



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

**Community Leaders to Dedicate Alfred Hoyun Song
Metro Station**

WHAT: Community leaders will unveil a monument and dedicate the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's Wilshire/Western Station in honor of the late Alfred Hoyun Song, the first Asian American sworn into the California State Assembly

WHEN: 11 a.m. Friday, October 3

WHERE: 3775 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles 90005

WHO: Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Second District
South Korean Consul General Hyun-myung Kim
Former CA State Assembly & City Council Rep. Richard Alatorre
USC President C.L. Max Nikias
Senator Alfred Hoyun Song Commemoration Committee Chairman Edward P. Roski, Jr.
USC Gould School of Law senior Debbie An

BACKGROUND:

In 2013, the 13 member Metro board formally renamed the Wilshire/Western metro station the Alfred Hoyun Song Station following a Metro Board motion

authored by Metro Director Mark Ridley-Thomas. Part of Metro's Purple Line, the station is located in the heart of Koreatown.

Alfred Hoyun Song

Born in Hawaii in 1919 on a sugar plantation, Song was the son of plantation workers who had emigrated from Korea. In 1940 he moved to Los Angeles, studied at the University of Southern California and then as the war broke out, attempted to enlist in the Navy. He was initially turned away, however, because he was not white—or as recruiters put it “not part of Naval tradition.” Eventually he was admitted into officer candidate school with the U.S. Army Air Corps with a letter from the U.S. Department of War directing that he be treated like “any other friendly enemy alien.” Despite these setbacks, he went on to become a second lieutenant.

After the war, Song became a lawyer and went on to have a successful practice. Denied the chance to buy a house in the valley due to discriminatory laws, he moved his family to Monterey Park, and it was there that he became active in civic affairs. After being named to the planning commission, he went on to the city council and then in 1962, raising only \$6,000 for his campaign, he was elected to the state assembly. Four years later, he was elected to the state senate, where he served three terms.

While his election preceded the movements of ethnic politics, he was active in fighting for minority rights—in particular outlawing harassment of voters at the polls. He authored a bill creating the office of the state public defender and another bill that overhauled the California Evidence Code, a guide to rules of evidence admissible in court. His crowning achievement, however, was the Song-Beverly Consumer Warranty Act which protected consumers from products that were “lemons,” by attempting to beef up warranties and end misleading advertising.

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