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Gary Clark, Metro Government Relations DEO, Died Wednesday

- Memorial service scheduled, 10 a.m., June 29, in Long Beach
- Clark was 'well-respected in Washington and Sacramento'



Gary Clark
1957 - 2005

(June 23, 2005) The Board of Directors adjourned its June meeting, Thursday, in memory of Gary Clark, deputy executive officer for Government Relations and Board Research Services, who died Wednesday at his home in Long Beach.

A memorial service is scheduled at 10 a.m., Wednesday, June 29, at Grace United Methodist Church, 2325 E. 3rd St., Long Beach (562-433-7401).

Clark, 47, joined SCRTD in April, 1988, beginning his career as a legislative analyst. He later was named Legislative Affairs manager, assistant director of Legislative Affairs, director of Board Research Services and, in 2002, deputy executive officer.

Prior to joining Metro, Clark worked in Access Services with the Orange County Transportation District (OCTD), beginning in 1986.

CEO Roger Snoble had known Clark from the time he was SCRTD's representative on the Executive Committee of the California Transit Association.

'A great loss to us'

"I was very impressed with Gary and we had a good relationship and a nice friendship," he said. "I could always count on him and we were able to accomplish a lot. He was well-respected in Washington and Sacramento. He's a great loss to us."

Over the past several years, Clark reported to Chief of Staff Maria Guerra.

"Gary cared a lot about the agency and about the fact that Metro was really important to the citizens of LA County," she said. "He has left a legacy behind for the residents of this county."

Deputy CEO John Catoe's friendship with Clark dates back 19 years from the time they worked together at OCTD. Clark's late father, Charles, then pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Costa Mesa, officiated at Catoe's wedding.

"When Gary worked in Access Services he would always defend the passengers' rights. He was very strong in his opinions," Catoe said. "In our lives, we often have people who cross our paths. He crossed mine and he had an impact. I'm going to miss him."

UCLA graduate

A second-generation Southern Californian, Clark moved to Los Angeles County from San Diego in 1963 and lived in Long Beach for the past 14 years. He earned a BA from UCLA in 1980.

During his career, he served on the Legislative Committee of the American Public Transportation Association. He served on the Executive Committee of the California Transit Association and chaired CTA's Legislative Committee for three years.

In his spare time, Clark was very active at Long Beach Grace United Methodist Church, where he served as director of music for 13 years. He also served on the church's Board of Trustees, Worship Committee and as a lay delegate to the California Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Clark is survived by his partner, Peter Cobo; his mother, Bernice R. Clark of Tustin; sisters Diane Kildun of Ventura and Kathleen Larson of Tustin; niece Meghan and nephew Clark Kildun of Ventura; and niece Kimberly and nephew Eric Larson of Tustin.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Clark's memory to the Malcolm C. Todd Cancer Institute, 2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806 (562-933-0910) or to the Community Center of Long Beach, 2017 E. 4th St., Long Beach, CA 90814 (562-434-4455).