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Longtime RTD/Metro Bus Operator Dies at 83

- Forest Churchill worked for the agency over 40 years

Forrest “Lucky” Churchill, who operated buses for RTD/Metro for 45 years, passed away the morning of Oct. 26 at a nursing home in Ontario, Calif. from the effects of Alzheimer's disease. He was 83.

Originally joining RTD in November 1951, when Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz ruled the television airwaves and the Korean War continued, Churchill worked for the agency until he retired in January 1991.

Churchill, known as “Lucky” by co-workers, rejoined the agency in August 1991 and retired a final time in January 1997. He drove only for East Valley Division 15.

Born December 7, 1924, in Indianapolis, Ind., Church moved to Upland, Calif.

Churchill, a World War II veteran, received his nickname in the Alutian Islands when a Japanese bullet parted his hair while he read a comic book.

Churchill, who was married six times, is survived by twin daughters Lynda Barr of Upland and Laura Glaze of Wenatchee, Washington, as well as son Michael Churchill of Hesperia, Calif. He is survived by six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Churchill's family will be holding an informal gathering to mark his passing on Thursday, October 30, 2008 at 3:00 pm. Information is available at 909.969.3916.



In early 1988, Forest “Lucky” Churchill was named “Your Favorite Operator” for Division 15 in a contest sponsored by the Los Angeles Kings. Churchill had already worked for RTD for 27 years.