

Kitsap Transit

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PRESS RELEASE

Bus Operator Receives Safe Driver of Year Award for Pacific Region

National Safety Council honors Val Quill for dedication to safe driving

June 10, 2022

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BREMERTON, Wash. – Val Quill, Kitsap Transit’s most senior bus operator, has been selected as the 2022 Joseph M. Kaplan Safe Driver of the Year for the Pacific Region by the National Safety Council. The award recognizes outstanding drivers who have driven a significant number of miles and years behind the wheel without incurring a preventable crash.

Quill, who joined Kitsap Transit in 1985, was named by the Safety Council as the top driver in the Pacific Region, which covers Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington.



Val Quill (left) has driven for Kitsap Transit (KT) for more than 36 years. Her son, Damien Sabado (right), has driven for KT for 11 years.

Quill has racked up many accomplishments and honors at Kitsap Transit, including 11 Driver of the Month awards and Driver of the Year in 2004. She’s a regular bus roadeo competitor at local, state and international levels.

“Val sets the highest standard of excellence for our Kitsap Transit operators,” said John Clauson, Executive Director of Kitsap Transit. “In addition to her safe driving record, she’s a reliable, friendly face to our customers and dedicated employee who shares her wisdom and expertise with fellow operators. We’re proud of her accomplishments and doubly proud that she is being honored with this national safety award.”

Nominees for the Joseph M. Kaplan Safe Driver of the Year award must be full-time drivers whose primary responsibility is operating buses, trucks, passenger cars or other motor vehicles and meet the minimum requirement of 15 years or 250,000 miles driven without a preventable incident.

Quill's mother was a Kitsap Transit bus operator, as is her son, Damien Sabado. Quill mentors new driver trainees and has been a volunteer firefighter for Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue for 39 years.

Last year the Washington State Transit Insurance Pool (WSTIP) recognized Quill's more than 35 years of consecutive safe driving.

Quill was surprised by this week's news that she was receiving a national safe driving award.

"It seems unbelievable to me," she said. "There are a lot of good drivers out there."

In September – the same month she turns 62 – Quill will join top drivers from the nine other geographic regions at a National Awards Celebration in San Diego. She will receive a personalized medallion and custom-made etched crystal award.

Quill shares the secrets of her success with her mentees, including this one: "The main thing is I leave a lot of room between the bus and the vehicles in front of me."

About Kitsap Transit

Kitsap Transit has been operating friendly, convenient public transit since 1983. The transit agency for Kitsap County carried more than 3.84 million riders in 2019 across a multi-modal system of routed buses, passenger ferries, paratransit shuttles, vanpools, and worker/driver buses for the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

Hablar español?

Por favor llame al 1-800-501-7433 durante las horas normales de oficina. El personal de servicios al cliente se conectará con un intérprete para ayudarle a responder sus preguntas.

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