

## Division 8's Richard Brady Assists at Scene of Traffic Fatality

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Dec. 4, 2002) A Metro Bus operator provided emergency assistance at the scene of a fatal traffic accident in West Hills, Sunday morning, extinguishing a car fire and aiding the injured.

An 86-year-old woman, a passenger in one of the cars, was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver, her 86-year-old husband, died later at a local hospital. The driver and passenger in the other car were listed in serious condition at a Northridge hospital.



Richard Brady, a 19-year MTA veteran Metro Bus operator, was first on the scene at a West Hills traffic fatality.

Operator Richard Brady, 52, a 19-year MTA veteran assigned to West Valley Division 8, was driving a Line 165 bus westbound on Vanowen Street approaching Berquist Avenue. Only one passenger was on board. Suddenly, a silver 2002 Cadillac pulled out of Berquist and crossed into the intersection in front of the bus.

Brady hit the brakes and the horn and managed to avoid the car, but a maroon Corvette driving parallel to the bus ploughed broadside into the Cadillac, spinning it out of control. The Corvette came to rest against a curb.

### Scene of destruction

With a scene of destruction before him, Brady hit the priority radio switch to alert the Bus Operations Control Center. He yelled at a neighbor, who had come out of her house at the sound of the crash, to call 911.

Then, Brady ran to assist the people in the Cadillac. The airbags had deployed, but the driver – Stanley Dearborn – was only semi-conscious. His wife, Judy, lay beside him. The operator assured Dearborn that help was on the way.

Brady ran back to his bus radio to notify BOCC that, although MTA wasn't involved in the accident, help was needed. Then, he turned his attention to the people in the Corvette.

Smoke was pouring from the engine of the demolished car and both the driver and passenger, Walter Knuth, 39, and Cyris Maloo, 31, were badly injured. "The passenger was in worse shape and was still in the car, bleeding," says Brady.

### Doused the fire

The operator retrieved a fire extinguisher from his bus and doused the fire. He contacted BOCC again to warn dispatchers that a detour would be needed on Vanowen.

Paramedic units arrived at the scene to treat and transport the accident victims. Brady gave a statement to the police and returned to Division 8.

The sudden tragedy shattered an otherwise uneventful Sunday morning for Brady.

"I was relaxed and, before I knew it, all hell broke loose," he says. "My first concern was to make sure the bus was secure and then to render assistance to any of those involved in the accident. Unfortunately, it didn't work out with two of the victims, but maybe I helped the other two."

After the events he had just participated in, Brady was released from duty for the rest of the day.

"The situation could have been difficult to deal with," he says, "but we have a good support crew here at Division 8."

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