



RODERICK D. WRIGHT

REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT 25

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Upcoming Events...

August 25 – 25th Senate District School Readiness & Health Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Jesse Owens Park! Free school supplies and health screenings for students ages 5-14 who are accompanied by an adult. Bring your immunization card or shot record in order to receive vaccinations.

In our next E-Newsletter, the final outcome of our legislation for the 2011-12 Legislative Session!

Greetings!

As we head into the final month of the 2011-12 Legislative Session, we are excited to bring you the June/July 2012 edition of our 25th Senate District E-Newsletter.

In the State Capitol, we once again recognized our state's top high school track athletes, the Lady Cavaliers of Junipero Serra High School in Gardena and the Knights of Notre Dame in Sherman Oaks. That story is featured here, along with many of the wonderful events in which we had the opportunity to participate over the last two months.

Last, but most certainly not least, the final page of this newsletter is dedicated to the events honoring our deserving service men and women this Memorial Day.

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



In June, our Capitol office welcomed Boys' State participants from the 25th Senate District, including Benjamin Hopkins and Garrett Rule.

Roderick D. Wright
California State Senator

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Wright honors CIF track & field champions at State Capitol

Senator Wright was pleased to honor the 2012 CIF State Track & Field Champion boys' and girls' teams on the floor of the California State Senate on Tuesday, June 12. The teams were also congratulated by Governor Jerry Brown.

This year, the girls' title went to the Lady Cavaliers from Junipero Serra High School in Gardena, represented by Wright, while the

boys' title was won by the Knights of Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks. Both teams were first-time winners of the prestigious event. The teams each received a Senate Resolution memorializing their achievement, while the individual athletes and coaches received certificates and championship ring vouchers.

Senator Wright, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson and Assembly Chief Clerk Dotson Wilson, all former track & field athletes themselves, began the tradition of honoring the CIF Champions in the State Capitol in 1999. Wright and Wilson were joined in presenting this year's awards by Assemblymembers Steve Bradford and Mike Feuer, as well as 1976 Olympic gold medalist Millard Hampton.

Hampton won a gold medal in the 4x100 relay at the 1976 Summer Olympics, as well as an individual silver medal in the 200 meters. He was a favorite to make the 1980 Olympic team, before the U.S. boycott cut short his quest. He still holds the school record in the 100 and 200 meters at Silver Creek High School in San Jose. Wright presented Hampton with a Senate Resolution for his outstanding achievements and his leadership efforts as a role model for youth.

Later in the afternoon, the honorees had a surprise meeting with Governor Jerry Brown, who congratulated the students and took the time to answer their questions and pose for photos with the group.

Those making the trip for Serra included students Kayah Benita Aguda, Maya Danielle Brown, Chimere Crystal Ezumah, Alexis Breenna Faulkner, Magan Nicole George, Urina Harrell, Renetia Ashley James and Jade Alexis Pavajeau, athletic director Ted Dunlap and coaches Lori Lynn Smith-Thompson, Earl Christopher Faulkner, Derek Ahmad Knight and Donn Duke Thompson. Representing Notre Dame were students Joshua-Kekoa Farmer, Nicholas Holland, Maxamillian Leon, Eric McDaniel and Khalfani Muhammed, assistant principal Robert Thomas and coaches Joseph McNab, Shannon Genova and Nicholas Garcia.



Governor Jerry Brown joins Senator Roderick D. Wright and Assemblyman Steve Bradford for a photo with the student athletes and coaches of Junipero Serra High School and Notre Dame High School, the 2012 CIF Track & Field Champions.

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



Feuer, Bradford, Hampton and Wright.

The CIF State Track & Field Meet, held at Buchanan High School in Clovis, is the oldest high school championship in California and has produced more Olympic and World Champions than any other high school event in the world.

At the CIF Championships, student athletes from more than 1,300 California high schools – public and private, large and small – compete each year for team and individual honors. 2012 marked the 94th running of the event, established in 1915 and interrupted only by World War II from 1941-1945.

CLBC hosts African American Leaders of Tomorrow



Senator Wright poses with participants in the African American Leaders of Tomorrow Program at CSUS.

Senator Wright joined his colleagues in the California Legislative Black Caucus in welcoming some top high school students from across the state to the annual African American Leaders of Tomorrow Program at CSU Sacramento. Wright gave the group a well-received talk in which he encouraged the students to embrace the spirit of entrepreneurship and choose a path in life that works for them. He warned against letting outside influences steer them from their path to success.

