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Veteran Mechanic Succumbs to Unexpected Illness

(June 25, 2008) Ramiro "Ray" Estavillo, Sr., a 26-year Metro veteran mechanic at Arthur Winston Division 5, died June 21. He had been on sick leave since May. He was 74.

Those who knew and worked with Estavillo said he was both knowledgeable and easy going: "just the kind of guy anyone would have wanted to work with," said Mechanic "A" Tony Mundy, Estavillo's co-worker at Division 5.

"He was one of the most beautiful people you could come into contact with," Mundy said. "Ray was a family man; he loved his family. He always talked about his wife."

Estavillo spent the majority of his career on the graveyard shift, which his son said he preferred. Ramiro Estavillo, Jr., who works for Metro as a Maintenance Specialist for Red Line Fleet Services, said his father had always enjoyed working on machines. Before his career at Metro, Estavillo worked at Ford and General Motors before those companies shut down their Los Angeles factories.

Estavillo is survived by his wife Irma. In addition to Ramiro, Jr., Estavillo is also survived by daughter Edna and sons Victor and George.

The viewing is scheduled for Sunday, June 29 from 3 to 8 p.m. (Rosary at 7 p.m.) at the chapel of Queen of Heaven Cemetery, 2161 S. Fullerton Rd., Rowland Heights, Calif., 626-965-6212. Burial services will be Monday, June 30 at 1 p.m. at the same location.



Ray Estavillo, Sr. holds his daughter Edna in this photo, taken two years after he started working for Metro in 1972.