

Metro Bus Operator Victor Ortiz says good-bye to MTA after 35 years

By ALISHA GOMEZ

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Retiring is a big moment in an employee's life – especially if the employee is retiring from San Gabriel Valley Division 9.

Metro Bus Operator Victor Ortiz, a veteran of 35½ years' MTA service, was feted at a party, Aug. 9, hosted by Division Transportation Manager Mace Bethel. After a big lunch, the party continued with cake for everyone and special gifts for Ortiz.



Division 9 Metro Bus Operator Victor Ortiz and his wife, Mona, were all smiles at the division's retirement party. Division 9 Transportation Manager Mace Bethel, at right, gave Operator Victor Ortiz and his wife, Mona, tokens of appreciation, such as the corsage Mona Ortiz wears. PHOTO BY ALISHA GOMEZ

Ortiz was the only one of the four retirees able to attend the event. The other three retirees were Peter Garrits, Miguel Gonzales and Randa Reid. All three have been operators for 23 years.

Sector General Manager Jack Gabig was on hand to congratulate Ortiz.

"I bring congratulations from everyone at Gateway, including Roger Snoble and John Catoe to Victor and his wife, Mona," Gabig said. "We hope you remember us and visit on a regular basis."

"We're sorry to see you leave, but we always have part-time openings and we could use you," Gabig joked.

A time to be merry

For Bethel, it was a time to be merry. "Victor is one of our most senior operators. It's important that we celebrate his success."

Ortiz has no immediate plans, but eventually will visit Cooperstown, Ohio, where the Baseball Hall of Fame is located and where the Heisman Trophies are kept.

"I've never been outside of California, Nevada and Arizona and I really want to see the Hall of Famers," Ortiz said. "I'm very sports-minded."

Ortiz's wife, Mona, was all smiles, wearing a beautiful corsage given to her by the division. "It's a huge accomplishment for my husband," she said. "I am very proud of him. He is a very hard-working father and husband."

Married for 32 years, the Ortizes have four children and five grandchildren.

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