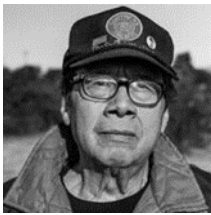


SOUTHERN PACIFIC NEWSLETTER
Edited by Bill Fowler
April 2024



Robert "Bob" Ramirez
May 6, 1945 ~ February 3, 2024

Bob Ramirez was born and raised in the northeast area of Los Angeles, where he resided until his passing. His journey began in 1963 when he was first employed as an electrician apprentice by Southern Pacific. However, two years later, he answered the call to serve his country and joined the United States Air Force.

Following his honorable discharge, Bob returned to work for Southern Pacific, where he resumed his role as an electrician at Taylor Yard. Through dedication and hard work, he quickly ascended the ranks, eventually being promoted as senior electrical instructor.

In 1988, Bob achieved another milestone when he was elected as General Chairman of the Electrical Workers, marking a historic moment as the first Latino to hold such a position. His tenure was defined by his unwavering commitment to the betterment of his fellow workers, leading to subsequent negotiations with Union Pacific that ultimately resulted in the closure of Taylor Yard and the relocation of its electricians.

After retiring in 2005, Bob's passion for education and community service never waned. He transitioned seamlessly into a role as a professor at Los Angeles Trade Technical College, where he continued to inspire and educate future generations of electricians.

Additionally, he dedicated himself to the El Rio de Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative, a cause close to his heart as a veteran himself. His tireless efforts alongside other veterans and community representatives played a pivotal role in the realization of the Veterans Memorial Project at Rio de Los Angeles State Park, a lasting testament to their collective commitment and sacrifice.

Bob's legacy extends far beyond his professional accomplishments.

He was a devoted husband of 55 years to his beloved wife, Caroline, and a loving father to their two children, Robert and Heleen. His family circle expanded to include a cherished daughter-in-law, Patti, and four adoring grandchildren: Joey, Kya, Mateo, and Alejandro.

In honoring Bob Ramirez, we pay tribute to a man of unwavering integrity, boundless compassion, and relentless dedication to his community, his country, and his family. May his memory continue to inspire us all to strive for excellence and service in all that we do.

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



Richard Lawrence Hurd
June 22, 1938 ~ February 29, 2024

Richard Lawrence Hurd, "Dick" 85 passed away Feb. 29, 2024, in Beaverton, Oregon, at his

home with family by his side.

Richard was born in Stayton, Oregon, June 22, 1938, to the late Luke and Kathryn Hurd. He was predeceased by his wife Sharon Hurd.

From paper-routes, collecting bottles, to working in service stations, Richard did all kinds of odd jobs when he was growing up in Portland, Oregon. Shortly after graduating from high school in 1956, he joined the military and served in the U.S. Air Force and was honorably discharged shortly after the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1963.

Later, he and a high school friend found their way to Sacramento, Calif. Again, he found jobs from working in service stations to bartending in the Carneros area of Napa. He eventually earned an Associate Degree in mortuary management and went to work for Gormley Funeral Home in Sacramento. Finding this not to be his ideal job, Richard went to work for Southern Pacific as a land surveyor. One of his proudest achievements was working on the snow sheds on the railroad through Donner Pass. He eventually transferred to Southern Pacific's headquarters in San Francisco, working as an estimator for the construction of new trackage throughout Northern California.

In 1969, he and his former wife Virginia, moved to Petaluma, California, to raise Gregory and Michael away from the big city. As he continued commuting from Petaluma and watching the construction of the Market Street BART tunnels from the window of his San Francisco office, he knew he could not remain at a desk. In 1972, he left the office to subsequently become a train conductor for Southern Pacific. After several assignments in northern California, he moved to Beaverton in 1976 and after working throughout northern Oregon, he retired from Southern Pacific in 2000. He spent the next 24 years of his life retired and living the way he wanted with family and friends.

He is survived by his two sons, Gregory Hurd (Gina) and Michael "Mitch" Hurd (Sam); and his grandsons, Garrett and Grant Hurd. He is also survived by his stepdaughter, Michelle Hatfield (Chris) and granddaughter, Kaitlynn Finn.

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



Daniel Glenn Ellis
February 18, 1950 ~ February 26, 2024

Daniel Glenn Ellis, 74, passed away on February 26, 2024 in Houston, Texas. He was born on

February 18, 1950 in West Columbia, Texas to parents to David and Doris Ellis. He will be forever remembered as a caring and loving man who loved his family and friends.

