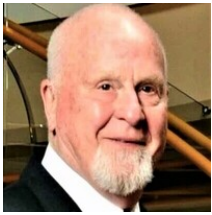


SOUTHERN PACIFIC NEWSLETTER
Edited by Bill Fowler
November 2021



James E. Hughes
November 25, 1938 ~
September 28, 2021

James was born on November 25, 1938, in Grand Prairie, Texas to Oscar and

Susie Howard Hughes and he passed away on September 28, 2021 in Tyler, Texas.

He was married to Sue Epperson Hughes on December 16, 1967. James graduated from Tyler High School in 1957 and went into the Marine Corp. He often said when he got off the bus at Camp Pendleton and he heard yells directed at him, he wished he was back home with his Mama, although he would tell one it was the best decision he ever made. He believed in once a Marine always a Marine. After his tour of duty, he attended Tyler Junior College. In 1962, he went to work for the Cotton Belt and Union Pacific for 40 years.

James loved cars, especially Porsches. He traveled all over the United States in his 1958 red Porsche 356, and he loved traveling with the Porsche 356 Tub Club. He enjoyed any adventure that would get his adrenaline going, like going rock climbing in a jeep or rafting through the Grand Canyon. He also loved working on antique clocks and riding his bicycle. He looked forward to going to Oklahoma to shoot guns with his buddies. He had many hobbies and a lot of dear friends to do them with.

James and Sue attended the West Erwin Church of Christ for many years. James worked

in the benevolent ministry. He worked for the Karing Kitchen team as chief dishwasher. He also helped to deliver groceries from the food bank for distribution at the benevolent center. Most Sundays you would find him on watch as part of the safety team as well.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Oscar and Susie Hughes.

James is survived by Sue Epperson Hughes, his adoring wife of almost 54 years. He is also survived by daughter Julie Montgomery and grandsons Adam Montgomery and Alec Montgomery, as well as his brother, Thomas Hughes. James had a very close relationship with all of his nieces and nephews: Tony Rossi, Lynnetta DeVries, Bart Epperson, Vicki Huse, Rhonda Rossi, Kent Epperson, Carin Hughes, and Tracy Bowers.

James was a dear sweet Christian man, never flashy, just good. He never wanted attention drawn to him, but that is being done now.



Billy Ray King Sr.
August 24, 1937 ~ October 8,
2021

Billy Ray King was born August 24, 1937, to Ollie and Maud Esther King in Bloomington,

Texas. He was the eldest of five children. Billy accepted Christ at an early age. He was later baptized in 1984 at Morning Star Baptist Church by Rev. Franklin Harvey. Billy's favorite song was Grace and Mercy.

Billy Ray attended EE Hatchet School through the 8th grade and graduated from F.W. Gross High School in 1954. From there he enrolled in Prairie View A&M University (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prairie_View_A%26M_University), where he graduated in 1959 with a degree in Industrial Arts. In 1960, Billy joined the United States Air Force where he served his country for four years and was honorably discharged. In 1967 Billy Ray began his career with Southern Pacific, which was later merged into Union Pacific, working as a brakeman and was soon promoted to conductor, giving him the honor of being the first African American to hold the position for Southern Pacific.

December 1, 1984, Billy united in Holy Matrimony with Emma Harvey and celebrated 36 years of marriage. They are blessed to share six sons. Billy departed this Earthly life October 8, 2021. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ollie and Maud Esther; his sister, Bobbie Jo Clay; and his brother, Douglas King.

He leaves behind a lifetime of precious and loving memories to be cherished by his wife Emma; his sons, Belvis King of Round Rock, Texas, Billy King, Jr. Austin, Texas, Ollie King (Aisha) of Victoria, Texas, Mark King (Laverne) of Bossier City, Louisiana, Kyle King (Jaki) Fresno, California, and Robert Bullock (Quinn) Houston; his brothers, Edward King (Tina), Paul Wayne King (Joyce); sister, Lola Mae Neal; sister-in-law, Irma King; 14 grandchildren; six great grandchildren; a host of nieces, nephews, friends, and the class of 1954 FW Gross High School.

Southern Pacific retiree groups are again meeting for breakfast and lunch, and in recognition of these events, the Calendar page on the Southern Pacific Journey website is being updated as information is received. If your organization should be included, please advise Bill Fowler at billfowler@southernpacificjourney.org.



Courtesy of the Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society.

The above photo, taken by Alfred Hart, (<https://exhibits.stanford.edu/rr/feature/alfred-a-hart-photos>), shows a partially completed snowshed at the west end of Tunnel 2, about a mile east of Emigrant Gap, California. Tunnel 2 was built in 1866, and the shed was erected in 1867. In fact, it was not yet finished when Hart captured this image. Note the rock wall in the foreground, another example of early rock work to support the roadbed. This view was drastically changed when Tunnel 2 was daylighted as part of double tracking in 1923-24.



Johnnie Edward Pedrotti
1942 ~ 2021

Johnnie Edward Pedrotti, age 79, passed away on September 24, 2021, in San Antonio, Texas.

