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MTD HONORS LONG-TIME EMPLOYEES AT BOARD MEETING

Santa Barbara MTD honored four employees with a combined length of service totaling 130 years, at the bi-monthly Board meeting on September 8th. A fifth employee received the Employee of the Quarter award for April through June, 2009.

Assistant General Manager/Controller Jerry Estrada, himself a 20-year veteran of MTD, introduced three drivers and a staff member who received plaques and gratitude from the district and the MTD Board of Directors.

Arthur Burns, a 30-year veteran who originally hails from England and is known around MTD as a great singer, burst into an impromptu opera aria while thanking the Board. Raul Maya, a 30-year veteran, was also lauded for his excellent safety record. Louis Jones recounted stories of past passengers throughout his 35 years. While introducing James Haggerty, Mr. Estrada joked that he had been Mr. Estrada's own "mentor." Mr. Haggerty started at MTD as a driver in 1974. "It's been a great ride," he said.

Supervisor Mark Clyde, an MTD employee for three years, is this quarter's Employee in the Spotlight. Mr. Clyde owes this award to his competence, many passenger compliments and his leadership skills.

"It is a testament to this district that so many employees have worked here for so many years," said Mr. Estrada.

The Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District celebrates its 40th anniversary this year.

The MTD Board is made up of seven directors. The current directors, led by Chairman Dave Davis, have a combined wealth of transit experience which has proven to be a great benefit to MTD and the community of Santa Barbara.

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MTD, with its focus on passenger service, provides a reliable, safe, comfortable means of mobility to those who lack other transportation, including students, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. MTD also provides an attractive transportation option for commuters and shoppers who might otherwise drive a car. MTD provides over 25,000 passenger trips each weekday resulting in 22,676 cars being left at home on weekdays. MTD provided over 8,300,000 trips last fiscal year.

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