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Obituary: Services for Donna Remata will be held Sept. 25 and Sept. 26 in Simi Valley



Remembering
Donna Remata

Metro employees share their memories of Donna Remata

- Metro employees and friends are mourning the loss of fellow employee Donna Remata, a storekeeper at Metro Headquarters who was among the 25 passengers and train crew members killed in a Metrolink train accident September 12, 2008. *MyMetro.net* invites you to submit your thoughts and memories here. The collection of your memories of Donna will be printed and given to the Remata family in commemoration of our friend and co-worker.

[Submit your memory here](#)

Anyone you talk to will tell you that Donna's favorite catch phrase was "Marvelous"...
Ask her how her day was going and her response was always, "Marvelous. Everything was always, "Marvelous" with Donna.
She made a lot of friends riding in the first car of the Metrolink, and they always talked about books, movies, work, etc. It was like a "family on the train" that she made.
There was a deaf man that rode with them on the train, and Donna would write down the group's conversations so that he could also participate.
She was a kind, loyal, and caring woman...

— Paul Arndt

Couldn't believe my eyes when I saw her name on the news Saturday night; it couldn't be my "doll" Donna. On Monday I still wished it wasn't true, still hoping she would call me. . .
She was a great friend and an awesome worker. . . I miss her dearly, but she will always hold a place in my heart as my New Angel friend.

— Sandra Barillas

Jehovah God has promised...All those in the memorial tombs who have died can be restored to life on a earth without violence and wickedness or death. (John 5:28, 29) I hope to be there to welcome Donna. (Rev. 21:3 & 4)

— Nikki Bentley

I will miss Donna's laughter, so genuine and happy...

I will miss her being so helpful with a smile, so contagious...

I will miss the little chitchats when I come by to pick up an item or two...

You are already missed by many, Donna!

I will always remember you!

— Elizabeth Streegan

When they first started flashing the names of the victims, it turned out they misspelled her name to Donna Ramata. I told myself, that is not my beautiful, loving, smiling friend. So on Sunday when they once again flashed all the names that's when I realized it was my beautiful, loving and smiling friend Donna Lynn Remata who lost her life to a very tragic Metrolink train accident. I felt so lost and tears just started rolling down my cheeks. I wanted to reach to someone but I didn't know anyone as it was Sunday. If I could only make the night disappear to be Monday morning I would have, but the night turned out to be too long. Morning came and when I opened the Stationery double door, got in and saw other employees congregated by the window. I broke down and started crying that lovingly beautiful friend really was one of the victims especially when I saw the beautiful wreath with her smiling picture.

Donna was a wonderful person whose lilting voice booms in the Stationery room whenever she comes out and meets you at the window; there you will see her beautiful smile that goes all the way to her eyes. Never did I see any other emotions on her face except that beautiful smile. Never will I hear her say "Mahvelous, dahling" again.

Her children are too young to lose her but old enough to remember her wonderful memories and her husband Larry, please hold onto those precious memories. Donna is very much loved by everyone she comes in contact with. I am grieving her death.

— Fe Alcid-Little

I met Donna about 20 years ago when she was working 3rd shift at Division 8 when I was a truck driver. I would save my lunch break at the end of my shift and take it with Donna because she was always upbeat, positive, funny and easy to talk to. When Donna and I became Storekeepers, Donna would call me every morning to check on me and crack some jokes to start the day. On Friday I was at home watching TV when I got a call from Olivia Nelson-Richard asking me if I was watching the news, because there was a major Metrolink crash by my house and that Donna left work on that train.

My stomach dropped; Olivia asked me to go over to Chatsworth High School where the friends and families gathered to find out any information. I couldn't believe what was going on and that this was really happening. When I arrived the Chaplins were holding hands praying with everyone and as passengers returned to this area I just knew that Donna would turn that corner, and I would see her to give her a big hug. I will miss Donna's hugs, smiles, her jokes and her dedication to being MTA's best employee, Donna was a very special person. God Bless You.