Senator Wright joined his colleagues in the California Legislative Black Caucus in welcoming some top high school students from across the state to the annual African American Leaders of Tomorrow Program at CSU Sacramento. Wright gave the group a well-received talk in which he encouraged the students to embrace the spirit of entrepreneurship and choose a path in life that works for them. He warned against letting outside influences steer them from their path to success.

25th District Community Spotlight: West Athens

West Athens is a predominantly residential community of just under 9,000 residents in unincorporated Los Angeles County, located north of Gardena and east of Hawthorne near the intersection of the Century and Harbor freeways.

West Athens is home to Los Angeles Southwest Community College. Before heading to college, the community's students attend Washington Preparatory High School, which is Senator Wright's alma mater.

Law enforcement in the community of West Athens is provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, which operates the Audrey & Sydney Irmis Youth Activity Center there. The Center is home to one of the Department's Youth Activity Leagues (YAL).

YALs provide tutoring, computer training, cultural field trips, sports activities and character building activities for at-risk children ages 8 – 17. They also encourage educational achievement. To participate, students must strive to maintain a "C" average or be involved in the League's tutoring program.

West Athens is also home to an active community taskforce, which meets every week. The West Athens-Westmont Community Taskforce has brought together residents, business and

community leaders, elected officials, faith-based organizations, law enforcement, the school district, interventionists, social service providers and non-profit organizations from the area. The group is currently looking into becoming a non-profit so it can bring in resources to provide aid directly to the community.

Recently, when the football program at Southwest College was threatened by budget cuts, clergy members involved with the taskforce raised \$200,000 to save the program, considered a critical positive outlet for young men in the community.

The taskforce meets at the Chester L. Washington Golf Course, a key business in West Athens named after the renowned African-American journalist and publisher. The course was one of the first public golf courses in LA to allow blacks to play.



West Athens is home to the Chester L. Washington Golf Course, one of the first in LA County to allow black players.

Teacher Mary Boykin honored for 40 years with Inglewood H.S.



Senator Wright thanks Mary Boykins for 40 years' service to Inglewood public schools.

Senator Wright was proud to join Inglewood city and school officials in celebrating Mary Boykin, as she retired after teaching English for 40 years at Inglewood High School.

Boykin taught at Inglewood HS since three weeks after graduating from Pepperdine University in 1971. She sees a successful command of the English language as the key to success and tried to instill her students with confidence and self-esteem. She has also worked hard to help her students attain their dream of higher education degrees.

Boykin has been married to husband Ruben for almost as long as she worked at IHS, and together they are parents to Desiree, Serena, Ruben Jr. and Jamal, all of whom have been great supporters of her career.

Wright keynotes Gardena Chamber luncheon



Wright with Constance Turner of Southern California Edison.

Senator Wright was the keynote speaker for the Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce's State of the Business Luncheon, held at the Toyota Museum in Torrance. Event participants included representatives of the City of Gardena, Southern California Edison, Chase Bank, Honda Auto Dealers, Kaiser Permanente, Sam's Club and Toyota. Also

attending was Paul Bannai, the first Japanese-American ever to serve in the California State Legislature. Wright talked about the lack of vocational education in school districts, the state's infrastructure and how excessive regulations on business are preventing us from having a healthy economy. He discussed his legislation to streamline the implementation of new regulations, Senate Bill 1099, and received a standing ovation for his speech.

Non-profit breaks silence to prevent suicide

Senator Wright gave heartfelt opening remarks at an awareness symposium held by Kevin's Cause, a non-profit founded to "vigorously promote the prevention of suicide through education and awareness." The event focused on the theme "Let's Talk...Break the Silence." After being introduced by Carson City Councilman Mike Gipson, Wright used Junior Seau as an example of how a person can be a role model and outwardly seem to have everything going for them, yet ultimately take their own life. He urged family members of those lost to suicide not to feel guilty and dwell on "what ifs." He urged them to instead move forward and use their experience to help someone else. Kevin's Cause, founded in loving memory of Kevin Johnson, presented Wright with an award recognizing his support of their organization.



Kevin's Cause was founded in memory of Kevin Johnson, who died at age 30.

Living Legends Jazz Series highlights greats



Senator Wright & Linda Morgan.

