

**SOUTHERN PACIFIC NEWSLETTER**  
**June 2023**  
**Edited by Bill Fowler**



**Steven C. "Steve" Schroder**  
**September 3, 1947 ~ February 16, 2023**

Steven C. Schroder 75, of Weimar, California, entered into rest on February 16, 2023.

Steve is survived by his wife Rosanne; three children, Erin (Aaron) Pierce, Nathan Schroder (Julie), and Corrie (Steven) Rowe; and four grandsons, Elijah, Jonah, and Simon Pierce and Devon Schroder.

Steve was born in Highland Park, Michigan to Edward "Harry" and Iris Schroder on September 3, 1947. Steve's parents moved to southern California in the 1960s.

He graduated from Glendale Adventist Academy in 1966, and enlisted in the U.S. Army the following September. Steve was honorably discharged in 1967, following an injury. Soon after that event, he was hired by Southern Pacific. In 1970, Steve was granted educational leave from Southern Pacific to attend Northern Michigan University (NMU) in Marquette, Michigan. It was there he met his future wife, Rosanne. They were married in 1973. Both graduated from NMU in 1974, and moved to Montrose, California where they started their family.

In 1989, Steve was transferred to Roseville as head timekeeper and the family resettled in Weimar, California. Steve held several occupations after his thirty-year railroad career.

Steve belonged to the Auburn SDA Church, the Bicentennial Daylight Lodge, and the Order of the Eastern Star. He was Worthy Patron twice for Penrhyn Chapter and twice for Crystal Chapter.

Steve had a broad range of interest such as his faith, studying the Bible, researching history, photography, and music.

He could play the piano, organ, saxophone, and recorder. He gave thoughtful advice and guidance to his children, grandchildren, and friends.

He is heartbreakingly missed by his family and friends.

For photographs taken at the recent Southern Pacific/Cotton Belt Reunion held between April 16 and 19, 2023 in Pocola, Oklahoma, please click on the following link: <https://drive.proton.me/urls/K27YY9XVH8#qBTKwCJQayCi>.



**Lowrey T. (Tom) Pennell, Jr.**  
**November 5, 1943 ~ December 1, 2022**

Tom joined his beloved Ruthie in Heaven, December 1, 2022.

Tom was born in Tucson, Arizona on November 5, 1943. He graduated from Pueblo High School, Class of 1963, and honorably served in the U.S. Army. During the 1970s, Tom sang with The Tucson Messengers gospel quartet as the primary bass vocalist.

He retired from Southern Pacific/Union Pacific in 2005 after over forty-three years of service as a brakeman/conductor. Tom enjoyed playing golf and traveling. Tom was an avid University of Arizona Wildcats supporter and dog lover. Tom was a very loyal friend (best friend, Jerry T) and always "the life of the party".

Tom is preceded in death by his wife Ruth; his father Lowrey T. Pennell (step-mother Irene); and mother Nedra M. Jones (step-father Burton). He is survived by his daughter, Tamara SantaMarina; grandchildren, Raymond, Liana, Andrew (Lupita); and three great-grandchildren.



**Robert Dale Pharr**  
**November 28, 1939 ~ May 13, 2023**

Robert Dale Pharr was born November 28, 1939, in Star City, Arkansas, to Arthur J. and Ivy Chambliss Pharr.

He was a 1958 graduate of Star City High School. Following graduation, his first job was working at Ben Pearson and Company. Later, he was employed by the Cotton Belt Railroad as a machinist and retired after 25 years of service.

Dale was a member of Maranatha Baptist Church. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, and riding four wheelers. He also enjoyed a good meal and spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

Dale passed away on May 13, 2023, at the age of 83. He was preceded in death by his parents; his siblings, Cecil L. Pharr, Charles Pharr, Douglas Pharr, and Vernice Tucker; and a grandson, Justin Pharr.

Survivors include his wife of sixty years, Martha Jean Savage Pharr; one son, Mark Pharr and wife, Kim, of Pine Bluff; one sister, Vernell Clay and husband, James, of Grand Prairie, Texas; two grandchildren, Josh Pharr and Hannah Hunt and husband, Walker; one great-grandson, Aron Pharr; and a number of nieces, nephews, cousins, and lifetime friends.

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



**James L. (Cowboy) Boudreaux**  
**November 2, 1943 ~ May 17, 2023**

James L. (Cowboy) Boudreaux of Scott, Louisiana passed away May 17, 2023, after a brief battle with cancer.

James was born to Eddie and Carrie Boudreaux in Conroe, Texas on November 2, 1943.

He was a 1963 graduate of Scott High School. Cowboy worked as a switchman for Southern Pacific and Union Pacific. His passion was rodeo clowning and enjoyed entertaining for many years.

Survivors include daughter Angella, husband Brett; son Billy, wife Kris; daughter Kay, husband Dave; granddaughter Ani, husband Evan; granddaughter Demi, husband Peyton; granddaughter Angelle; grandson Grant; granddaughter Isabel; great grandson Callan; brother Ned; and cousins Fran, wife Lou, and Zachary Richard.



**Raymond Ruiz**  
**March 9, 1929 ~ May 8, 2023**

Raymond passed away peacefully in Sacramento, California on May 8, 2023 with his family present.

Born in Sacramento to Julian and Remigia Ruiz, he was the youngest of fifteen children. Raymond worked for Southern Pacific Railroad in Sacramento for 45 years. He loved all types of music and was a regular at the Sacramento Dixieland Festival and attended various concerts in the region.

He was preceded in death by his wife of forty-five years, Esther; son Richard; and daughter Helene.

Raymond is survived by son Robert; granddaughter Sandra; grandsons Mike and Dan Ruiz (Angie); great grandchildren DeAngelo, Kelley, and Rye; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Do you want to know and learn more about the history of Southern Pacific? Please consider joining the Southern Pacific Railroad History Center (<https://www.splives.org/plans-pricing>).