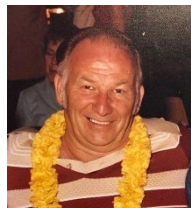




SOUTHERN PACIFIC NEWSLETTER

Edited by Bill Fowler

August 2023



William (Bill) Logan
July 5, 1926 - April 9, 2023

William Henry Logan passed into Heaven on April 9, 2023, at his home in Sherwood, Oregon. He was blessed with 96 years of a well-lived life.

Bill was born in Milwaukie, Oregon, on July 5, 1926. He was Joseph and Rosa Logan's third son, in what would become a family of five boys. Bill was raised, attended schools, and spent most of his life in the Milwaukie and Oak Grove areas of Oregon

Bill served as a seaman in the Merchant Marines during WW II and sergeant first class in the United States Army during the Korean War.

While serving in the Army, he married Gloria Harless on April 14, 1951. They were blessed with four dearly loved children, Linda, Loree, Brian, and Daniel. Parenting was considered their most important and rewarding job, and the joy of their lives. Upon returning from active duty, Bill resumed his "temporary" job at Southern Pacific, which became a 42-year permanent occupation. He worked outside every day building and repairing railroad bridges throughout Oregon.

Bill enjoyed a long and happy retirement, watching sports, especially hockey, and attending Dixieland Jazz festivals. The Jazz festivals took him to many states and on many concert vacations. He loved the music and made many friends among the musicians and other fans.

His parents; his four brothers, Lloyd, Earl, Jesse, and Roy; his daughter, Loree; and grandson, Phillip, predeceased him. Bill is survived by his wife of 72 years, Gloria; daughter, Linda and her husband, Bobby Oelke; son, Brian and his wife, Eileen; son, Daniel and his wife, Christine; 10 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter; as well as numerous treasured nieces and nephews, and friends.

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



Robert (Bob) John Lahaderne
May 31, 1953 ~ April 23, 2023

On April 23, 2023, Robert John (Bob) Lahaderne, of Roseville, California passed away at Sutter Roseville Medical Center due to complications with a major stroke.

Bob was born in San Francisco, California on May 31, 1952, to the late Bernard Pierre and Mary Alice Lahaderne. He grew up with brother Paul Lahaderne and sister Denise Dagemjian.

He married Colleen M. Green in Grass Valley, California on July 4, 1970. They had four children, Robert Bernard, Jonathan Thomas Rodda, Martha Mary, and Dennis Michael.

Bob began his career at the Western Pacific as a clerk. Soon after, he was employed by Southern Pacific and worked as a brakeman, fireman, and locomotive engineer. Bob eventually became a trainer to the next generation of locomotive engineers. He finished

a thirty year plus railroad career with Union Pacific

Bob was proud of his work and shared his pride of being a trained old-time steam locomotive engineer and assisted in placing some of the locomotives in the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento California.

Bob was longtime member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. He shared his passion for fishing with his railroad friends and was a founding member of the Sinkers Fishing Club.

He is survived by his wife Colleen M. Lahaderne – Green; children Robert, Jonathan, Martha, and Dennis; brother Paul Lahaderne; sister Denise Dagemjian; and eleven astounding grandchildren.

If you have an interest in the history of Southern Pacific, please consider joining the Southern Pacific Railroad History Center: <https://www.splives.org/plans-pricing>.



Richard Stanley Johnson
March 9, 2023 ~ June 13, 2023

Richard Stanley Johnson, 89, passed away June 13, 2023 in Ogden, Utah.

He was born March 9, 1934 in Ogden to Frank and Venna Johnson. He attended Ogden High and later completed his GED while serving with the United States Army. Richard married Sandra Potts in 1962 and they became the parents of two daughters. They later divorced.

In his early years, he was involved with expanding the family's greenhouse business, and he then worked as a roofer. He later was employed by Southern Pacific as a machinist until his retirement.

Richard is survived by daughter, Jodi (Brad) Parsons; two grandchildren, McKenna Parsons and Jayce Parsons; brother, Carl Johnson; sister, Lynn Donoviel; and many nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Teri; his parents; and siblings, Frank Johnson, LaMont Johnson, and Ann Stark.



Hugh L. McCulley
July 31, 1947 ~ June 10, 2023

Hugh L. McCulley died on June 10, 2023 in Houston, Texas.

Hugh was born on the 31st of July 1947, in Houston to Laura and John McCulley and grew up in Baytown. During the summer before his junior year in high school, his family moved to Cologne, Germany, and Hugh went to boarding school at Institute Rosenberg in San Gallen, Switzerland.

Hugh graduated from the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee in 1969, where he served as President of his fraternity, Lambda Chi Alpha. In 1972, Hugh graduated from the University of Texas School of Law and began an over fifty years career as a lawyer. While in law school, Hugh's brief partner asked him to be a groomsman in his wedding. It was in those wedding festivities that he met fellow law student and his future bride, Cathy Cotner. Cathy and Hugh were married on July 1, 1972.

For over forty years, Hugh was a named partner at Crady Jewett McCulley & Houren LLP. Hugh appreciated the practice of law and those he worked with. He believed he was fortunate to have a career that was intellectually stimulating while working with clients he actually liked. Hugh was a practical lawyer focused on solutions to business issues. From the beginning of his law practice until his death, he represented railroad companies in their business and regulatory activities. Over the course of his career, he was counsel for almost every railroad company operating in Texas. His

practice was broad and included a wide range of clients in addition to the railroad companies. Hugh was a creative thinker and a realistic and practical advocate for those he represented.

