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On hand to receive their special retirement gifts were Division 8 retirees Garland Claybourne, left, and Louis Fontanez, second from right. UTU representative Victor Baffoni and Transportation Manager Maria Reynolds presented the gifts. Not shown are retirees Charles Yurko and Franklyn Cooke.



PHOTO BY ERIC RAPP

Four Division 8 Retirees Combine a Century of Experience

By ERIC RAPP

(Aug. 24, 2004) Four West Valley Division 8 bus operators retired recently, taking with them almost exactly 100 years of experience and hard work.

Operators Louis Fontanez, Garland Claybourne, Charles Yurko, and Franklyn Cooke retired in August, and Division 8 held a small celebration for the retirees.

Each retiree who attended was presented with a bus stop sign printed with their name and badge number, a "Notice of Cancellation of Service" plaque, a scroll bearing the signatures of many of their coworkers, and a Division 8 ballcap.

United Transportation Union representative Victor Baffoni also presented the retirees with a jacket from the union embroidered with their name.

Says Division Manager Maria Reynolds, "they've all worked hard to get where they are, and they deserve to retire and relax."

Retiree Louis Fontanez agrees, and he says he's already been enjoying his retirement. "I get to sleep late every morning."

