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Funeral Services Set for Former Division 9 Manager Mace Bethel

(July 20, 2004) Mace Bethel, former transportation manager at San Gabriel Valley Division 9, died, July 17, during a motorcycle trip to Bakersfield. He was 51.

A viewing is scheduled from 5 until 9 p.m., Friday, July 23, at Acheson & Graham Mortuary, 7944 Magnolia Ave., Riverside. Funeral services are set for 10 a.m., Saturday, July 24, at the Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church, 8351 Magnolia Ave., in Riverside. Burial will be at Olivewood Memorial Park in Riverside.

"During his 30-plus years at Metro, Mace developed an army of close friends and acquaintances," said Jack Gabig, San Gabriel Valley general manager. "He was a larger-than-life man who left a big impression on everyone around him. We are all deeply saddened by his sudden passing."

Bethel retired from Division 9 in early 2003 after 28 years of service. He joined Metro as a bus operator at age 21 and rose through the ranks to become an instructor, assistant manager and manager. During his career, he also had worked at divisions 1, 3 and 8.

Yvonne Brewer-Smith, San Gabriel Valley sector assistant transportation manager, attended a 1979 instructor's class with Bethel and worked with him over the years. "Mace was very knowledgeable and always shared his knowledge with others. I learned a lot from him and had the pleasure of being one of his staff members."

Bethel, who lived in Riverside, is survived by his wife, Barbara; 14-year-old son Aaron; his mother and brother.



Mace Bethel