

Doo-Wopp was Retired Division 15 Operator's Road to Fame

By LISA HUYNH



Goodnight Sweetheart Goodnight

Goodnight, sweetheart,
well it's time to go,
Goodnight, sweetheart,
well it's time to go,
I hate to leave you,
but I really must say,
"Goodnight, sweetheart, goodnight!"

--The Spaniels, 1954/55

Skip Williams, above and second from right in vintage photo below, recorded several well-known songs during a music career in the 1950s and '60s. Williams retired from East Valley Division 15 in 1998 after 23 years of service.



That's not all: See [Celebrity Platoon Sergeant](#)

(Feb. 19, 2003) Skip Williams, a retired Metro Bus operator, devoted most of his life to his first love – singing and promoting musical acts.

In a musical career dating back to the 1950s, Williams has several well-known songs to his credit. The doo-wopp classic "Goodnight Sweetheart Goodnight," recorded with The Spaniels in 1954/55, was a smash-hit single. "Brand New Baby" and "Daddy Loves You," recorded in the '60s, also got air play nationwide.

His music career began when he joined the Army in 1954. He was in a band, but it didn't last too long. Months later, during a 30-day leave from the Army, he recorded "Goodnight Sweetheart Goodnight."

After he left the service in 1960, Williams put together another band called the Vice-Roys. The group only stayed together for a year.

Williams, 67, went on to pursue a solo career, recording "Brand New Baby" and "Daddy Loves You." Then, in the '80s, he collaborated with another artist, Moody Scott, to record a song called "Romeo and Juliet."

What he's doing these days

Although he enjoys singing, Williams' real passion is being road manager and promoting musical acts. He has managed groups like the Originals, the Ink Spots and others.

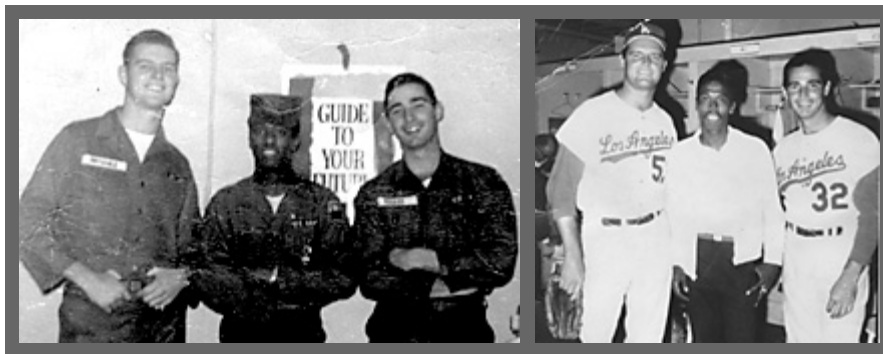
"Singing was fun, but I really loved managing," says Williams. I got to meet so many different people. It was great!"

Currently, Williams is promoting and traveling with bands and solo acts. He also visits Division 15 as often as he can in his spare time.

"I'm here at Division 15 more than I'm at home," says Williams. "The staff and the employees are fantastic. You couldn't ask for a better division."

He has made quite an impact on people, especially his friends at Division 15.

"We love Skip," says Metro Bus Operator Tony James. "It's always a pleasure to see him. He's a beautiful person and everyone around here loves him, even the new people. Even though he's retired, he's still an operator in heart, in spirit and in soul."



Celebrity Platoon Sergeant

In and out of uniform, Skip Williams became friends with two of the celebrity Army reservists – Dodgers pitchers Don Drysdale, left, and Sandy Koufax he trained in the 1960s.

Williams kept in contact with Drysdale after the Army. Drysdale would give him box seat tickets to the games, but Williams, who is not a sports fan, would always give the tickets to the operators at his division.

Even after Drysdale's death in 1993, Williams has kept in touch with his family.

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