



NEWS

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THESE SHOES WERE MADE FOR WALKING 2 JOBS SAYS JANUARY'S MTA MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Whenever physical fitness devotee Frank Archuletta visits the local sporting goods store in his Anaheim Hills neighborhood for a pair of work-out shoes he naturally is drawn to the cross-training section. However, when it comes to shoes for the job, well, it's quite another matter.

Archuletta, 48, works out of MTA's Division 18 in Carson but so far hasn't been able to find a work shoe with a flexible enough sole that can absorb the pounding that takes place going back and forth between Operations and Maintenance, which he started doing a year-and-a-half ago when the latter department was short-handed.

This flexibility is a prime reason why the 23-year veteran of the MTA, who started out as a bus driver, was named Maintenance Employee of the Month. He will be honored at MTA's Operations Committee Meeting at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 20 at the Gateway Center on the third floor in the Board Room.

Archuletta, who moved to California in 1973 from Pueblo, Colo., where he was raised, was nominated for the distinction by his boss, who says the senior transportation operations supervisor is one-of-a-kind.

"Frank has a complete handle on his job," says Robert Parreco.

MORE...

Page 2 January Maintenance Employee of the Month

Archuletta, whose responsibilities include monitoring inspections of brakes and the entire preventive maintenance program, payroll, ordering parts and injury reports, believes a positive attitude on his part cinched the honor.

"I try to make people look at things a little bit differently, and that includes anyone with a negative attitude," Archuletta says. "I try to bring out the best in them. I try to get along with everyone."

An immeasurable contribution is the way Southern regional general manager Ralph Wilson appraises the performance of the Maintenance Employee of the Month.

"Frank's cooperation, support and total effort has been very instrumental in the success Division 18 has enjoyed over the years," Wilson says. "His efforts have resulted in buses that are safe, reliable and clean."

Archuletta has been married for 22 years to Victoria. The couple, who love to travel, have one son, Ricardo, 14, who attends Rancho Junior High School.

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