

SOUTHERN PACIFIC NEWSLETTER
Edited by Bill Fowler
April 2023



Francisco Maximo Baltazar
1928 ~ 2023

Francisco Maximo Baltazar, 94, of Clipper Gap, California, passed away on March 21, 2023.

He was born in 1928 to Moises and Elvira Baltazar in Oaxaca, Mexico. He is survived by his wife of seventy-one years, Dolores; sons, Alejandro (Jennifer), Alaska, Maximo (Charmaine) Sacramento, California, and Rafael (Dorene) Lincoln, California; grandchildren, Angela, Nathan, Amos, Alvin, Sonja, Tonya, Joseph, David, and Matthew; many great grandchildren; nieces and nephews; and siblings Justino, and Joel.

He is predeceased by siblings Esperanza, Juventino, Rafael, Hortensia, Eduardo, and Catarina.

He journeyed north to the United States in 1945, eventually retiring from Southern Pacific after forty three years of service. Francisco enjoyed his large gardens, traveling to Mexico, his grandchildren, nieces and nephews, helping others, enjoying many friendships, and watching soccer.

On April 27, retired railroad employees will meet for lunch in Lufkin, Texas at 11:00 am at the Golden Corral, which is located at 2401 South First Street (US 59) Lufkin, Texas 75901. Please try to attend this event.

As a reminder, the Southern Pacific Railroad History Center, in partnership with the Pacific Coast Chapter of the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society, is hosting a joint conference at the Nugget Casino Resort in Sparks, Nevada between May 16 and May 21, 2023.

There will be presentations focused on Southern Pacific's last twenty-five years, there will be many former Southern Pacific employees in attendance, and so there will be many opportunities to meet old friends and talk about mutual Southern Pacific experiences.

Tours are available to visit the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City, Nevada and a ride on a Virginia & Truckee Railroad steam powered train between Carson City and Virginia City, Nevada, and the Western Pacific Railroad Museum at Portola, California and the Quincy Lumber Company at Quincy, California. The History Center is also hosting two events at the Nugget: the Southern Pacific Employee Reunion and Meet Former Southern Pacific Officers Up Close and Personal. If you are interested in attending, tickets can be purchased for registration, the tours, and other offerings by clicking on the following link: https://whova.com/portal/registration/sprhc_202301/. If you cannot physically come to Sparks, you can watch two days of presentations using the Zoom platform. Please click the link immediately above to make a purchase.



Kenneth Fincher
June 22, 1943 ~ March 15, 2023

Kenneth Fincher was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather during his incredible 79 years of life.

He was born on June 22, 1943 in Ennis, Texas to two loving parents Grady and Ethel Fincher. He met his high school sweetheart, Donna Kay Tuley, and the two were inseparable for almost 60 years.

Kenneth started working for Southern Pacific in 1965, retiring as a conductor.

He was a hard worker, always doing what it took to provide for his wife, and three sons, Kevin, Brian, and Kelly.

We will remember Kenneth for his love of fishing, coffee, cooking, listening and watching his favorite sports teams. He was a strong patriarch of his family, a good friend to all, and a man who would give a shirt to a friend. He is loved and will be missed by so many.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Grady and Ethel Fincher, and soulmate Donna Kay Fincher.

Mr. Fincher is survived by his brother Larry and wife Ann; oldest son Kevin and wife Lisa; middle son Brian and wife Leah; youngest son Kelly and wife Staci kids; eight grandchildren; and ten great grandchildren.

Joseph Moreaux says the Southern Pacific retiree luncheon scheduled for April 6, 2023 in Houston has been cancelled and that the group will meet again on May 4, 2023.

Editor's request: When changing email addresses, please send your new address to billfowler@southernpacificjourney.org.