Wright continued his longtime support of The Living Legends Jazz Series, hosted by Linda Morgan, by presenting certificates for July's honorees, Charlie Jene, Billy Mitchell and Gerald Wilson. Wright spoke to attendees about his fascination with jazz and the parallels between jazz history and U.S. history. Wright has honored all of the artists recognized in the series to date.

Wright salutes small business



Wright presents the "Salute to Small Business Award" to Courtney Matthias at CSBA luncheon.

On California Small Business Day 2012, Senator Wright honored a small business owner from his district who represents the spirit of entrepreneurship that is crucial to getting the local economy back on track.

This year's "Salute to Small Business Award" recipient for the 25th Senate District is Courtney Matthias, owner of Courtney's School of Dance in Gardena. The studio is home to the adorable young ladies who charmed the crowd at Senator Wright's most recent Holiday Celebration.

Courtney has been dancing since she was just 5 years old. The former Miss Amarillo and contestant for Miss Texas performed with the Lone Star Ballet as a child and has been teaching and choreographing since age 14.

Prior to opening her dance studio, Courtney was a dancer for arena football leagues and the Los Angeles Avengers. She has performed at live events and in videos with top artists such as Mariah Carey and The Pussycat Dolls and is now working to pass her love of dance on to the next generation of up-and-coming performers.

The California Small Business Association has held an award luncheon in Sacramento each year since 2000. This year, 73 legislators joined their honorees and business leaders for a luncheon hosted by Senate President Pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg at the Sacramento Convention Center.

Speakers included Assembly Speaker John Perez, California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones and Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom. The day's events also included networking opportunities and valuable information on issues such as improving logistics and reducing energy consumption.

Watts Men's Fair promotes healthy living habits



WHCC's William Hobson receives a certificate from Senator Wright.

Senator Wright attended the Watts Health Care Corporation's Annual Men's Fair, speaking to participants about his experiences with being a cancer survivor and urging men to get all of the medical exams available to ensure early detection of treatable diseases – especially a prostate exam. Wright also presented a certificate of recognition to the organization's president and CEO, William Hobson.



Senator Wright with Housing Authority CEO Doug Guthrie and Commissioners Lucelia Hooper and Margarita Garr.

Housing Authority opens job center

Senator Wright welcomed residents of the Imperial Courts housing development to the grand opening of the Imperial Courts WorkSource Portal, a one-stop center for individuals seeking job information and training. The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles runs three such centers, which seek to revitalize the economy and reduce welfare dependency. Wright encouraged residents to take advantage of these job resources and provided a certificate to memorialize the occasion.

Wright meets with Inglewood Chamber

Senator Wright visited with members present at the recent Inglewood Area Chamber of Commerce Board meeting. He discussed his legislation still pending this Session and gave a snapshot of what is happening in Sacramento. The board was very engaged in the discussion and pleased that Wright made himself available to answer their questions.



Wright addresses Inglewood Chamber members.



The Long Beach City Council is sworn in.

Long Beach swears in newly-elected City Councilmembers

Senator Wright was on-hand to witness the recent swearing in of Long Beach City Councilmembers, including incumbents Suja Lowenthal, Patrick O'Donnell and Dee Andrews and newly-elected member Al Austin. There was a full house, and Wright appreciated his warm reception.

25th Senate District welcomes Episcopal convention



Wright presents Senate certificates to Church of the Living God Bishops Harry Hendricks, Sr., and Randy Kelly.

Senator Wright was on-hand to greet attendees of the 11th Episcopal Diocese of the Church of the Living God's 83rd District Convention and Youth Seminar, hosted by Temple #44. Wright expressed his appreciation for the church's assistance with his annual School Readiness & Health Fair, to be held again this August 25. Wright presented certificates to recognize Bishop Randy Kelly, the presiding prelate, and Bishop Harry L. Hendricks, Sr., host pastor. Convention participants were appreciative of the biblical knowledge Wright offered.

VOTING RULES HAVE CHANGED!

If you have not voted since the last Presidential election in 2008, you must **RE-REGISTER 30 days before the November election**, or you will **NOT** be allowed to vote! Your voter registration form must be **postmarked NO LATER than October 22, 2012**. Please share this important information with your colleagues, friends, family and kids away at college!

