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## 'The Best is Yet to Come,' says Metro's Oldest Employee

- 'Just thank God and hang in,' he advises

By JIMMY STROUP

(July 3, 2007) Ivan McCargo has fond memories of birthdays past, but none more so than his birthday in 1944 when, as a soldier, he witnessed the Allied victory over Germany and received a special gift.

"[My] most memorable birthday was during WWII, when I was in Europe. It was the fact that the war was over. After the invasion of Normandy, I had a birthday about a month later," he said. "It was the best birthday present I ever had."

McCargo is Metro's oldest employee. He turns 91 on July 5.

"No special plans, other than my birthday party. My wife will probably throw me a party," McCargo said. "It'll be my wife and kids and grandkids probably, just like last year. It's going to be a good time."

But for a man born in 1916, a long lifetime of children and grandchildren makes for what most would consider a large party of as many as 40 "close relatives."

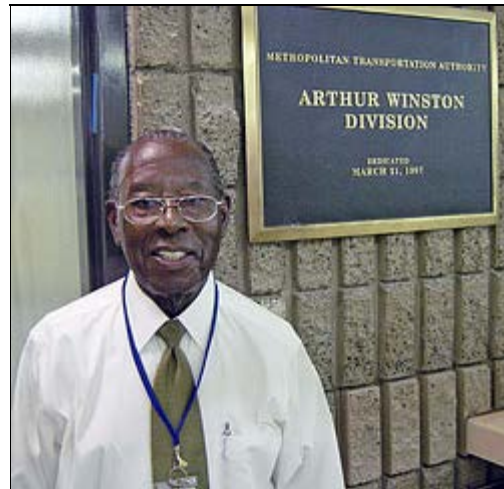
McCargo, who works as a Transportation Operations Supervisor at Arthur Winston Division 5, didn't really give being older than most of his peers much thought until recently.

## Official oldest employee

"It didn't even cross my mind until about seven or eight years ago when I met Mr. Winston and I found out his age and that we were pretty close together," he said. Arthur Winston's retirement in 2006 made McCargo (10 years his junior) the agency's official oldest employee.

McCargo doesn't have any monumental advice to offer those of us who might wish to see as many birthdays as he's seen, but does have some simple words that seem to have worked for him.

"Just thank God and hang in," he said. "My expression to all is, 'The best is yet to come.'"



Ivan McCargo is Metro's oldest employee. On July 5 he will be 91 years old. Photo by Jimmy Stroup.

This coming year McCargo is looking forward to watching the Metro Rapid system come into full use as part of Metro Connections. He said he's anxious to see the system working and thinks it will serve people better as far as making transit something that can work for them.

Though McCargo is oldest employee at Metro, South Bay Division 18 Operator Donald Dube is most senior with 48 years' service.

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