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Blue Line's Anthony Precie Got Out Just in Time

- Boarded one of the last flights out of New Orleans
- Also: [Byron England's Search Ends Happily – LaShea is Safe](#)

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Sept. 6, 2005) While Byron England was frantically trying to contact his daughter in New Orleans, Metro's Anthony Precie and his wife, Robin, her brother and sister-in-law, managed to board one of the last airline flights out of the stricken city.

Precie, a Metro Blue Line assistant manager, had traveled to the Crescent City for a reunion with former shipmates of the USS Brooke, who had served together during the Vietnam War.

The reunion group was staying at the DoubleTree Hotel, next to Harrah's casino on Canal Street, when they were advised by friends who were veterans of Florida hurricanes to leave the city as quickly as possible.

So, on Sunday morning, a group of eight Brooke shipmates and two World War II veterans packed into a large van and headed for Louis Armstrong Airport.

Luckily, Precie and his family were booked on Southwest Airlines. Delta Airlines and other carriers already had cancelled flights.

Precie feels lucky that he and his party were able to fly out ahead of the storm.

"It was pretty hectic," he says. "The people left in the airport were moved to the Superdome because they thought the airport would be underwater."