— Michael Winston

Donna was very capable and proficient at her job. Additionally, she was personable and helpful in teaching MTA personnel how to order stationery items using the M3 system.

Her passing comes as a shock. She is certainly missed.

— Hal Flory

I remember coming to this lady last year for help with a stationary order; I called Donna every week since for help, and she was always there; she became my friend.

Donna was a kind, wonderful person that will be missed greatly.

— Carla Robinson Rhames

I didn't, unfortunately, have the privilege of knowing her personally, but from all that I have read and heard about Donna from others, she seems like a woman who enjoyed life to the fullest and was genuine in all of her dealings with everyone. This shows in all the great things that everyone has said about Donna and the impact that she no doubt made on everyone that

she interacted with. I can only hope to try to emulate her "marvelous" example (using Donna's favorite catch phrase as stated by Paul Arndt).

— *Abraham Lora*

I'll always remember Donna laughing and asking, "Why are you ringing that buzzer when you see me sitting here?!" As always, I replied, "I just wanted to see if it worked," or I might say, "I couldn't help myself, I had to do it."

I'd get the raised eyebrow then a smile. Donna was one of the kindest persons I've ever met. I'll miss her; yet I know in my heart and between the tears that her spirit is happy and that she'll always be with us.

— *Juanita Wright*

To share another side of Donna Remata, I recall meeting up with her one morning as I got a cup of coffee at the cafeteria. I snatched at the opportunity to ask Donna about a problem we were having with storage of marketing materials. On the one hand, we were ordering quantities that would provide price breaks and save money, but, on the other hand, the dozens and dozens of boxes that came in needed to be kept in an accessible and secure area. That had been in Stationery – when the quantities weren't so problematic. A recent reorganization of the shelves and pallets and materials at Stationery had been aimed at safety and regulatory compliance, but now there just wasn't any room for the larger quantities of materials.

In the cafeteria I appealed to Donna to store the large quantities of materials, and Donna insisted that there was no more room for them. I didn't budge. Donna held fast. I insisted that the money saved through quantity purchases was necessary, and Donna reiterated that only manageable quantities could be accommodated. I didn't want to accept these limitations and Donna didn't want to accept any more materials.

Stalemate?

We were speechless for a moment, each realizing that the other would hold firm and that neither of us would back down. Then we simultaneously broke into smiles, and merrily walked away together to our respective work. We left it at that, at least for the moment.

A few weeks later, Donna called me down to Stationery to show me that an area had been swept out for our use but pointing out some drawbacks, like exposure to elements and quantity accommodation. To help reduce the clutter, I identified some odds-and-ends and outdated items that could be set aside for recycling. I helped identify the remaining authorized stock materials, and we discussed the new quantities that would be ordered and storage possibilities. A few months later, Donna showed me new shelves that were set up for our materials. She had found room and accommodated everything we were trying to do. She did it quietly but drew me (and her manager) into the process. She didn't let the stalemate stand – she worked around the problem and then found a solution.

Since that time, I've occasionally chuckled to myself about how we handled that situation and each other. We were each adamant in our positions, yet able to set aside the impasse and remain cordial in every other way. And Donna went one step further – she saw to it that the problem was solved. It was good to be able to work with someone who possessed such strength of character. I feel like Donna brought out the best in me. I'll miss her.

— *Yvonne Price*

There are those people you come across in your day who just make it better because of their positive outlook on everything. Donna was one of those special moments for me. Whenever I came by Stationery to pick up some item for my department, I always found myself staying a moment, just enjoying the smile she put on my face.

People like Donna are put here by God to make us aware of the good, funny, positive things in the world. My tears flow because of the loss of such a great soul too soon, but my smile and laughter come about thinking of the memories of our enjoyable moments together. Never say goodbye, just till we meet again.

— *Alicia Morales-Rodriguez*

First of all, my deepest condolences go out to the family and friends that Donna (my sweetheart) came in contact with and touched so many of our hearts and lives. She will be missed forever by so many of us. God Bless Donna and her family at this difficult time.