Legislators bridge partisan divide for celebration of summer on White Suit Day

In keeping with an annual tradition, Senator Wright encouraged legislators, staff and others in the Capitol community to join him in donning their summer best on the first Monday in June. White Suit Day celebrates the tradition that whites are to be worn from Memorial Day until Labor Day and then put away for the winter. The light-hearted tradition provides Members in both houses of the Legislature an opportunity to bridge the partisan divide in the midst of difficult Budget negotiations.



Dozens of legislators from both parties joined Senator Wright and Capitol staff in donning their summer best for White Suit Day 2012.

Beacon House “Surfin’ Safari” dinner supports San Pedro recovery non-profit



Wright recognizes Chuck Keranan.

Senator Wright joined over 250 people in San Pedro in June for the 32nd annual fundraising dinner for Beacon House, a non-profit organization which since 1970 has helped over 5,000 men recover from alcoholism and addiction to find a new life in sobriety and service. Beacon House supporters enjoyed a night of surf guitar music and a capella songs performed by the program clients and stories of how Beacon House transforms lives. The program relies on friends from the faith community, public officials, neighbors, business leaders, program alumni and the families of current and past residents for financial support, to pay for program services, food and housing costs. Sen. Wright presented a certificate of recognition to Chuck Keranan, on his induction to the organization's Commodore's Circle.

Dr. Burke honored for decades of service to L.A. community

Senator Wright was proud to join the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors and community leaders in honoring Dr. Bill Burke for his decades of service to California and the Los Angeles community, as they renamed the Marina del Rey Promenade the Dr. William A. “Bill” Burke Marina Walk Promenade. In 1984, Dr. Burke was an official of the Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Two years later, he founded the L.A.

Marathon, which has since grown into one of the largest marathons in the world. Dr. Burke has served Los Angeles and the state on numerous boards and commissions in the ensuing decades, including the CA Fish and Game Commission, South Coast Air Quality Management District, CA Air Resources Board, L.A. City Fire Commission and the CA Coastal Commission. Wright presented Burke with a framed certificate to memorialize the renaming of the promenade, a landside pedestrian route around the marina with scenic views of the harbor.



Senator Wright presents a certificate to Dr. Burke.

“Christmas in July” puts focus on fun, fitness and education

Senator Wright joined at-risk youth from the community in celebrating “Christmas in July,” the second annual free carnival hosted by Assemblywoman Holly Mitchell at Kenneth Hahn Park to provide kids with recreational activities focusing on fun, fitness, health, education and literacy. Participating students, ages 7-15, were nominated by area schools.



Assemblywoman Holly Mitchell and Wright enjoy “Christmas in July.”

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.

Senator Wright joins communities districtwide in recognizing fallen soldiers on Memorial Day

On Monday, May 28, Senator Wright attended events throughout the 25th Senate District honoring those brave men and women in uniform who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation and our freedoms. The day began with a ceremony at the City of Lawndale's Veterans' Memorial Wall. Wright moved on to the Hawthorne Memorial Center for an event that has been hosted by VFW Post 2075 since 1931. He then attended the City of Inglewood's 64th annual Memorial Day service.

Over the course of the morning, Wright spoke of courage and sacrifice and singled out some of the men and women of the 25th Senate District who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan. Four of those young people attended Leuzinger High School: Lawndale's Army Specialist **Koran P. Contreras**, who died in 2011 at age 21, and from Hawthorne, Army Sergeant **Eduvigis "Duvi" G. Wolf**, killed in 2009 at age 24, Marine Lance Corporal **Ryan L. Mayhan**, in 2006 at age 25 and Army Corporal **Fernando D. Robinson**, in 2006 at age 21. Also recognized were Army Staff Sergeant **Anton R. Phillips** of Inglewood, who died in 2009 at age 31, and Army Sergeant **Thomas P. McGee** of Hawthorne, who died in 2007 at age 23.

Clockwise from top right: (1) A Boy Scout from Troop 283 leads Inglewood Mayor James Butts, American Legion Post 188 Commander William C. Murphy and others in the Pledge of Allegiance at Inglewood City Hall's South Mall;

(2) Senator Wright stands with Hawthorne Councilwoman Olivia Valentine at the city's Memorial Day celebration;

(3) Wright, Lawndale Councilman James Osborne, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Mayor Harold Hofmann, Mayor Pro Tem Larry Rudolph, Councilman Robert Pullen-Miles and Councilman Pat Kearney stand before the Veterans' Memorial Wall.



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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