



NEWS

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METRO BUS OPERATOR SAVES LIFE OF NEWBORN IN SOUTH CENTRAL

Standing 6-feet 3-inches in height, brawny Metro Bus operator Michael Davis is usually heads and shoulders above the crowd, but it's what he did recently that really makes him stand tall.

Davis saved the life of a 1-month-old baby girl on Feb. 12 when the infant suddenly stopped breathing aboard his bus in South Central Los Angeles.

As the girl's hysterical mother looked on, Davis, an MTA bus operator since 1989, instinctively stepped in and calmly took control of the situation, applying the skills several family members in the nursing field had taught him.

First he checked the infant's airways for a blockage. There was none. He then gently lowered the tiny girl on his outstretched leg, lightly cupping her head in his huge palm. It probably seemed like an eternity, but after about five minutes and repeated taps on the back, the girl sprung back to life with a cough and huge grin.

Offering heartfelt congratulations was the crying-with-joy mother and the other passengers, all who wanted to shake the hand of the former warehouse manager.

Amazingly, Davis didn't tell anyone about the incident, not even his wife, Stephanie. If not for the passenger who brought the near tragedy to the attention of the MTA, the deed would have gone unrecognized.

"It wasn't that big of a deal," insists the soft-spoken Davis, whose only previous life-saving experience was resuscitating a puppy. "It's just part of the job and goes along with the territory. But it tops anything I've ever done."

MORE...

Page 2 Lifesaver

"You can never have enough Michael Davises on your staff," said Ellen Levine, MTA Executive Officer for Transit Operations. "He is a true hero in every sense of the word. Somewhere out there, a little baby girl has been given a second chance at life and a mother will forever be grateful to Michael and the MTA."

Davis, the father of two children, Trenell, 13, and Shantell, 8, was raised in South Central Los Angeles and now lives in Moreno Valley. He has been proclaimed Division 10's employee of the month.

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