

MOTION BY:

**MAYOR ERIC GARCETTI, DIRECTOR DIANE DUBOIS,
& DIRECTOR DON KNABE**

Executive Management Committee Meeting

February 19, 2015

Item 48: Leahy Family Division

Today, we celebrate the incalculable impact of the Leahy family on transportation in Los Angeles County by dedicating Division 3 in Cypress Park as “Leahy Division 3.”

Division 3 is located at Avenue 28 and Idell Street in the Cypress Park neighborhood of the City of Los Angeles. Division 3 has been in continuous service since 1907, when it opened as a Los Angeles Railway “Yellow Car” division.

In 1942, Division 3 was one of two divisions to have the first women street car Operators in Los Angeles hired to replace men serving during World War II. Los Angeles was a transit industry leader in hiring women as replacement workers.

Bus operations at Division 3 began in 1945. In 1955, rail operations ceased and Division 3 became a bus-only facility.

The history of Division 3 cannot be told without the significant contributions made by the dedication and commitment of the Leahy family.

Art Leahy has worked in the transit industry for over forty-four years, thirty-one of which have been with the MTA. He started his career as bus operator #1078 at Metro’s predecessor agency, Southern California Rapid Transit District (SCRTD). While working, he earned his degree at California State University, Los Angeles and his Master’s degree at the University of Southern California. Mr. Leahy served as a bus operator, in community relations, management services, schedules and operations planning, operations supervision, as Assistant General Manager and Chief Operating Officer at SCRTD.

At the SCRTD is where Art Leahy met and married his wife, Leilia Bailey, a legend in her own right who spent twenty-two years serving in a number of roles including first female Operator post World War II and gradually worked her way to become the first female in the following positions: Division Dispatcher, Assistant Division Transportation

Manager, Division Manager, Transportation Superintendent and later Director of Transportation.

Art Leahy's career took him to serve as the General Manager for St. Paul Minnesota and Chief Executive Officer at the Orange County Transportation Authority where he established a successful track record of accomplishments in transportation.

Art Leahy returned to Los Angeles in 2009 to serve as the Chief Executive Officer for the LACMTA for 6 years. He arrived shortly after the passage of Measure R and has made extraordinary contributions to the organization, Los Angeles County and the entire region.

Even before Art came to work for MTA, he was part of the Los Angeles transit family business as both his parents worked at Division 3. Art's father, Arthur F. Leahy, took leave from the MTA to serve in the United States Navy. Upon his return from service in World War II, Mr. Leahy senior met a Division 3 street car operator named Ms. Janie Weir. They got married, and in 1949 gave life to Arthur T. Leahy. Combined, the Leahy's have served diligently for a combined thirty-five years.

And rounding out what has truly been a family affair, Art's brother Mike, has contributed twenty-five years of service to the agency.

Everything considered, the Leahy Family has served the County of Los Angeles for 113 years.

It is therefore a historic event to commend and honor the Leahy family for their tireless work and contributions to Division 3, LACMTA and Los Angeles County.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that MTA Bus Division 3 in Cypress Park be dedicated "Leahy Division 3" to honor the contributions of the Leahy Family to the transportation profession and most importantly to improving the lives of past, present and future travelers within Los Angeles County.

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