Johnnie, known by many as “Johnny Boy” and “Punkin” was loved by many. He spent 32 years as a “railroad man” for the Southern Pacific and spent almost as long retired while helping others anywhere and anytime they needed assistance. From anything and everything from working on cars to building houses, putting in plumbing or electrical,

Johnnie was there to help and never thought twice about it.

He always said he was a doer and not a teacher. He did not realize just how much he taught others to do, as well.

Johnnie (Dad) had the hardest of heads and the warmest/softest of hearts. He'd never give up and loved to debate, no matter the topic. At the same time, he was always willing to help those in need. Over the last eight years, he spent a great amount of time as a greeter and listener to anybody needing a shoulder at Community Bible Church (CBC). He carried Jesus in his heart and wanted to ensure he introduced Jesus to all those he knew and those he didn't know. He found his calling at CBC and was happiest when he was in church meeting and bringing people to Jesus.

Johnnie is survived by his wife Jeanette; children Wade and Michael and Tracy and Justin; grandchildren Joshua, Daniel, and Haley; siblings Bonnie, Terry and Vivian, Duane and Martha; nieces and nephews Kellie, Sherri, Matthew, Michael, Kaitlin and Kenneth; several great nieces and nephews; his uncle David (Sonny); his aunt Mildred; many, many cousins; life-long friends from Southern; and extended family at CBC.

To watch the operation of Southern Pacific Locomotive 2472 under steam in Schellville, California for the first time in six years, please click on the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjQnV6vO7CU>.



James Fisher
December 9, 1934 ~ October 13, 2021

James Richard Fisher of Springfield, Oregon died of complications of open-heart surgery. Jim was born December 9, 1934, in

Roseburg, Oregon to Norman and Enore Fisher. He was the youngest family member with two older sisters. He graduated from Roseburg High School and immediately started a job with Southern Pacific which later merged into Union Pacific. He had 52 years of service, became a locomotive engineer, and retired at the age of 70. He had the distinction of operating steam-powered locomotives.

In 1956, he married Velda Page. They had four children: Sharyl, Dena, Greg, and Tanya. They divorced in 1974, and in 1975, he married Mary Hoxie; they divorced in 1988. In 1989, he married Darlene Ingalls Johnson. Joining the family were stepchildren Adam, Allegro, and Skyler Johnson.

Jim and Darlene traveled to many places during their marriage, including Europe, Tahiti, cruises to the Caribbean, Alaska, and Mexico. They hosted over 20 foreign exchange students, including four for an entire school year.

Jim was a Master Mason and did charitable work. He was also a prolific reader and loved to do crossword puzzles.

Jim is survived by his wife, Darlene; son, Greg (Heather); daughter, Dena; stepchildren, Adam, Allegro and Skyler Johnson; grandchildren, Felicia and Michelle Fisher, Walter and Nicholas Wakeman, Raven and Lillia Johnson, Sofia, Olivia and Nia Johnson, Jonah Johnson; and great grandsons, Quentin and Devin Patrick.

He is preceded in death by daughters, Sharyl and Tanya and sister Norma Austin.



Carol Ann Sublett
June 29, 1947 ~ Oct 16, 2021

Carol Ann Sublett passed away in northern California with her family by her side after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. She was raised in San Francisco's Noe Valley. She attended James Lick Jr. High where she met her future husband, Ray Sublett. Carol was married to Ray just shy of 50 years. She graduated from

Polytechnic High School in 1965. She worked many years at Southern Pacific in San Francisco. Her next career was as Food Service Manager for the Mt. Diablo School District. Lastly, she worked for Food Service with the Antioch School District.

Carol was born on June 29, 1947 to Joseph C. Fleming and Esther (Minor) Fleming. She is survived by her husband Ray; children Michele, Dan, and Candace; brother James Fleming and sister-in-law Mary Malvesti Fleming; and family pet Bella. Carol will be dearly missed and always in our hearts.



Anez P. Rodriguez

Anez Rodriguez passed away on October 7, 2021 in El Paso, Texas. He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Irma Chavez Rodriguez and his five children: Father Michael Rodriguez, William Rodriguez, Rudy Chavez (Melinda), Laura Palomino, Joseph Rodriguez (Jenny), and Ernesto Rodriguez; and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his eight brothers and sisters.

Anez was born in Sidney, Nebraska and graduated from Mitchell High School in Sidney. He was retired from Southern Pacific where he worked as a machinist.

He will be sorely missed by his family.

Michael "Bubba/Big Mike" Rothblatt 1956 ~ 2021

Michael "Bubba/Big Mike" Rothblatt, U.S. Army Veteran, retired locomotive engineer, beloved father, brother, uncle, friend, and "Gentle Giant," passed away from heart failure at the age of 65 in his home in Tucson, Arizona on September 13, 2021.

Mr. Rothblatt was born in April 1956 in Cherry Point, North Carolina to parents Melvin Rothblatt and Dolly Patricia Rothblatt. He was raised in El Paso, Texas, where he attended and graduated from Parkland High School in

the mid-1970s. Shortly after graduation, he enlisted into the Army and honorably served for four years. After his discharge, he worked as a locomotive engineer on the Tucson Division for Southern Pacific/Union Pacific, until his retirement in the late 2000s. He was also a railroad union member.