When I first heard the news Saturday morning, I was in a state of shock and couldn't believe it.

I stopped what I was doing and began to cry when my son asked Dad "what is wrong," and all I could do was hug him. Always remember to tell your kids and family you love them each and every day.

I had the privilege of being Donna's supervisor when she came from Division 7 to work in Stationery. She was an awesome person and always had a positive attitude. She helped so many of us and made my job so much easier. When they transferred me, it was hard for me to say goodbye to Donna and Kenney because they were my work family. I stayed in contact with Donna just because she always made me smile.

Now I have to say goodbye to Donna again and it is so difficult. When I look up at the heavens above I know that Donna, our newest angel, is looking down on us with her smile.

Goodbye Donna for now but we will meet again. God Bless.

— Roger A. Potter

Every morning as I step into the train at the Glendale station, the first person's face that I would see is Donna's. She always sits at the same location: on either one of the four seats—at the first row to the right—in the last car (as we head towards Union Station). Sometimes half-sleep, at times wide awake—but either way she always wears a smile. Her face is so "angelic" that one cannot miss it.

We rarely get to sit next to each other but never fail to say our "Good Morning" and "Have a good day" greetings—no matter how crowded the train was. And every time I would ask her how is she, she would always answer "marvelous"!

For some reason, when I got off at the Union Station last Friday, September 12, 2008, Donna was still "sleeping" with her head leaning towards the window. I did not want to wake her up to say "Have a good weekend" for she looked like a baby sleeping peacefully, again with a smile in her face. How I wish I did....

— Evelina Del Castillo

To the Remata family:

Donna had such a great attitude and always had a smile to share with someone. She was always ready to help me when I was new to our new supply ordering system here at Metro, and no matter how much I bugged her; she was always patient and kind. She was also a great teacher. I had the privilege of having her as an Instructor in one of our training sessions.

I think her trademark saying was whenever anyone asked her how she was doing, she always responded back with, "Maaavelous". Donna was a truly a "Maaavelous" person who was much loved here at Metro and she will be greatly missed.

I pray that God's peace, love and grace will get you all through this difficult time.

— Deirdra M. Christian

Donna was always cheerful, with a contagious smile that could make an old crank like me smile. She was infectious with her marvelous attitude, always ready to help, even though she already had plenty to do helping others resolve their problems for the day. She will be remembered by all.

— Ferrol Yeakle

Donna had an upbeat personality, so kind, cheerful and pleasant. I will indeed miss her.

May the love and support of friends and co-workers provide much encouragement during this difficult time.

My prayers, thoughts and sympathy are with the family.

— Joanne Harper

Very nice person I had the pleasure of knowing, and may God keep her close to His heart.

— David Perez

I was saddened to hear of the untimely death of our friend, Donna. I remember her being extremely helpful when going to Stationery. My encounters with her were sporadic, but every time I went there, I felt like I was her very special customer.

It is a beautiful thing when people say such nice things about someone who briefly touches people's lives. Donna, God must've needed some storekeeper duties done to expertise in Heaven and called upon your smiling disposition and services. See you when I get home.

— Dana L. Williams

To the Remata family,

I'm extremely saddened by this tragic event. Nobody is prepared for these types of events. I offer my deepest condolences to your family. Although I didn't know Donna personally, I remember seeing her many times. Now and forever I will always remember her.

— Bill Balter

I worked with Donna at Division 8 on 3rd shift many times; she was our stock clerk. She was always smiling and made the long nights go by faster.

I will miss her.

Larry, please be strong, as time passes it will be easier; know that God has a plan that is hard to understand at times like these.

We are with you and your family.

God bless you.

—Tom Helliwell

To Donna Remata Family and Friends,

May God continue to bless you and your family at this sad time in your lives. She will be greatly missed by everyone that knew her, and I will continue to pray for each and everyone that had the pleasure of calling her a loved one or a friend.

— Karen L. Floyd

I will remember Donna Remata as a great friend and a great storekeeper.

