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## John Thomas, 21-Year Metro Employee, Loses His Fight Against Cancer

(Sept. 11, 2008) John Thomas, a 21-year Metro employee, died Sept. 8 after losing a second battle with cancer. He was 70.

Thomas, a West Valley Division 8 bus operator, worked two stints for Metro. He began working for the agency in February 1987 and retired from Division 8 in February 2000. He returned to Metro in Sept. 2000 and worked at Division 8 until his death.

"We miss him," said Maria Reynolds, Division 8 transportation manager. "He was so courageous up to the very end. He was always as positive as he could be." Reynolds added that Thomas frequently contributed good ideas for improving service.

Francisco Escobedo, who worked with Thomas on and off for approximately five years, recalls the Akron, Ohio native receiving an "all clear" diagnosis after fighting esophageal cancer, only to have the disease return in July 2008.

Escobedo, also a Division 8 bus operator, recalls Thomas as "a very good guy; easy to talk to." Escobedo remembers Thomas being a big National Football League fan and active in efforts to bring a professional team back to Los Angeles.

Concerned about Thomas' financial situation, Escobedo led a successful collection effort among Div. 8 operators to raise for Thomas.

Thomas is survived by a daughter and grandson.

No funeral services are planned.



John Thomas is pictured here with Div. 8 Transportation Manager Maria Reynolds in November 2006 photo.