

[Home](#)[CEO Hotline](#)[Viewpoint](#)[Classified Ads](#)[Archives](#)[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

- ▶ [Safety](#)
- ▶ [Pressroom](#) (web)
- ▶ [Ask the CEO](#)
- ▶ [CEO Forum](#)
- ▶ [Employee Recognition](#)
- ▶ [Employee Activities](#)
- ▶ [Metro Projects](#)
- ▶ [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)
- ▶ [Archives](#)
- ▶ [Events Calendar](#)
- ▶ [Research Center/Library](#)
- ▶ [Metro Classifieds](#)
- ▶ [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

- ▶ [30/10 Initiative](#)
- ▶ [Policies](#)
- ▶ [Training](#)
- ▶ [Help Desk](#)
- ▶ [Intranet Policy](#)

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Reunion: Metro's iconic mechanic Mack Evans, center, is joined at retirement party by friends and co-workers who worked together during the 70s and 80s.

Photos: Gayle Anderson

Div. 1 Mechanic Mack Evans Retires With 43 Years on the Job

- Dozens of current and former employees attend farewell party

By Laura Kloth

Staff Writer

(July 8, 2010) Leaving with 43 "very productive" years under his tool belt, Div. 1 Mechanic "A" Mack Evans was visibly elated at his July 7 retirement bash as scores of friends – including dozens of retired and current Metro employees – gathered to wish him all the best.

At 73, Evans becomes Metro's eldest ATU employee with the most seniority. His seniority is exceeded only by the late Arthur Winston, a former Metro Senior Service Attendant who retired from the agency at age 100.



At 73, with 43 years on the time sheet, mechanic Mack Evans is retiring as Metro's most senior ATU employee.

"This is amazing. I didn't know I had so many friends. Thank you very much," Evans said, noting that he was nearly moved to tears from the attention and gifts, which included a Metro fare box, an official proclamation and a commemorative union pin.

Div. 1 Maintenance Manager John McBryan listed the names of many retired employees who had gathered to congratulate Evans on his

successful career and enjoy a buffet of barbecue chicken, ribs and salad and an enormous cake.



CEO Art Leahy celebrates Evans' career: "... 43 years is really something!"



With 37 years on the job, Mechanic "A" LDR Yezid "Chico" Rubio, left, takes over the lead in seniority. Maintenance Manager John McBryan, right, takes note.



Mack Pack: South Bay commuters shared the ride on Line 442 to Downtown for 25 years. They are, clockwise,

Interim Metro Executive Director - Maintenance Alex DiNuzzo and Director of Central Maintenance Mike Singer were among those who touted Evans' "excellent accomplishments."

Singer called the honoree a "productive employee who you could really rely on," adding that he would remember Evans always working on transmissions.

In 2004, Rail EO Alex Clifford, who was then a general manager, named Evans as the "Spotlight" award winner for having replaced more than 1,200 bus transmissions and diagnosed and repaired many more during his years with Metro.

"On behalf of the MTA, the board, the taxpayers of L.A. County, and your co-workers, I'd like to thank you for 43 years," Metro CEO Art Leahy told Evans.

"Anyone who works in transit knows it's a great way to make a living, and have a career, but it affects the family and working hours," said Leahy. "Anyone who can do that after 30 years deserves a lot of credit, but 43 is really something."

ITS help desk processor Pat Clark presented Evans with a certificate from a closely knit band of commuters who shared the ride from South Bay to Downtown on Line 442 for 25 years.

Evans laughed when he recalled about how he made up his mind to take

from left, Judy Johnson, Evelyn Bausley, Arlene Bringier, Pat Clark, Di-Anne Cobb. Not pictured, Carol Jones.



ATU Local 1277 Vice-president Art Aguilar presents Evans with service pin designating lifetime achievement.

the bus after deciding to give his car to his college-aged God-daughter who was going to school in Irvine. "The bus stop was only two blocks away from my house, so I said, why shouldn't I take the bus?"

He also talked about landing his Metro job right out of the Army, and deciding to remain at Div. 1 throughout his career. "I always like the people I was working with, so what was the point in leaving," he said.

Evans has plans to move to Mississippi where he will live close to his three brothers in a newly

purchased 3-bedroom house. "I'm going to really get into gardening," he said, adding that he will miss his work at Metro.

The event was organized by a Div. 1 crew that included Linda Jackson, Sergio Perez, Monica Hayes, Louis Hayes and Ve Tran.



The long goodbye: Mechanics José "Cheto" Barbosa and Gus Sanchez inscribe personal best wishes on a farewell banner that stretched the length of the courtyard.