

[Metro.net](#) (web)

#### Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)  
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/ Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

#### Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

#### Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk  
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

## Metro Honors Worker Killed During Red Line Construction



< Jaime and Sally Pasillas early in their life together. They were married for 29 years before Jaime was killed on February 15, 1997, while working on a Metro Red Line tunnel.

**Jaime Pasillas worked to 'build something of great importance' to Los Angeles, said Board Chair Gloria Molina**

By NED RACINE

(June 19, 2007) Honoring a life cut short during construction of a Metro Red Line tunnel, Metro unveiled a plaque on Patsaouras Plaza, June 16, commemorating Jaime Pasillas.

"Sometimes the unthinkable happens in life," Metro Board Chair Gloria Molina told attendees. "Tragically, Jaime lost his life Feb. 15, 1997, while working honorably to support his family and build something of great importance to the people who travel in Los Angeles."

"You can't replace a father, a husband, a friend," said Molina, who was the keynote speaker at the 11 a.m. ceremony. Gathered under a cloudless sky were Pasillas' wife, Sally, four children, two grandchildren, and other family members and friends.

Photos by Ned Racine



Supervisor Gloria Molina, Metro Board chair, joins Sally Pasillas in unveiling the plaque near the east sidewalk in Patsaurous Plaza. Molina and Sally Pasillas share a moving moment before the newly unveiled plaque. In addition to working on the Metro Red Line, Jaime Pasillas helped build the U.S. Gateway Center.

"It's just a wonderful gesture. . . he deserved a little recognition," said Sally Pasillas, who had been married to Jaime Pasillas for 29 years at the time of his death. "I think people should know that workers sometimes have to give up their lives to build these great buildings and the Metro System."

"Placement of the plaque fulfilled Metro's commitment to appropriately acknowledge the sacrifice and contribution of Jaime Pasillas, who also worked on the construction of U.S. Gateway Center," said Lynda Bybee, DEO Regional Communications, and a member of the subway construction team.



Molina and the Pasillas family congregate around the new plaque. From left are Molina; Patricia Pasillas-Lopez; her sons Jaime Alejandro Lopez and Jonathan Patrick Lopez; Steven Pasillas; Jacqueline Pasillas; Sally Pasillas; Jaime Pasillas, Jr.; Lynda Bybee, James Brown, construction safety manager; and Dennis Mori, executive officer of project management.

**'An enduring contribution'**

The bronze plaque, located on a column near the east sidewalk in Patsaurous Plaza, reads "In memory of Jaime Pasillas who worked honorably and left, in legacy, a loving family and an enduring contribution to the transit system of Los Angeles, when in the course of his work on the Metro subway, lost his life on February 15, 1997."

"I think it's a very beautiful way to remember my father and the contributions that he made to the city," said Steven Pasillas, who was 14 when his father was killed. Steven's older siblings joined in the event: Jaime Pasillas, Jr., Patricia Pasillas-Lopez and Jacqueline Pasillas. Jaime Pasillas' sister, Rosa Valencia, also attended.

Dennis Mori, executive officer of project management, who served as project manager for construction of the \$1.3-billion Metro Red Line North Hollywood segment, also attended, as did James Brown, construction safety manager.

"It's a way to remember and to acknowledge everyone who came from a different background," said Steven. "Everybody contributes to the city in one way or another . . . everybody puts their own piece of their life into this city that is Los Angeles. It not only represents our family, our father, it also represents everybody in the city who contributes."

At the request of the Pasillas family, the Los Dorados de Villa mariachis played El Sinaloense after the unveiling. Jaime Pasillas, an avid dancer, most liked to dance to that song.

**'Grateful and happy'**

"He was a very private person," recalled Sally, a Los Angeles native and graduate of Lincoln High School. "I don't think he would imagine anything like this for himself, so I'm really grateful and happy."

He loved Los Angeles, Jacqueline Pasillas told attendees. Steven remembers his father telling his children that although he was Mexican, "he was more American than we were."

Sally met Jaime in Mexico when she was 13 and on vacation with her family. "He asked me to dance, and I didn't want to dance with him. My Mom even asked me, 'Why won't you dance with him?'"

"Their relations continued across the United States/Mexican border until they married when Sally was just short of her 21st birthday.

"He was almost a comedian in his own right," Steven remembers. "Within his family he was a very loving man."



Lynda Bybee, DEO Regional Communications, and a member of the subway construction team, welcomes the Pasillas' family and friends to the unveiling ceremony on June 16.