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Press Release

December 12, 2014

NYC Transit

IMMEDIATE

## MTA Honors 30 NYC Transit Workers for Acts of Bravery, Excellence

*Employees from Buses, Subways and SIR Recognized for Performing Beyond Call of Duty*

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) today recognized 30 New York City Transit employees for their acts of bravery and distinguished service that showed how they performed above and beyond their duties to help customers, their colleagues or the public.

The honorees, their families and co-workers, as well as top NYC Transit officials, attended the ceremony, which was held in downtown Brooklyn. Medals and commendations are awarded annually to NYC Transit employees for specific acts of bravery, quick thinking in potentially dangerous or fatal situations, and for excellent service in day-to-day operations.

“Every act we celebrate today shows us a glimpse of how we would like to be all the time – selfless, compassionate and courageous. I thank all our medalists for giving us that glimpse and inspiring us,” said NYC Transit President Carmen Bianco.

This year’s honorees include a train conductor and an operator working together to secure a train at a station and prevent the perpetrator of an assault from fleeing the scene; an off-duty special inspector who helped apprehend a man threatening subway customers with bodily harm; a bus operator whose immediate response to a co-worker’s heart attack helped save a life; two car cleaners who found an autistic boy reported missing from his home and notified authorities to reunite him with his family; and a Staten Island Railway conductor who helped calm a distressed woman and called for medical assistance.

Awards were presented in three areas:

- **Heroism:** For employees who perform specific acts of bravery, on or off duty, in the face of extremely dangerous circumstances that could have resulted in personal injury or death;
- **Commendations:** For job-related acts involving personal risk or requiring exceptional judgment. The employee’s decisions and actions indicate that, without quick thinking and corrective measures, highly undesirable and dire consequences could have resulted;
- **Distinguished Service:** For employees who have demonstrated outstanding efficiency that reflects the highest standards and ideals of a dedicated public employee. “Today’s program is about showing our appreciation for your notable deeds – not only to Transit, but also to your coworkers and our customers. You have responded to all types of occurrences, while still providing unparalleled service,” said MTA Chief of Staff Catherine A. Rinaldi.

Honorees:

**Heroism** (6 awards; 6 recipients)

William Kennedy	train service supervisor	Restrained customer from touching live third rail
Ancy Kernizan	bus operator	Safely evacuated customers during bus fire
Carlos Padro	special inspector	Assisted in arrest of man threatening subway customers with bodily harm
Robert Sanders	bus operator	Safely evacuated customers during bus fire
George Smith	bus operator	Safely secured customers during bus shooting
Jennifer Worthy	bus operator	Secured safety of customers near street shooting

**Commendation** (14 awards; 23 recipients)

Luis Albino	power distribution maintainers,	Rescued falling colleague who became unconscious while working on elevated tracks
David Soto	track workers	

Stewart Azzato		
Clyde Ferguson		
Naomi Andino	conductor,	Prevented perpetrator from fleeing scene of assault
Joaquin Lopez	train operator	
Carol Goring	car cleaners	Found autistic child reported missing
Deslyn Collins		
Robert J. Esposito	special inspector	Apprehended robbery suspect
Jamila Francois	bus operator	Safely evacuated customers during bus fire
Curtis Hall		
Kevin O'Neill		
David Rosa	maintenance supervisor,	Assisted customer who had fallen from platform onto tracks
Jose Salazar	track workers	
Jose Valette		
Steven Hodovanec	train operator	Reported unsafe rail condition to avoid potentially dangerous situation
Nathaniel Jenkins	bus operator	Revived co-worker suffering heart attack
Luis Manrique	train operator	Found child reported missing from home
Victor Nicasio	bus operator	Alerted emergency workers to pedestrian suffering seizure
Brett Peace	bus operator	Prevented customer in wheelchair from falling
Jason Prashad	conductor	Reported robbery in progress and assisted police in arrest
James Thompson	conductor	Calming suicidal woman on platform
Stephen Ward	bus operator	Performed CPR on elderly customer who became ill on bus

**Distinguished service** (1 award; 1 recipient)

Frank Gurrera	machinist	MTA employee for nearly 45 years
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Nominations for honorees were sent to the MTA's Employee Recognition Program Committee, which selected employees that met the committee's criteria in the above mentioned categories.