

The hour-long ceremony included special guest speakers and a birthday party for the United States Marine Corps, which celebrated its 233rd birthday on Nov. 10.

Hailed by Metro San Gabriel Valley GM Jack Gabig as the "driving force" behind the annual San Gabriel Valley Division's Veteran's Day event, Maintenance Manager John McBryan, a Marine Corps veteran who served in Vietnam, welcomed all veterans in the spirit of the day.

Metro San Gabriel Valley GM

Jack Gabig



Chief Operating Officer Carolyn Flowers



Division 9 Maintenance Manager John McBryan



Metro Gateway Cities GM Alex Clifford

The purpose of the event, said McBryan, is to "respect and honor all veterans, some of those who have lost their lives."

Inviting the veterans attending the ceremony to be recognized, some 19 rose from their seats and were greeted with an appreciative round of applause.

Ceremony highlights

McBryan handed out red poppy pins, traditionally used to honor veterans killed in war. The tradition became standard during World War I, said McBryan. Wearing the poppy, he said, symbolizes the fields of poppies that grew over the graves of Napoleon's soldiers.

Speakers included Metro Chief Operating Officer Carolyn Flowers, whose father was a veteran. She spoke of her recent trip to Washington, D.C., where she visited Arlington National Cemetery, the Vietnam War Memorial and the World War II Memorial. "I felt very, very humble," she said.

Metro SGV GM Jack Gabig and Metro Gateway Cities GM Alex Clifford, a Marine veteran, also gave patriotic remarks.

Bruce Crum, asst. maintenance manager at Central City Division, set the tone for the event. Crum, who has worked for Metro nearly 30 years, is a U.S. Army veteran.

He quoted an unknown writer's words: "A veteran is someone who one time in his life wrote a check to his country and his flag, payment up to and including his life."

-- from Ned Racine



Division 1 Asst. Maintenance Manager Bruce Crum

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