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Services Scheduled for Alberto Garcia, Division 1 Operator

(Feb. 29, 2008) Central City Division 1 Bus Operator Alberto Garcia died from natural causes, Feb. 26, while beginning his shift. He was 65.

Garcia started in 1976 and was a full-time operator until he retired in 1999. Garcia came back to Metro and worked a part-time morning shift from 4 to 8 a.m. His combined service was 32 years.

"After he retired he missed it, basically, and liked the work and the people," said Robert Chavez, assistant transportation manager at Division 1. "He loved his work here."

Nicknamed "El Cubano" by his co-workers because of his Cuban heritage, Garcia was in early every day to get the coffee brewing for his friends at the division.

Services will be on Tuesday, March 4 from 4 p.m. to midnight (the Rosary will be at 7 p.m.) at "Funeraria del Angel" Mirabel Mortuary, 4677 E. Gage Ave., Bell, Calif. 323.560.2216.

Mass will follow on Wednesday, March 5 at 9 a.m. at St. Rose of Lima, 4422 E. 60th St., Maywood, Calif., with burial services following at Rose Hills Memorial Park, 3888 Workman Mill Rd., Whittier, Calif.

"It has hit a lot of people and had us all kind of down" Chavez said. "He was a fixture around here. It'll be strange to come to work and not have him here."

In a letter written to Garcia's friends at Division 1 by his daughter, Deborah Canosa, she said the love and support of his co-workers meant a great deal to her father and family.