



NEWS

OCTOBER 17, 1996

CONTACT: GARY WOSK/JIM SMART
MTA PRESS RELATONS
(213) 922-2702, 922-2700
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHAT'S LUCK GOT TO DO WITH IT? SAYS MTA'S BUS OPERATOR OF THE MONTH

He doesn't carry around a lucky rabbit's foot or any lucky charm, but somehow Division 1 bus operator Nelson Grant has managed to defy the odds. He hasn't been involved in an accident for five years, quite a feat considering he navigates Line 18 out of Los Angeles, one of the busiest in the system.

In a normal year, he travels approximately 30,000 miles.

Not only has the Pomona resident conquered the common fender-bender, but also the common cold - he boasts a perfect attendance record. He should probably consider writing a book on the subject of surviving the traffic of L.A.

Those and other reasons are why Grant was recently named MTA's September Bus Operator of the month.

"Mr. Grant is one of the most responsible drivers we have in the system and he is accountable for his actions with the patrons and the other vehicles on the road, all which he performs in an exemplary manner," said Tony Chavira, Regional General Manager, Eastern Region at a ceremony to honor him Oct. 16.

The 23-year MTA veteran said his superior bus driving fortunes are not the result of luck.

More....

OPERATOR OF THE MONTH, page 2

"You have to be concerned about what you're doing and have pride in your work," Grant said. "You also have to possess plenty of desire, that along with patience."

Grant said what he likes most about his job is providing service.

"It's great having a job where people need your services. It makes you really feel like you've accomplished something."

Grant, 51, and his wife, Irma, have been married 24 years. The couple's four children, Nelson Grant III, Imy Stephanie, Desmond and Rozalyn, all attend college.

###