

[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](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[E-Mail Webmaster](#)

Division 5 Operator Douglas Park, second from left, was one of seven Spotlight Award winners at the 2004 "Night of Stars" banquet. Honoring the winners were, from left, Deputy CEO John Catoe, Board Chairman Frank Roberts and South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey.

'Night of Stars' Honors 500 Employees, 7 'Spotlight' Winners

- Event honored 'best of the best,' says Board chairman
- LA City Council pays tribute to honorees

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Oct. 5, 2004) One by one they climbed the steps to the "Night of Stars" stage in Industry Hills, Oct. 1, to receive a gold medallion and the congratulations of the Metro leadership for a job well done.

On a night when the sky overhead was filled with stars, all attention was focused on the bus operators and maintenance employees – Metro's star performers – who met strict personal performance criteria for the past five years to earn their awards.

"Tonight we honor the best of the best...who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that all riders have excellent service that is on time and ultra reliable," Board Chairman Frank Roberts told the 575 honorees and guests. "Without you, there would be no Metro as we know it."

The awards presentation was the highlight of an evening that included a reception with appetizers and games at the Pacific Palms Resort's historic railway station, and a dinner under the stars at the Gazebo.

'A small tribute'

"Tonight is a small tribute for all the hard work you've done in the past," said Deputy CEO John Catoe. "This agency is only as good as the individuals – the Stars – being recognized tonight."

A resolution signed by Los Angeles City Councilmembers Martin Ludlow, Tom LaBonge and Antonio Villaraigosa congratulated the winners for their "outstanding hard work and positive attitude...(and)... dedication to serve the community...."

Each general manager introduced his or her sector's honorees, then gave special recognition to one of seven "Spotlight" winners. They were selected from among 27 employees nominated by the five bus service sectors, Metro Rail and the Regional Rebuild Center.

'Spotlight' winners

First to be named was Operator **Luduvico Castro** of Division 9, this year's Metro Bus Rodeo winner. General Manager Jack Gabig said Castro, a 32-year veteran, demonstrates superior leadership skills and uses his experience to mentor young operators. Castro will represent Metro, this month, at the APTA International Bus Rodeo in Atlanta.



Division 9's "Spotlight" winner, Operator Luduvico Castro, will represent Metro at the APTA International Bus Rodeo.

Operator **Carmine Zeccardi** of Division 15 represented the San Fernando Valley sector. General Manager Richard Hunt noted that Zeccardi is the epitome of safety. He has the maximum number of merits – 90 – and has had no Workers' Compensation injuries in his 28 years of service.

South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey selected Operator **Douglas Park** of Division 5 as the "Spotlight" winner. Park, she said, has been dedicated to excellence as both a public servant and as a member of the U.S. military reserve, having served in two major military operations.

Mechanic "A" **Michael Palmer** is a "renaissance man," according to the citation read by Deputy Executive Officer Milo Victoria, who heads the Regional Rebuild Center. Palmer has sought to master every aspect of bus maintenance while mentoring a team of mechanics.



Mechanic "A" Michael Palmer was the RRC's "Spotlight" winner.

General Manager Alex Clifford named Mechanic "A" **Mack Evans** of Division 1 as the "Spotlight" award winner from the Gateway Cities sector. Evans, whose seniority is exceeded only by 98-year-old Arthur Winston, has replaced more than 1,200 transmissions and diagnosed and repaired many more during his years with Metro.

Maintenance Specialist **Ronnie Burt** of the Metro Blue Line was chosen by Metro Rail General Manager Gerald Francis for his leadership skills, knowledge and expertise. Known as the unit's "go-to guy," Burt frequently provides on-shift technical



training support to fellow employees.

Westside/Central General Manager David Armijo named Division 6 Operator **Andrew Harris** as the sector's "Spotlight" award winner. Harris, a former "Outstanding Operator" honoree, often receives praise from passengers for his professional demeanor and friendly personality. He also is the winner of many safety awards during his 23 years with Metro.

The Metro Blue Line's Ronnie Burt is the "go-to guy" in maintenance.

Photo Credit: Bill Heard

| [Home](#) | [Phone Directory](#) | [Forms Online](#) | [FIS Online](#)