Deputy's Routine Fare Check Foils Robbery - Then He Runs Relay Race

(May 23, 2002) A routine fare check by a deputy sheriff patrolling the Metro Green Line, May 17, foiled a get-away by an armed robber who had stolen a bicycle.

Deputy Albert Calibet of the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau was on duty at the Wilmington station when he saw an 18-year-old man pushing a bike toward him. Calibet asked to see his ticket.

As the nervous teenager produced his fare, two other young men shouted from a distance that they had just been robbed. Calibet quickly detained the suspect, searched him and recovered a small semiautomatic pistol. Other deputies were nearby and came to provide backup for Calibet.

The deputies booked the unhappy suspect for armed robbery and returned the bike back to its grateful owners.

But Calibet's eventful day wasn't over. After finishing his shift at 2:30 a.m., he joined Sheriff's Transit Lt. Mike Herek, Deputies Amore Smith, Ban Nguyen, and Matt Haire later in the morning to participate in the annual Peace Officers Memorial Run.

Joined by co-workers, family, friends, and neighbors on bicycles and the Sheriff's Transit motorcycle escorts, the team carried the memorial torch from Compton Courthouse to the Century Sheriff's Station.

The annual memorial relay, which pays tribute to peace officers who have given their lives in the line of duty, included participants from all area police departments and Sheriff's stations as it wound through some 300 miles of Los Angeles County.

Information for this story was provided by Sheriff's Lt. Michael J. Parker of the Transit Services Bureau.

Back to MTA Report