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Sam Singer's office at RTD's Central Maintenance Facility, now the Metro Support Services Center, overlooked the Los Angeles skyline.

Services will be held Saturday for Retired Maintenance Superintendent Sam J. Singer Jr., 42-year RTD Veteran

- The Singer family spans 118 years in transportation careers: Singer's father was hired as a streetcar conductor in 1922 and retired as a Bus Operator at Division 10; son Michael is a 33-year Metro employee.
- Services are planned for 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6, at Sunset Hills Memorial Park, located at 24000 Waalew Road, Apple Valley, CA 92307 Information: (760) 247-0155.

By JOHN ROBERTS & HAROLD TORRES
Special to myMetro.net

(Dec. 4, 2008) Sam J. Singer Jr. passed away at his home in El Monte last Wednesday, Nov. 26. The Los Angeles native was born April 1925 and served in the Navy during World War II. He was 83 years old.

Following his Navy tour, Singer was hired as a mechanic "C" in June 1946 by the Los Angeles Transit Lines. Rising through the ranks in various posts and responsibilities, he retired from RTD 42 years later, in July 1988, as a maintenance superintendent.

Sam followed in the footsteps of his father, Sam Singer, Sr., who was hired in 1922 as a streetcar conductor by the Los Angeles Railway and retired 43 years later as a bus operator out of Division 10.

Sam's son, Michael Singer,
currently the maintenance



Mike Singer, left, shares grill duties with dad Sam at one of the many Metro Bus Rodeos where Sam cheerily volunteered.

manager in the Central Maintenance Shops, is a 33-year Metro employee.

A long time resident of El Monte, Sam was frequently seen at Metro's yearly Bus Rodeos cooking and serving lunch for the hundreds of Rodeo participants, including judges, competitors and guest.

Even after retirement, this was something he enjoyed doing and everybody looked forward to seeing him, said Harold Torres, assistant equipment maintenance manager who worked with Singer.

"I have had the privilege and honor to work with both Sam and his son Mike over many years," Richard Hunt, Metro San Fernando Valley General Manager. "They

both have given much to the RTD and Metro efforts. The Singer family's dedication and commitment to public transportation of over 118 years was and remains truly remarkable. Everyone who worked with Sam was touched by his kindness, his concern and caring spirit. Sam left his impact on our company, and it will never be replaced. He was a true friend and we will miss him very much."

Diane Crum, senior secretary in Maintenance Administration, remembers Sam as always with a smile and ready with a kind word.

Mike Stange, equipment maintenance superintendent, remembers Sam as a mentor, successful company man, strong Operations Department leader and friend. "He was brutally direct in business and in life, wise as Solomon and fatherly as Mr. Rogers. He expected no less than hard work, promoted company loyalty and was always available to the "younger person" in the company for good advice."

Said Harold Torres: "When it came to business, Sam was tough, direct and expected results. He had all the qualities that made him a great superintendent. For those of us that had the privilege of knowing him on a personal level, he was a man of heart and compassion who you enjoyed being around. What I will miss most is his spirit and friendship, they do not make them like him anymore."

Alex DiNuzzo, maintenance manager at Division 5, gives thanks to Sam for giving him the opportunity of becoming an equipment maintenance supervisor in 1982. "Sam was passionate about his job, was a great person to work for and understood how hard we all worked. He really looked out for all of us. You can say he was our Dad! Always with a big smile on him no matter how tough times were."

Sam Singer Jr. is survived by his wife, Gloria, of 58 years, his son, Michael, his daughter, Linda, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

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