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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Metro Honors the Best of the Best at "Night of Stars" Ceremony

- Seven Metro Employees receive '[Spotlight](#)' awards

Over 130 Metro Operations employees were honored recently for their achievements over the past five years during a "Night of Stars" ceremony held in downtown Los Angeles.

Metro transportation and maintenance employees who met certain criteria including receiving no disciplinary action, no lost work-time due to injuries and no more than 30 days of absences over the last five years and zero traffic accidents received a special medallion presented by Metro executive staff.

Metro's "Night of Stars" event was held Sept. 16 at the Westin Bonaventure hotel in downtown Los Angeles. A total of 134 Metro Transit Operations employees received awards honoring their outstanding performance.

Metro also honored seven individuals who were selected as outstanding Metro employees and received the Metro Spotlight Award for going above and beyond the call of duty. This category was open to any Metro operations or maintenance employee with a minimum of six months on duty. Their performance exemplifies the agency's mission and core values.

The seven "Spotlight" award winners were nominated by the five Metro Service Sectors, Metro Rail and the Metro Central Maintenance. The winners received a commemorative plaque.

The seven outstanding "Spotlight" award winners are:

Metro Mechanic Minh Le, a 4-year Metro veteran credited for providing superior on the job performance and professionalism that all Metro mechanics should try to emulate. Le was honored by his superiors because he exemplifies what a superior mechanic he is on a daily basis. Le's dedication to the agency is outstanding and he is always willing to help others get the job done right. Le resides in Garden Grove. He represents Metro Central Maintenance.



Mechanic "A" Minh Le and Deputy Executive Officer Milo Victoria.

Metro Rail Transportation Operations Supervisor Patricia Rozema, a 15-year Metro veteran was honored for her quick thinking in thwarting what ended up being

an attempt on a train operator's life. It was through her quick thinking that assistance by the LASD was summons which resulted in the assailant running away from the scene without harming the individual. Rozema lives in Diamond Bar. She represents Metro Rail.

Metro Mechanic "A" Leader Juan Villalba, a 23-year Metro veteran, his duties include ensuring that morning and afternoon bus rollouts are successfully completed. He played a key role ensuring that Metro's Crossroads Depot Division in Los Angeles was able to provide extra buses earlier this year when on of Metro's other bus yards was being renovated. Villalba resides in Colton. He represents the Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector.

Metro Mechanic "A" Jesus Gonzalez, a 24-year Metro veteran serves as a mechanic relief leader at Metro's El Monte bus division. He is a skilled mechanic who thinks on his feet and has earned a great level of respect from both supervisors and management. He is admired for his reliability and leadership. Gonzalez lives in Baldwin Park. He represents the Metro San Gabriel Valley Service Sector.

Metro Bus Operator Vincent Franco, a 5-year Metro veteran has trained fellow bus operators on the new Metro Liner 60-foot articulated buses for the Metro orange Line. He has also become an ambassador for the Metro orange Line at many special events in the San Fernando Valley and is especially effective in the Hispanic community and has received numerous passenger commendations. Franco resides in Pacoima. He represents the Metro San Fernando Valley Service Sector.

Metro Bus Operator Melvin Braxton, a 35-year Metro veteran has spent his entire career at Metro's operating division in Venice. Considered a "go-to-guy" by fellow operators, he has maintained exemplary safety and attendance records. His team at the Venice division continues to be motivated by his positive and productive attitude and look to him to give them valuable advice. Braxton lives in Newhall. He represents Metro's Westside/Central Service Sector.

Metro Bus Operator Carl Johnson, a 3-year Metro veteran was honored for his caring attitude, his compassion and dedication to his job and his community. As an example, last summer, Johnson became concerned about an elderly woman who appeared to



Rail Transportation Operations Supervisor Patricia Rozema with Metro Rail General Manager Gerald Francis.



Mechanic "A" Jesus Gonzalez and San Gabriel Valley General Manager Jack Gabig.



San Fernando Valley General Manager Richard Hunt, left, and West Valley Division 8 Operator Vincent Franco.

be lost. He helped her aboard his bus and alerted the Bus Control Center. The woman has been reported missing and his alertness and actions resulted in her being reunited with her loved ones. Johnson resides in Carson. He represents the Metro South Bay Service Sector.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Digital photos of the spotlight winners are available. Call Rick Jager, Metro Media Relations at (213) 922-2707.

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Operator Carl Johnson and South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey.

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