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Services Scheduled for Bret Hawthorne, 17-Year Metro Employee

By NED RACINE, Editor

(March 25, 2008) Services have been scheduled this Friday for Bret Hawthorne, a stock clerk for Division 18 Carson, who lost a battle with stomach cancer yesterday.

A service will be held Friday, March 28, at 3:00 p.m. at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 41 East Market St., Long Beach, Calif., 90805.

Hawthorne, who was born in August 1955 in Freeport, Ill., joined Metro as an information clerk in October 1990. At the time of his medical leave in July 2007, Hawthorne was a stock clerk.



Bret Hawthorne

John Autry, a Division 18 Maintenance storekeeper, who worked on and off with Hawthorne for 15 years, remembered how Hawthorne revered his family. "His family was gold to him."

"Everyone who has come in contact with Bret knew they had met a special person," said Michael Winston, TCU vice president. "[He] always had a smile. He looked like he was in his 20s, but he was in his 50s. The guy looked like he was the [poster] for youth."

Hawthorne, who was 53, is survived by his wife Swarna and daughters Charel and Lauren.

Autry was struck by Hawthorne's concern for others. "He was an unselfish person. There was nothing he wouldn't do for people."

Winston said Hawthorne kept vague the reason for his medical leave. "He kept it private when he went out because he wanted everyone to feel that he was OK."

"You couldn't turn around without seeing him smile," Winston said. "His personality lit the room."