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Milestones:

Metro South Bay Operator Jack Bailey logs in 50 years with Metro and has been accident-free for an astounding 42 years.

- Photos by Rich Morallo

Veteran Operator Jack Bailey takes bows for 50 years of service and 42-year safety record at South Bay appreciation program

- [Safety Honor Roll](#): South Bay operators rack up 131 years of accident-free safety records
- Veteran South Bay operators Jack Bailey and [Donald Dube](#), each with 50 years at Metro, will be recognized at the Board meeting on Thursday.

By Rich Morallo
Community Relations

(July 21, 2009) Jack Bailey was 23 years old in 1959 when he joined Metro. "I was filling out applications for a job that week and then happened to walk into the Metro office on Broadway that morning and got hired as an operator."

Fifty years later Bailey is still with Metro driving buses and was honored for his dedication and service to the agency during an appreciation program, July 9, at Carson Division 18.

"I didn't think I would be with Metro this long but I enjoyed the job, the passengers and my fellow operators, so I decided to stay," said Bailey. The 72-year old operator also said the pay was good and he was able to provide for his family.

CEO Art Leahy congratulated Bailey and the 77 other staff members being

Veteran operator Jack Bailey gets kudos from CEO Art Leahy, Chief Operating Office Carolyn Flowers, UTU vice chair Butch Johnson and Metro South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey.



recognized, including 22 operators with 5 years or more of accident-free driving.

Leahy, himself a former operator, praised the staff for handling a demanding job where "...a person operates heavy equipment in an uncontrolled environment while conducting interaction with customers who want to know where the bus is going and what time the bus get there...."

"I want to thank Jack for his 50 years of service," said Chief Operating Officer Carolyn Flowers. "We cannot deliver public transportation without the work of Jack and all of the other operators at the agency," she said.

Bailey, who rides a motorcycle, is a firm believer in Safety's First and has been accident free for 42 years. "This is a huge accomplishment - Jack has been self-starting, reliable and great to have at the division," said Metro South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey.

A mentor of student operators for almost all of his 50 years, Bailey was complimented by UTU vice chair Butch Johnson during the program. "Upon my return to active driving, it was Jack who gave me my final evaluation on the road," Johnson revealed. "Jack gave me the confidence and encouragement and helped me tremendously to get back to driving," Johnson added.



Metro South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey and Chief Operating Officer Carolyn Flowers congratulate operators with safety achievements at festive celebration held at Carson Division 18. Pictured here are Robert Brown with 7 years, Harold Williams, with 27 years, and Carlos Calderon with 5 years.
Safety Roster: Operators with reach milestone safety records,

achieving from 5 to 42 years with no accidents or incidents.

42 * Jack Bailey * 29 * Shelton Jones * 27 * Harold Williams * 11 *
Bennie Harris * 9 * Jeffrey Locke * 7 * Robert Brown * 6 * John Payne 5
* Horace Kinney * Emiliano Chavez * Francisco Sanabria * Michael Palmer *
Lawrence Coar * Phung Dinh * Hiep Pham * Carlos Calderon * Victor
Andrews * Horace Leftwich * Luis Romero * Guadalupe Franco * Arturo
Avila * Oscar Mayorga * Robert Gregg.