I've worked with her side by side. This breaks my heart. She has always taken care of me. Always positive: "Annmarie, you could do it," referring to my work. I will truly miss her friendship, jokes, stories, and a shoulder to cry on.

My prayers and thought and sympathy are with the family

— Annmarie Arriola

It seems to be much harder to get through the passing of someone whom you've just seen a day or two before. On Wednesday, just a few days before the accident, I went down to Stationary, and, as usual, I was talking and messing with Donna. I asked her where Kenny was, and she said, "Whenever Kenny's out everybody always asks where he is?"

I said, "That's because whenever you're out, we all ask where you are!" So, that means, "We love you, too."

She looked at me, smiled and said, "Oh, okay, then," and belted out a hearty laugh and so did I. Donna was very nice and had a warm and endearing smile. She never hesitated to assist anyone. When she said, she would get back to you about something, she did!

It made my heart heavy when I saw the standing red and white, heart-shaped wreath, though, it was oh so beautiful. But, my heart really goes out to her children. I lost my mother at a very young age, and there is nothing like it! It changed me forever.

Hold on to her Love and Laughter, Words and Wisdom, and her Songs and her Spirit. Keep them close because you'll always need them to help you get by. May God bless her family with comfort and endurance to walk through the roads ahead. I will remember you!

— Wadree D-Smith

Donna was a thoughtful, considerate, understanding, congenial, and most obliging coworker. One would never leave her presence without receiving a cheerful, compassionate smile. She was a pleasant person, and I will miss her dearly.

— Carrie M. Bradford

All I can say is, people loved you and you will be missed. Our occasional meeting at work is more than enough to say you are a good person and a mother; you will be always be remembered in our prayers. As a friend and a co-worker, you left your good words, memories and things we will cherish.

— Mike Gaite

To Donna and her Family,

I remember when I was having trouble with the computer and needed to make a FAX cover sheet. Donna showed and told me how to do it and it came out perfectly. She always had a smile on her face. She was a loyal friend, and we would talk for minutes on end at Division 7, which is where I first met her. She will be missed very much.

— Marvin Watson

When I first met Donna, we became fast friends, when we found out we lived around the corner from each other. She would give me a ride home from the train station whenever I would take the early train. She loved her family and loved going to Henderson, Nevada, to visit her parents and relax by the pool—that was going on vacation for her. I am going to miss her laughter and “Hi, Doll, as she would always jokingly tell me. When I grow-up I want to be like you. Our prayers are with her family.

You rest now Donna, you are in a Marvelous place now.

— Marie Tervalon

I had the opportunity to really learn who Donna was this year. I went to submit a stationery order. I made the mistake of asking Donna if Kenny would be returning to assist me. She looked at me with a smile and said “You will have to deal with me until Kenny returns from vacation, take it or leave it.” From that day until her passing, we had the greatest rapport and shared a couple laughs. She will be greatly missed.

— Angelia Watkins

I was not an acquaintance of Donna, but I know she was a beautiful person. My family sends condolences to the Remata family; we are very sorry for your lost, and your family will be in our prayers.

— Sherri Adams

The first time I met Donna she had a big smile. Every time thereafter, she still had a smile. Truly a beautiful person to have met.

— Paul Rankin

When I first started working as a storekeeper, one of the first places I worked was at Stationary with Donna. I had so many questions and every time she had an answer. Every time I had a problem she had a solution. And all the time with a smile, willing to help me learn. She was a very patient teacher, a kind and caring person. Her loss to her friends, family, and Metro is truly a tragedy. She will be missed by all that knew her.

— Miguel Cortez

Hey Donna,

I met you at Division 7, and you always had a smile on your face. I was new to the division and you would always walk up to the E.R.S. window and open it with a smile and completely make my day! You were so excited when you bought your “flip” phone, you couldn’t wait to share with me the ability to make it dial with just a voice command. You are a wonderful person and will be missed as a co-worker who could light up a room with your genuine friendship and infectious smile :-)

Rest in peace as my prayers go out to your family for comfort.

— *Holly A. Lyons*

