



## James Martin Fessler

April 24, 1943 - July 20, 2020

On July 20, 2020, Jim Fessler, beloved father of two and grandfather of four, died at the age of 77. Jim was born in St. Nazianz, Wisconsin, on April 24, 1943, to Ralph and Kathlyn Fessler. After graduating with a bachelor's degree at Marquette University, Jim achieved a master's degree in Engineering from UCLA and worked as an aerospace engineer for 38 years at Hughes Aircraft Company and Boeing in Torrance, California. He and his wife Diana raised their two children in Rancho Palos Verdes, California.

Following his retirement in 2004, Jim and Diana moved to Colfax, California, where Jim put his engineering experience to good use volunteering extensively at the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad and Transportation Museum. He spent his free time maintaining his garden, nurturing his bonsais and orchids, and visiting with his friends, children, and grandchildren. He was also a cherished member of the Parish Counsel at St. Dominic's Catholic Church. Jim was a kind and generous man who had the great blessings of fulfilling his passions playing with trains and gardening in his yard until his final days.

Jim was preceded in death by his wife, Diana in 2009. He is survived by his two children, Kari (Rob Munz), and Steve Fessler (Heidi), as well as his grandchildren, Kaitlin Munz (9), Amanda Munz (8), Kurt Fessler (4) and Holt Fessler (2).

May the Almighty grant him eternal peace.

# