

[Metro.net](#) (web)

## Resources

[Safety](#)
[Pressroom](#) (web)

[CEO Hotline](#)
[Metro Projects](#)
[Facts at a Glance](#) (web)

[Archives](#)
[Events Calendar](#)
[Research Center/ Library](#)
[Metro Cafe](#) (pdf)

[Metro Classifieds](#)
[Retirement Round-up](#)

## Metro Info

[Strategic Plan](#) (pdf)

[Org Chart](#) (pdf)

[Policies](#)
[Training](#)
[Help Desk](#)
[Intranet Policy](#)

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## Homecoming: Retirees Honored in Division 5 Ceremony

By RICH MORALLO

(Feb. 26, 2004) For a few hours they came home – home to their Metro bus division, home to the Chesterfield Square operating facility where they had spent half their lives transporting riders on the challenging streets of L.A.

Sixteen former members of Arthur Winston Division 5's transportation staff, some of them retired over a year now, returned to the division, Feb. 21, to receive a formal Metro sendoff.

"After 37 years of operating a bus, I'm still running a.m. and p.m. trippers," laughed retiree Walter Carmier, who said he now drives his two children to Saint Bernard High School.

Johnnie Abner, another retiree who returned for the noontime festivities, spends his time traveling and visiting his six children.

"I first came to Metro because I wanted a stable job," said Abner, who served the agency 24 years.

## Plaques and scrolls

Abner and Carmier, along with 14 other operators and Transit Operations Supervisor Michael Ball, sat with family members in the party-decorated training room. Union representatives and transit managers presented them with plaques and scrolls, and thanked them for a job well done.

Transportation Manager Patsy Goens went one step further.

"I challenge you to use your bus pass and observe our services," she said. "I ask your help in giving us feedback on how we can continue to improve, so this division can become Number One in the agency, and Metro the Number One transit agency in the nation."

"I drive my kids to school, and I ride my three-



Photo Credit: Rich Morallo

Retiree Walter Carmier was Arthur Winston Division 5's most senior operator. He joined MTA in July 1966 and retired last October with 37 years' service.

## Arthur Winston Division 5 retirees and their years of service:

Melvin Derden (23), Chivala Walker (23), Frazenia Hines (23), Johnnie Abner (24), Janice Coleman (12), Minnie Williams (12), Walter Carmier (37), Dorothy Thomas (23), Huletishe Wiley (23), Peter Williams (23), Cheryl Trezvant-Tolliver (23), Wordrow Williams (36), Yvette King-Wilson (23), Abidala Salimu (16), Randolph Wallick (23) and Michael Ball (30). Not able to attend the

wheel trike to the park,"mused Carmier, following the ceremony. "I'm still in transportation."

ceremony were Verena Stewart (23) and Evelyn Davis (19).