He is survived by his daughter, Sarah Rothblatt of Dallas, Texas; his siblings Melanie Rothblatt, Melissa Blythe and brother-in-law Terry, Melinda Rothblatt, Mark Rothblatt and sister-in-law Lisa, and Matthew Rothblatt and sister-in-law Maria; his nieces Denise Torres, Elizabeth Garcia, Alex Castanon, Cydney Rothblatt, Katie Rothblatt, and Isabel Rothblatt; his nephews Brian Rothblatt, Christopher Rothblatt, Patrick Rothblatt, and Maxamillian Rothblatt; and many friends and former colleagues.

Michael Rothblatt's life was a testimony to the importance of family, faith, and forgiveness. He proved it's never too late to do something amazing and that one is never too old to pursue happiness.



Armando Pompa Sr September 15, 1930 ~ October 16, 2021

Armando Pompa Sr. son of Benito and Cruz Pompa, born on September 15, 1930 in El Paso, Texas. He was a life-long resident of El Paso. He was a US Marine Purple Heart hero who served in the Korean War. He retired from Southern Pacific.

He was united in holy matrimony to his wife Mary C. Pompa on July 4, 1955. This union was blessed with five children, Armando Pompa Jr, George Pompa, Robert Pompa, Corina Pompa, and Yvonne Pompa.

He passed away on October 16, 2021. He was preceded in death by his daughter Corina and son George.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years: Mary C. Pompa; children: Armando Jr, Robert, and Yvonne; daughters-in law: Dory and Sandra; grandchildren: Ileen, Patrick, Paul, April,

Nichole, Eric, Rebecca, Karen, Joshua, and many great grandchildren.

Rest in Peace. OORAH!

Wanted: Oral histories of former Southern Pacific System employees. If you wish to contribute, please contact Bill Fowler at billfowler@southernpacificjourney.org.



Danny Saucedo
August 14, 1947 ~ September 27, 2021

Daniel L Saucedo, 74, a resident of Gilbert, Arizona passed away Monday September 27, 2021.

Danny was born August 14, 1947 in Lordsburg, New Mexico to Raymond and Connie Saucedo. He graduated from Lordsburg High School in 1966.

Danny was employed by Southern Pacific/Union Pacific 30 years until his retirement in 2001. Danny worked in Tucson and then Phoenix for most of his career as a trainmaster. During that period, he was a devoted family man and avid golfer.

He also followed and cheered for Arizona State University and often attended home sporting events.

After retirement, Danny would spend much time following the lives of his grandkids. It is during this time most people in his hometown began to reconnect with him. Danny attended all football, basketball, volleyball, and baseball games and track meets in Lordsburg. He was often mistaken for an assistant coach and was proud to be called "Grandpa Danny" by most Lordsburg High athletes that he supported.

Danny was known for his stories, his great advice, always being positive, his happiness, and being the life of the party.

He is survived by his children, Scott Saucedo (Martin), Daniel Saucedo Jr "DJ"(Jamie), Zach Saucedo (Grace), Chris Bowley (Jenn) and Heather Dillion; brothers Gilbert Saucedo (Thyra) and Junior Saucedo (Kika); and three grandkids who he adored, Ashton, Raymond, and Ashley. He was preceded in death by his father and mother.

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



Paul Nelson Lantier
January 22, 1934 ~ October 05, 2021

Mr. Lantier, a resident of Scott, Louisiana, was the son of the late Maurice Lantier, Sr. and the former Alice Maitre.

Nelson was an avid fisherman who still holds the Big Bass record with the Christian Fellowship of Bass Anglers. He was a retired locomotive engineer with Southern Pacific with 43 years of faithful service. Nelson enjoyed traveling with his granddaughters and watching them play softball. He was affectionately known as "Paw Paw" to all of the players and teammates. Nelson enjoyed watching his grandsons, who played basketball and baseball. He and his friends met on a frequent basis at the Coffee Depot in Scott to solve the World's problems. Nelson never met a stranger, was loved by many, and will be deeply missed. He had an impact on others that he did not realize.

He is survived by his daughter, Janell Lantier Doucet and her husband, Chad; son, Andre Lantier and his wife, Dina; grandchildren, Skye Romero, Baileigh Meche, Jocy Doucet, Courtney Lantier, Grace Ann Doucet, Caitlan Lantier, Mima Doucet, Brennan Lantier, Aiden Doucet, and Bryson Lantier; great

grandchildren, Maddyn Doucet, Parker Lantier, River Doucet, Miley LeBlanc, Lucas LeBlanc, and Graham Romero and one sister, Rita Billeaud and husband, John.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Janet Mead Lantier; siblings, Joseph Paul Lantier, Emick Lantier, Wilson Lantier, Maurice Lantier, Jr., Lula Mae Fabre, and Rhena Bergeron.

Editor's note: J C Moreaux advises, "Nelson Lantier, long time locomotive engineer for Southern Pacific, worked the majority of his career in Lafayette Yard and the Louisiana Branches in the Lafayette area."