



NEWS

April 3, 2001

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MTA's CREAM OF THE CROP HONORED
OPERATORS, MECHANICS AND SUPERVISORS RECEIVE SPECIAL AWARDS
FOR YEARS OF FIRST-RATE JOB PERFORMANCE AND GOOD DEEDS

The MTA has recognized the efforts of 60 of its top Operations division employees.

"Best of the Best" awards, presented for the second year in row, were given to 53 bus and rail operators as well as mechanics who achieved exemplary safety and attendance records and provided the best customer service possible over a five-year period beginning in 1995. In addition, mechanics needed to register a perfect attendance record to qualify.

Bus operators who received this award were selected from among the 4,200 bus operators who drive MTA buses, or the top 1 percent. There are 1,800 mechanics.

Seven employees, who acted courageously while on the job and at the same time provided extraordinary service, including Evelyn Davis, an MTA bus operator who delivered a passenger's baby boy last fall, received the "Extra Mile" award.

Among the other recipients of the "Extra Mile Award" were:

- Edgardo Dimson, bus operator: his quick thinking led to the arrest of four vandals etching graffiti on his bus.
- Eddie Gomez and Rosa Graciano, supervisors: reunited a lost 9-year-boy with his grandmother.
- Jose Hill-Soto, bus operator: flagged down LAPD officers when he realized a bus patron on board his bus was being attacked and robbed. Three suspects were arrested.

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- Ralph Lee, train operator, Metro Green Line: His phone call to Los Angeles Sheriff's Department led to the arrest of three suspects observed etching windows on his train.

Each "Best of the Best" honoree received a commemorative plaque, pin and a bomber jacket with the "Best of the Best" logo.

Forty-three Metro Bus operators received the award for the first time. Twenty-two bus operators who previously earned the distinction, and did so again, received a watch engraved with the program logo. In addition, for the first time, five Metro Rail operators and five mechanics were chosen for the award.

Davis, named the KNX Citizen of the Month, currently drives out of the Arthur Winston Division in Los Angeles, however, last September she drove out of Division 5 in Venice.

Any thought of just another September 12 day was quickly dashed shortly after Davis, a Gardena resident, set out on her Line 20 bus. At the corner of 7th and Hill streets, a woman on the bus suddenly went into labor.

In an instant, Davis, who quickly cleared the bus of passengers, took on the role of mid-wife.

"I didn't have the time to think about what to do," said Davis. "I just had to react. Minutes later, she held a new life in her hands. "He looked beautiful. His mom was fine and had a smile on her face. I gave her a hug and told her I was the godmother.

Davis would go on to nickname the child "Metro."

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