

SOUTHERN PACIFIC NEWSLETTER
Edited by Bill Fowler
October 2024



Lois Hildreth Johnson
August 16, 1937 ~ September 6, 2023

Lois Hildreth Johnson, 87, of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, fondly known to many as "Grandma, Lolo, Loto, or

Gigi," passed away peacefully on October 6, 2024, surrounded by her loving family.

Born on August 16, 1937, in Pine Bluff, to William Wilson and Mattie Leah Chidester Hildreth, Sr., Lois received her early education in her hometown.

She lived a remarkable life filled with love, raising five children, and proudly witnessing the lives of her 20 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

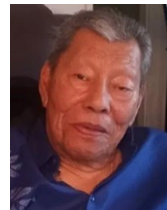
Lois retired after many dedicated years of service at the Cotton Belt. In her retirement, she found great joy in entertaining friends and family, sharing her home and her heart with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her door was always open, whether you needed a hug, a kind word, or a good laugh.

Lois was preceded in death by her parents and her brothers, James Robert "Cotton" Hildreth, Major General, United States Air Force (Retired), W.W. "Red" Hildreth, Jr., and sisters, Ruth Ellen Hildreth, Martha Hildreth "Mott" Wasson, and Leah "Puddin'" Harris, her beloved husband Ernest "Slick" Johnson, her son Randall Hollis "Randy" Landreth, Sr. (Pam), and her daughter Robin Landreth Baldwin.

She is survived by her children, Robert H. "Bobby" Landreth, Ruth Landreth Dempsey, Paul Lee Landreth Jr. (Brandi), Brent E. Johnson (Debbie), and Scott Johnson (Paula); 20 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and many cherished nieces and nephews.

Lois will be deeply missed but leaves behind a legacy of love, humor, and generosity that will live on in the hearts of all who knew her. She loved the Lord and looked forward to her heavenly homecoming and spoke of it often.

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



Rosario Martinez
October 7, 1940 ~ October 17, 2024

With deep regret, we announce the peaceful passing of our father and husband, Rosario "Chayo" Martinez at the age of 84 on October 17, 2024.

Chayo was born in El Paso, Texas, on October 7, 1940, and married his beloved wife, Armida Martinez on August 1, 1964.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years; children, Norma Guevara (Richard), Edward Martinez (Sonia), Sylvia Lawrence (Marshall), and Sandra Espinoza (Adrian); eight grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; sister, Andrea "Gloria" Villalva; and brother, Jose Robert

"Bobby" Trevizo. He is preceded in death by his parents, Eulalio Martinez and Catalina Trevizo.

Chayo was a dedicated employee for the Southern Pacific/Union Pacific, retiring after 30 years of honorable service as a switchman/brakeman.



**Ronald (Ron) Zenon Henderson
April 14, 1942 ~ November 10,
2023**

Ronald (Ron) Zenon Henderson, 81, died on November 10, 2023 at his home in Roseville, California, surrounded by family.

Ronald was born on April 14, 1942 in Wahiawa, Hawaii. He had an adventurous and memorable childhood growing up in Hawaii with his beloved parents, Frederick Mustermann and Madeline Montalbo Mustermann, and many siblings, cousins, aunts, and uncles. Ron also lived on Wake Island as a young teenager before moving to Roseville in 1957.

Ronald, also known by friends as "Charlie," was a longtime Roseville local resident. Upon arriving to Roseville from Wake Island at age 15, he attended Roseville High School where he graduated in 1961. Ron made several lifelong friends in high school, and he enjoyed playing sports including football, basketball, and baseball. He had several jobs during and after high school. In 1962, Ron apprenticed, and then began his long career as an electrician for Southern Pacific. Ron worked hard, including a graveyard shift for decades, to help support and provide a great life for his family. After 40 years of employment, Ron retired from the Union Pacific in 2002.

Ron was known and loved for his friendliness, respect for others, sense of humor, and generosity. He would do anything he could to support and help his family and friends, and expressed his love warmly and often. Ron was a loyal, trusted friend and easy to have a real conversation with. Those close to Ron also

knew his sharp wit and cleverness, fun pranks, and laidback attitude.

