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Retired TOS Irving 'Mo' Modell Dies at 80

- Services are 1 p.m. on Monday, April 6, at Eden Memorial Park, located at 11500 Sepulveda Blvd. in Mission Hills, Calif.

(April 3, 2009) Irving "Mo" Modell, a much-loved Transit Operations Supervisor who worked the dispatch window at East Valley Division 15 for most of his 30-year career, has died at the age of 80.



Irving 'Mo' Modell

Mr. Modell died April 1 at his home in Palmdale following a short illness, said Barbara Maycott, assistant transportation manager at East Valley Division.

Mr. Modell was hired at Southern California Rapid Transit District on July 21, 1958, and retired as a Transit Operations Supervisor on July 31, 1988.

His 30-year career included commendations for on the job courtesy in 1960 and 1962.



Irving 'Mo' Modell, front row, center, appears in this retirement photo printed in the September, 1988, edition of the employee publication *Headways*. Metro's new CEO Art Leahy, then RTD Acting AGM for Operations, is pictured, back row, left, along with RTD Board Director Charles Storing and General Manager Alan Pegg.

"He was well-loved by everyone," said Maycott. "Mo was like an uncle to me; he was my mentor," she said of Mr. Modell, who trained Maycott after she was hired as a TOS in 1984.

"He treated all equally, and loved to joke around," she said, adding his wonderful personality put everyone at ease. "One of his favorite lines to unsuspecting trainees was ' If I could spell insubordination, I'd write you up.' "

Mr. Modell and his family lived in Granada Hills during the time he worked at RTD. The family moved to Palmdale shortly after the 1994 Northridge earthquake, said Maycott.

He is survived by his wife, Rosalyn, and three sons, one of whom is Russell Modell, a TOS for Vehicle Operations at the Metro San Fernando Valley service sector.

Services will be held Monday, April 6, at 1 p.m. at Eden Memorial Park, located at 11500 Sepulveda Blvd. in Mission Hills, Calif.

--from Gayle Anderson