

Quick-Thinking Operator Myra Jackson Rescues Gunshot Victim

By BILL HEARD and LISA HUYNH

(July 24, 2002) A full moon hung in the cloudless sky just before midnight, Monday, as Metro Bus Operator Myra Jackson piloted her Line 81 bus southbound on Figueroa.

As she approached the bus stop at 104th Street, a small green car pulled ahead of her. Suddenly, an occupant of the car thrust a pistol out the window and blazed away at a man standing on the nearby corner. The victim was hit several times in the legs.

As the car sped away, Jackson pulled her bus up beside the wounded man. Her sole passenger fled as the victim, a man in his early 20s, dragged himself aboard the bus and collapsed on the floor, bleeding profusely.

Jackson, who is assigned to North Los Angeles Division 3, closed the doors and drove quickly away, activating the silent alarm to notify Bus Operations Control of the emergency.

"At the time, I just did what I thought I was supposed to do," says Jackson, who joined the MTA in December 1997. "I didn't think about it, I just did it."

As she headed toward her layover zone at 117th Street, Jackson saw that the green car was headed back toward the bus stop, its occupants apparently unaware that their victim was aboard her bus.

At the layover zone, she worked with the BOC to summon paramedics and police. The victim was transported to Martin Luther King Hospital where he was reported to be in good condition Tuesday morning. Police are investigating the shooting.

"I'm proud of Myra because she's looking at the public as if they were family," says Division Transportation Manager Dan Frawley. "It's not often that someone would go to the extent that she did to ensure that somebody's life was protected."

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North Los Angeles Division Transportation Manager Dan Frawley and Operator Myra Jackson PHOTO BY LISA HUYNH