



(March 7) Eight Metro Bus operators who have demonstrated a commitment to safety, courtesy and outstanding service to physically impaired passengers were honored, Wednesday, during a ceremony at Division 3.

Each of the eight operators received a special pin indicating that they had successfully boarded 50 or more physically impaired passengers between July and December 2000. They were the first operators to be recognized in the MTA's new Accessible Service Milestone Awards Program.

Michael Priesont of Division 18 was honored for boarding 69 physically impaired passengers; Darrell Stephens, Division 18, boarded 67 passengers. Robert Jenkins, Division 7, boarded 55; David Farrington, Division 18, and Larry Thompson, Division 10, each boarded 54.

Ignatius Arellano, Division 18, boarded 53. William Herscovitch, Division 15, and Antonio Sanchez, Division 15, each boarded 51.

Recognition pins also will be awarded to operators who board 75, 100, 150, 200 and 250 physically impaired passengers. The MTA first began providing accessible bus service in 1980.

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Division 15 Operator Antonio Sanchez details program for reporter. PHOTOS BY JOSÉ UBALDO.