

Division 8 Operator Robert Riccio Retires; Was 9th Most Senior

By LISA HUYNH

(June 20, 2003) West Valley Division 8 Operator Robert Riccio has retired from MTA after more than 36 years of service.

One of the agency's most senior operators, Riccio, 63, retired at the end of April and was given a farewell potluck dinner, June 13.



PHOTO BY LISA HUYNH

Division 8's Robert Riccio has retired as a Metro operator.

Riccio was ninth in seniority among bus operators. The three most senior operators are Division 18's Donald Dube who has 45 years' service, Division's 18's Jack Bailey who has 44 years and Division 5's Sterling Hampton with 43 years.

Although his retirement has been relaxing, Riccio says he would love to come back to MTA and work as a supervisor, dispatcher or clerk.

"The first couple of months of my retirement were nice, but now it's starting to get to me," says Riccio, who stopped by Division 8 recently for an interview.

With all this extra time, he cleans the house, does the yard work and has learned to cook.

'Would mess up boiling water'

"About a year ago, I would mess up boiling water, but now I'm cooking all kinds of gourmet meals for my wife," says Riccio.

Riccio celebrates his 40th anniversary, next month, and plans to take a drive with his wife to San Francisco for a weekend.

The Riccio's have three daughters. One is a nurse, another is a sales representative for a cosmetic company and one just graduated from Cal State Northridge with a BA in accounting.

"Like I've always said, one will take care of me medically, one will take care of me cosmetically and the other one will take care of me financially," says Riccio.

Riccio says life is good. "I have a wonderful family. I had a great career as an operator with MTA. Maria Reynolds and Grant Meyers are, without a doubt, two of the best supervisors I've ever had. What more could I ask for?"

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