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Services Pending for Richard Au, 28-Year Metro Employee

By NED RACINE, Editor

(July 16, 2008) Memorial services are pending for Richard Au, an equipment maintenance instructor for Central Instruction—Maintenance, who died at Whittier Hospital Medical Center on Saturday, July 12.

Au, who began working for Metro in August 1980, died on his birthday. He was 66.

Au suffered a stroke in March 2008 and was moved to Whittier Hospital July 10 after suffering respiratory problems. Steve Mullaly, senior equipment maintenance instructor, visited Au the day he died. Au wanted to thank Metro employees for their support, according to Mullaly.

"He will certainly not be replaced, but he will be remembered. He was a well-loved guy," said Mullaly, who added that Au taught engine maintenance at Citrus College in Glendora. At Metro, Au's specialty was engine diagnostics. "He loved to share information and make everyone better."

"He was someone I could rely on to do any training," Mullaly said. "He not only knew engines, he knew coaches." Mullaly remembers Au eagerly shared his maintenance secrets with bus operators.

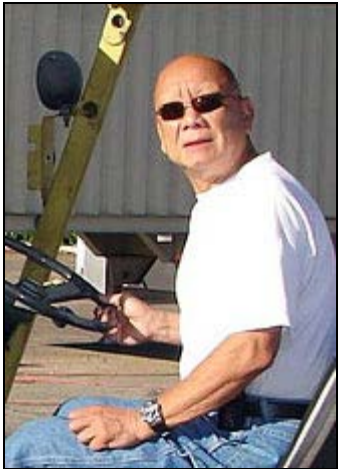
Chester Clark, mechanic "A," West Hollywood Division 7 and Au's nephew, remembers his uncle as someone who always tried to help people. Au, in fact, is the reason Clark came to work for the agency.

"He said, 'Hey, Kid, what are you doing with your life? Come to RTD—learn something and make a little money,' " Clark reminisced. He has now worked at Metro for 25 years.

"I don't think he met anyone he didn't try to help," said Clark laughing. He recalls his uncle's weekend 50-mile bicycle rides and love of country music.

Au, a resident of Downey, is survived by his wife Barbara, as well as a sister and brother.

"If ever there was a 'Tim the Tool Man' here at Metro, Richard would have been that man, as he owned every tool imaginable to make engine repair and troubleshooting defects easier," said Mullaly.



Richard Au

