryant at the Watts-Willowbrook Juneteenth event.

Wright celebrates first Taste of Hawthorne festival

Senator Wright gave an uplifting talk to the attendees of the First Annual Taste of Hawthorne Food and Music Festival held at the Hawthorne Airport, as he joined several dozen others on stage for the ribbon-cutting of an event two years in the making. More than 500 people came out to enjoy the event made possible by a council of Hawthorne residents and the Del Aire Neighborhood Association. Wright provided the organizing committee with a commendation to thank them for promoting all that Hawthorne offers.



Wright helps kick off First Annual Taste of Hawthorne Food and Music Festival.

Leadership Torrance participants visit Sacramento



Wright talks with Leadership Torrance program participants at the State Capitol in April.

The business and community leaders comprising this year's class of "Leadership Torrance" visited the State Capitol in April and met with Senator Wright, who told them a little about himself and his philosophy and gave an overview of the legislative process.

Community mourns Golden Bird's Zelma Stennis

Senator Wright and other community leaders came together at Holman United Methodist Church to remember Zelma Stennis, who passed away at age 90. Along with her husband, Stennis founded The Golden Bird restaurant 60 years ago. A generous supporter of local charities and the arts, she is survived by three of her four sons and their wives, 11 grandchildren, several great-grandkids and one great-great-grandchild.



Wright with Ambassador Sidney Williams and Congresswoman Waters at services for Zelma Stennis.

Wright gives Wilmington Chamber talk on energy



Some 150 people were on-hand to hear Senator Wright speak about energy at the Wilmington Chamber Breakfast, including several of our "Women of Distinction" and participants in the Wilmington YMCA's Youth and Government Program, as well as representatives of local refineries and energy-related companies.

L: Chair Patrick Wilson, Wright and Assemblyman Hall.

Legislative Update

The Legislative Session has come to a close for 2013. The final votes have been taken, and all that remains is to find out which measures which passed are either signed or vetoed by Governor Jerry Brown.

Since this is the first year of the two-year Session, there are a number of other bills which did not move beyond the committee process this year, and which we will look at closely during the interim. Many will be back in January after negotiation and amendment. You can click on any bill number to learn more about that particular measure, and to see if the Governor has since taken action.

The following measures authored by Senator Wright have been signed into law this year as of press time:

- [SB 41](#) (Wiseburn Clean-up)
- [SB 60](#) (Human Trafficking)
- [SB 324](#) (The Forum – Tied House Exemption)
- [SB 546](#) (School Employee Termination Form)
- [SB 817](#) (CA Lottery: Drawings)

Senator Wright also co-authored two bills which have been signed into law:

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

Another 15 bills had reached the Governor's desk as of this writing and were awaiting his consideration and signature. They are:

- [SB 129](#) (Deaf Telecommunications)
- [SB 363](#) (Gun Storage)
- [SB 390](#) (Labor Withholding Violations)
- [SB 399](#) (DGS Emergency Billing Policy)
- [SB 458](#) (Gang Database – Parent Notice)
- [SB 470](#) (Economic Development Policy)
- [SB 496](#) (Whistleblower)
- [SB 530](#) (Expunging Criminal Records)
- [SB 620](#) (Water Replenishment District)
- [SB 655](#) (Medical Fraud)
- [SB 656](#) (PUC)
- [SB 695](#) (Science Center Parking)
- [SB 818](#) (Alcoholic Beverages)
- [SB 819](#) (Breeders' Cup)
- [SB 820](#) (State Government)

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 tours Carson FedEx site

Senator Wright enjoyed a tour of the Federal Express Carson Automated Facility, part of FedEx's network of more than 500 facilities. The 280,000-square foot facility employs more than 170 package handlers and processes 15,000 packages per hour. Wright was joined on his tour by Assemblymembers Cristina Garcia, Isadore Hall, III, and Anthony Rendon. They were shown around the massive facility by Mike Yadon, Manager of Government Affairs for the Western Region.



Wright tours the Carson FedEx facility.

Harry Bridges Institute hosts Cesar Chavez labor tribute



Wright with (L to R) Harry Bridges President David Arian and Harbor Commissioners Rich Dines and Doug Drummond.

Senator Wright joined several hundred people for the Harry Bridges Institute's 19th Annual Cesar Chavez Labor Tribute Banquet. The Institute hosts the annual event to honor rank-and-file members of local labor unions. The Ports of LA and Long Beach are long-time sponsors of the event. Attendees included Port of Long Beach Commissioners Doug Drummond and Rich Dines. Wright provided certificates, as did Congresswoman Janice Hahn, Councilman Joe Buscaino and Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal.

LAX Chamber of Commerce celebrates 60th anniversary

Senator Wright joined some 200 people at the Ritz Carlton in Marina del Rey for the LAX Area Chamber of Commerce 60th Anniversary Celebration, where he presented a commendation to Chamber President Christina Davis and Board Chair Tony Palermo. Also honoring the group at this event were LA City Councilman-elect Mike Bonin and Senator Ted Lieu.



Christina Davis, Councilman-elect Bonin, Senator Lieu, Wright and Tony Palermo mark LAX Chamber's 60th anniversary.

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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