Ron loved camping at Lake Tahoe with his family; but his favorite place was Hawaii, where he was born and spent his early years. Ron returned to Hawaii every chance he could; and when he was not enjoying time on the islands, looking forward to his next trip there brought him joy.

Preceding Ronald in death are his parents; sister, Hilda Wells; and brothers, David Idigpio and Marcelino Idigpio, Jr.; and several aunts and uncles.

Ronald is survived by his wife, Carol Henderson; his sons, Ronald A. Henderson of Rocklin, California and Steven (Julie) Henderson of South Lake Tahoe, California; his three grandchildren; his great granddaughter; his sister Florentina; and several cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Aloha, Ronald. We will always love and be grateful for you, and cherish the many good times together.



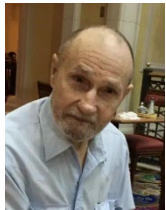
**Hiedie Suzanne Conner
May 9, 1947 ~ Jul 20, 2024**

Hiedie Suzanne Conner, a devoted mother, animal lover, and cherished friend, passed away on July 20, 2024 in Sebastopol, California. Born on May 9, 1947, in Oakland, California, Hiedie spent most of her life in the San Francisco Bay Area and then Sonoma County, where she built a remarkable legacy of strength, compassion, love and laughter.

She attended San Jose State and majored in criminal justice, always fighting for the underdog. Shortly before she graduated, an opportunity to join the railroad presented itself and for over 37 years, Hiedie worked for Southern Pacific and then Union Pacific, breaking barriers in a male-dominated profession. In dusty depots and gritty railroad yards, she honed her quick wit and discovered

her strength. She could charm the best of them and would not take anything less than the respect she deserved, eventually becoming a union leader and organizer. It was while working there that she met her husband and best friend, Nick, who instantly fell in love with the fierce blonde. Together, they built a beautiful life and legacy in Sonoma County, creating a home filled with love and laughter.

Hiedie is survived by her loving husband, Nick; her daughters, Kasey (Jeff) Hillier and Kassidy (Brent) Fisher; her brother, Rockey Conner; and her four grandchildren, along with her extended family and countless friends who will forever cherish her memory and the values she instilled in them. There will never be another like her and may we all live and love the way Hiedie did.



Douglas Richard Allred
August 3, 1941 ~ October 25, 2024

Douglas Richard Allred was born August 3, 1941, in Woodlawn, Arkansas, to Noah Wayne Allred and Evie Mae Anderson Allred.

He was a graduate of Woodlawn High School. Following graduation, he served two years in the United States Army. He was employed as a brakeman/conductor for Union Pacific/Cotton Belt, retiring after 38 years of service.

Richard had a love for the outdoors. He kept his yard meticulous and always had the best garden in the summer along with the cleanest pool. He made sure to teach his grandchildren how to mow properly and if one strip was out of line, they were instructed as to how to redo it to his satisfaction. On Sundays, weather permitting, he worked out of doors from sun up to sun down.

For Richard, family was everything, and weekly calls with his sisters and brothers, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren was proof of that. But the person he loved most was his wife Linda whom he was married to for 53 years. The love story of Goldie and Rich was one he treasured.

He dedicated his life to Christ in 2004, and from that moment on he was a man on fire for God. He woke up every morning at 4:00 am to read the Bible and pray for his family. He always had a Bible verse to give his family members and friends.

He passed away on October 25, 2024, at his home in Mountain Home, Arkansas surrounded by his family. He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Thomas Terry; his siblings, Sue McKinney, Wanda Taylor, David Allred, and Lewis Allred; three grandchildren; and his step-mother, Madge Young Allred.

Survivors include his wife, Linda Cotner Allred; two daughters, Lisa Cox and Stephanie Sanchez (Hugo); seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; siblings, Carolyn Mazanti, Ava Jenkinson, Charles Allred, Jackie Allred, and Corinne Harrison; and a number of nieces, nephews, and other relatives.