Hugh was predeceased by his parents, Laura and John McCulley. He is survived by his wife, Cathy; their daughter, Ann Wright and her husband, Chris, and their children, Pearl and Colt; and their daughter, Marti Boudreaux and her husband, Nathan, and their children, Louise, Catherine, and Evelyn. He is also survived by his brother, Johnny, and his wife, Linda; his brother, Bryan, and his wife, Judith; his sister, Susan; his brother-in-law, Robert Cotner; and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Editor's note: For many years, Hugh represented Southern Pacific in its relationship with the Port Terminal Railroad Association in Houston. In that capacity, Hugh consistently protected Southern Pacific's best interests. Hugh was a gifted speaker and writer, and I was privileged to have been acquainted with him.



Bobby Ray Munn
November 2, 1946 - July 9, 2023

Bobby Ray Munn, 76, died in Ennis, Texas on July 9, 2023.

Bobby was born in Ennis on November 2, 1946, to Betty Munn. He grew up in Ennis and graduated from Ennis High School in 1965. On December 2, 1999, he married the love of his life, Barbara Alford Pruitt and they made their first home in Waxahachie, Texas before settling in Ennis for the last 20 years. Bobby served his country proudly in the United States Army National Guard.

Bobby worked for Southern Pacific and Union Pacific for over forty-seven years as a conductor and brakeman. Bobby was a member of the New Life Worship Center Church of God, in Waxahachie, Texas. He enjoyed fishing and hunting with his son. Bobby loved the Lord with all his heart and his favorite

pastimes were reading his bible and watching Jimmy Swaggart. He was a mighty prayer warrior, if he said he would pray for you, you can guarantee he would.

Bobby is survived by his wife of over 23 years, Barbara Munn; son, Jody Munn and wife, Robin; bonus daughters: Tammy Gish, Lisa Tittle, and Paula Lipsey; six grandchildren; three great grandchildren; and extended family and friends.

Bobby was preceded in death by his mother, grandparents, and uncle Joe Ben Munn.



J. W. (Hollywood) Smith
May 15, 1934 ~ July 27, 2023

J. W. (Hollywood) Smith of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, was born on May 15, 1934. He died on July 27, 2023 at the age of 89.

He was born and raised in Calmer, Arkansas by his father, Vernon Smith. He developed his strong work ethic at a very young age, moving houses and working in sawmills. However, it was pumping gas that his future mother-in-law saw this handsome fellow and sent her daughter to get gas and meet what became the love of her life.

They began their future together in Alaska while he served in the United States Army. After his tour of duty, they returned to Pine Bluff, where he began his thirty-three year career with the Cotton Belt. There they settled in to raise three boys and be a family – something he cherished above all.

J.W. decided he wanted to be a cowboy. So he taught himself to steer wrestle and rope calves. This began a life that the whole family – always together – would claim as their lifestyle.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Vernon and Pearl McBryde Smith, two sisters, nephews, a niece, and a great-granddaughter. In June of 2022, he lost the love of 67 years,

Carole. They were members of Calvary Baptist Church in White Hall, Arkansas.

J.W. left to cherish his memories a sister, Louise Lakin of Little Rock; sister-in-law, Connie "Suzie" (Bill) Wax of Arizona; brother-in-law, Jim Wilcockson (Nancy); sons, Wayne (Robin) of Greenbrier, Arkansas Rusty (Jennifer) of White Hall and, Jay Allen (Robin) of Emmet; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; nephews, Brett Hendrix, James (Katie), Scott (Katie), and Gregory Wilcockson; and a legacy of friends who cherished having him as a friend.



Duke Spelce
February 26, 1945 ~ June 21, 2023

Duke Spelce, of Yuma, Arizona, passed away unexpectedly on June 21, 2023 at his summer residence in Woodland Park, Colorado. He was 78 years old.

Duke was born on February 26, 1945 to Ray and Betty Spelce in Yuma, Arizona. He was a lifelong resident of Yuma.

After graduating from high school, Duke attended Palmer Chiropractic College in Iowa. He was drafted into the United States Army in 1966 and served in the Dental Corps at Fort Polk, Louisiana until his discharge in 1968.

Duke carried on a family tradition going to work at Southern Pacific in 1963. He worked as a brakeman and conductor for Southern Pacific and later Union Pacific Railroad for 43 years, before retiring in 2005. He also served as a United Transportation Union Association representative in Yuma for many years.

Duke was a member of Impact Christian Church in Woodland Park, Colorado. He also served as a longtime deacon and elder for Central Church of Christ in Yuma, Arizona and an elder for the former Fellowship Church in Tucson, Arizona. Duke's faith and commitment to always helping others was a driving force throughout his entire life.

He is survived by his wife Darlene; a daughter, Alisa Spelce DiPalma (husband Matthew) of Buda, Texas; and daughter in law, Janessa Spelce Kuhl (husband Rusty) of Pinetop, Arizona. Other surviving family members include his sister, Shirley Looney of Chandler, Texas; seven grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter. Duke is also survived by niece Robin Spelce Fowler.

He was predeceased by his son, Curt Spelce; parents, Ray and Betty Spelce; and his older brother, Jack Spelce, all of Yuma, Arizona.



Ronnie (Pooch) Neil Bennight
December 21, 1945 ~ June 27, 2023

Ronnie Neil "Pooch" Bennight passed away suddenly on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 in San Antonio, Texas. Ronnie was born December 21, 1945, in San Antonio to L. M. and Jewel Bennight.

Ronnie worked for Southern Pacific for more than thirty years. After he retired, he became a full-time rancher on his ranch in Stockdale, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his father, L. M. Bennight in 2019, and his daughter, Michelle Bennight 2021.

Ronnie is survived by his wife of twenty-three years, Toya Bennight; his mother, Jewel Bennight; his brother, Doug Bennight; grandson Jordan Bennight; two great-grandchildren; and many friends.