

SOUTHERN PACIFIC NEWSLETTER
Edited by Bill Fowler
August and September 2024



Horace David Studdard
October 12, 1947 ~ August 21,
2024

Horace David Studdard was born October 12, 1947, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas to Horace Wilson Studdard and Vivian Green Studdard.

He was a graduate of Watson Chapel High School and served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. David began working at the Cotton Belt (later Union Pacific) and retired as a carman and inspector. He was lovingly called "Muff" by his friends during his railroad career.

David was a member of Sardis Missionary Baptist Church and also attended Watson Chapel Baptist Church. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, and recreational shooting. David was a most kind, generous man, and would give the shirt off his back to help someone in need.

David passed away at his home on August 21, 2024, at the age of 76, surrounded by his family. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include his loving wife, Betty Ford Studdard, whom he married August 5, 1966, in Pine Bluff. He will also be missed by his children, David Studdard, Amy Rushing and husband, Kevin, and Marcie Hamblin and husband, James; his sister, Edith Spharler and husband, Delmon; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



William (Brad) L. Bradshaw
February 5, 1935 ~ September
1, 2024

William "Brad" Bradshaw, beloved by family and friends, died in Oakland, California on September 1, 2024.

Brad was born to William Leonard Bradshaw, Sr. and Doris Crump Bradshaw on February 5, 1935, in Columbia, Missouri. The rolling green hills and grassy fields would become stomping grounds for young Brad, who was referred to as "Billy" at the time. He would play Indian Ball and Canasta with his friends and was a diehard St. Louis Cardinals fan.

In 1953, he graduated as valedictorian of University High School.

He initially attended the University of Missouri, where his father was Dean of the School of Business and Administration. Brad, however, needed to spread his wings. He transferred to Dartmouth College, which produced a lifetime full of stories (especially after he took a cocktail conversations class). He then went to Indiana University and earned an MBA in Transportation. After that, he served five years in the Army Reserves, with six months active duty in Fort Bliss, Texas.

Brad was hired by Southern Pacific in 1965, a career-defining move that brought him all the way to San Francisco, California. His arrival was the second Gold Rush, except Brad hardly rushed anywhere.

He met his wife Judy Bradshaw shortly after he moved to the Bay Area. The two wed in 1968. Judy loved Brad for the same reasons we all did — his wittiness, his love of comically large road maps, his old-fashioned mannerisms, and dialect. Brad loved Judy for her humor and her incredible cooking. The two brought two beautiful children to the world — Andy Bradshaw and Carrie Bradshaw. His children became especially important in his life after Judy's passing in 2003.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Judy Bradshaw and his brother John Jutton. He is survived by his son, Andy (Beth) Bradshaw; his daughter Carrie Bradshaw (Darrin Young); three grandsons; and his sister-in-law Mary Ann Smith. He is also survived by nephews David and Jonathan, nieces Judy, Kelley, Becky, and Jennifer, and their families.

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Mable Toomer
December 23, 1925 ~
September 11, 2024

Mable Toomer (Mitchell), born on December 23, 1925, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, passed away at the age of 98 on September 11, 2024, in Concord, California. Mable was known for her strength, determination, and outgoing nature. Throughout her life, she was deeply involved in her community, participating actively in various social clubs and her church.

Mable graduated from Lincoln High School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She built a career as a service attendant at Southern Pacific, where she dedicated many years of service. Mable was a devout member of Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church in Oakland, California, where she engaged actively in church activities and community service.

She leaves behind a loving family: her son Terry Toomer; her grandson Michael Toomer; great-grandsons, Meshawn and Amani Toomer; and daughter-in-law Ronnetta Toomer.

Mable was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Pearl Mitchell; her husband, Jeffery Toomer; and her siblings, Rossi Quiet, Lucinda Primus, Nora Parker, Samuel Mitchell, Robert Mitchell, and Idell Mitchell.

Do you know that Southern Pacific retirees meet at various locations throughout the former Southern Pacific System each month for breakfast and lunch? For more information, please click on the following link: <https://www.southernpacificjourney.org/calendar>. If your group is not shown, please email billfowler@southernpacificjourney.org and furnish details including the name of the group and the day and time of each meeting.



Toby Ray Simmons
September 13, 1945 ~
September 25, 2024

Toby Ray Simmons, of Pine Bluff, beloved family man of God, died on September 25, 2024. He was born on September 13, 1945, in North Little Rock, Arkansas, the son of William Foster Simmons and Pauline Elizabeth Hollenberger Simmons. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers Jerry and Bill.

Toby is survived by his wife of 58 years, Carolyn; two sons, Jerry Simmons of Pine Bluff, and Phil Simmons of Little Rock and his wife Lindsey; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

After a short stint in the Army at Fort Chaffee and Fort Polk, Toby employed by the Cotton Belt. He took great pride in hard work and served as local chairman for a railroad union. A generation of young men, including his sons, were taught baseball, basketball and life

lessons by "Coach Simmons," with a few teams going to AAU championships.

Toby enjoyed fishing, woodworking, and rooting for the Razorbacks. He was a blessing to many and active at his church. His commitment to God was closely followed by his devotion to his family. His grandchildren believe he would have given them the moon if asked, acknowledging that he was present for every moment, big and small. Carolyn remains the love of his life and he often put her needs above his own.

Alton Isadore Slansky
October 6, 1949 ~ March 24, 2024

Al Slansky held several positions in the signal departments of Southern Pacific and Union Pacific during his 36-year railroad career.

He initially worked for Paul Gotthardt at Luling, Texas starting about February 1973 on the CTC project between Flatonia and Sierra Blanca, Texas. He also worked as a signal maintainer at Beeville, Texas, and at the time of his retirement, he was assigned to a signal construction gang at Fort Worth, Texas.

Editor's note: This memorial was written by Paul Gotthardt.