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Funeral Mass Held Monday for Retired Mechanic Rodrigo Tovar

- Known as an inventor who made special tools for bus repairs

(Oct. 30, 2007) A funeral mass was held Monday for retired Mechanic “A” Rodrigo Tovar, who died at a hospice Oct. 24 following an 18-month battle with cancer.

Tovar, 60, joined Metro in April 1984 and worked at Central City Division 1 and Crossroads Division 2. He retired last April from Division 2.

Tovar was known as an inventor by his colleagues, who remember the many special tools he devised for use in repairing and maintaining buses. At home, he built a solar-powered gate for his driveway and restored old Mercedes-Benz cars.

“He was a valuable guy to have around,” said Donell Harris, maintenance manager, who was one of six Division 2 employees who served as pall bearers at Tovar’s funeral.

Tovar also was a long-distance runner who participated in the L.A.Marathons. Despite his illness, he was health-conscious and urged his co-workers to eat the right foods, Harris said.

“He wanted us to be happy for him and remember him the way he was,” said Harris. “Up to the end, he talked about how he loved working on engines at Metro.”

Tovar, who lived in Pico Rivera, is survived by his wife, Rosa, and two sons.



Rodrigo Tovar was a long-distance runner who participated in the L.A. Marathons. He’s pictured here among the Metro employees who earned a medal in the 2003 Los Angeles Marathon.