Left behind to cherish Danny's memories are his loving wife of 42 years, Nancy Wischmeier; two sisters, Deborah and her husband, Carl Palmgren, and Kathy Ellis; two brothers, John and wife, Sandra Ellis, and Jimmy and wife, Angie Ellis; and many other relatives

Danny enjoyed rooting for the Texas Longhorns, reading, skeet shooting and fishing in the bay. Also, he dearly loved his Pug dogs. Danny worked for the Union Pacific Railroad for 49 years in management for ten years and then as a conductor and brakeman.



Donald Wilson Jump
August 31, 1944 ~ March 11, 2024

Donald Wilson Jump passed away on March 11, 2024, after suffering a major stroke. He was

born on August 31, 1944, in Adrian, Michigan and grew up in Alamosa, Colorado and Roseville, California.

Don graduated from Roseville High School in 1962 and earned a master's degree in geography

from Long Beach State University. He then spent three months traveling throughout Europe with a backpack filled with clothes but not much money.

After returning to the United States, he was employed as a roofer, owned a restaurant, and worked on boats in southern California. He finally settled on a career with Southern Pacific in Roseville, becoming a conductor.

Upon retirement, he took many trips to Hawaii and Morro Bay, which were places he loved.

He is survived by sisters, Patricia Holmes (Leigh) and Peggy Jump-Newell (David); brother Philip Jump (Cheri); son, Sean Jump; two stepchildren; and many nieces and nephews.



Octave Lee Carter
October 18, 1947 ~ February 4, 2024

Octave Lee Carter was born on October 18, 1947, in Bakersfield, California, to parents Lonnie and Juliette (Brandon) Carter, and passed away on February 4, 2024, at his home in Sacramento, California.

Known to many as Lee, he is survived by his son, Marcus Cervantes Carter and sister, Lonnedra (Raymond) Lowe. He is also survived by his cousin Ronald (Marilyn) Brandon and nephews Eric Lowe and Edmond Lowe.

Lee served proudly in the United States Army before spending his career of 42 years with Southern Pacific, retiring as a conductor.

James Michael "Mike" Holmes
1946 ~ 2024



Mike was born in Princeton, Missouri on July 13, 1946 to Mary Talitha Kesterson Holmes and James Vernon "Pat" Holmes.

The family moved to Tucson, Arizona. After he graduated from Catalina High School, he was employed by Southern Pacific, subsequently retiring as a conductor.

Mike was divorced from Mary Jo Duruky Holmes, however, they were friends during the remainder of his of his life.

Mike and his friends traveled by motorcycle throughout the Southwest. He was an avid pilot, who owned three planes. One of Mike's greatest passions was playing poker several times a month with his buddies.

Mike is predeceased by his parents, and siblings, John Holmes and David Holmes. He is survived by his sister, Patricia Holmes; brother, Charles "Fred" Holmes (Sammie); and other relatives.

Jon Hurst commented, "Mike hired out in December of 1966, and had a conductor's date of December 1970. He retired in 2004. His late father Jim was also a conductor in Tucson, as was his younger brother, David. Mike's older brother, John was a locomotive engineer based in Tucson.



Norman Keith Nerseeth
1944 ~ 2024

Norman "Keith" Nerseeth, 80, passed away on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 in Eugene, Oregon.

Keith worked for Southern Pacific for 42 years. In the 1960s and 70s, he enjoyed racing motorcycles. He lived in Oregon most of his life and loved all kinds of watersports.

He will be greatly missed by his brothers, Ernie and Jay; his daughter, Cyndi; his son, Ryan; and his grandson Keanu.

David Richard Rains
1943 ~ 2023

David Richard Rains, 80, passed away in Tucson, Arizona on June 12, 2023, surrounded by his children. He was called home to be reunited with his wife, Lori Ann Rains, who passed on October 4, 2012.

David was a retired locomotive engineer who worked for Southern Pacific/Union Pacific for many years. After he retired, he was a volunteer at St. Joseph's Hospital.

He brought joy to everyone he encountered. He had many friends and a dry sense of humor. He loved spending time with family. He valued honesty and had a great respect for the armed forces.

David is survived by his family and friends, including children, Bobbie, Robin, and Davy; three grandchildren; and his great-grandchild.

Editor's note: Jon Hurst says, "David, with previous experience in the railroad industry, was employed by Southern Pacific in Tucson on December 1, 1983. During his career in Tucson, he was the local chairman for the UTU-E for years and near the end of his railroad career, he became affiliated with the BLET and became an asset to that organization."

Lufkin Retired Railroad Employees Luncheon
and Get-Together

Thursday, April 25, 2024

Golden Corral, 2401 South First Street, Lufkin,
Texas

Starts at 11:00 AM

If you need more information, please call
Arthur Troy Pennington at 936-639-1340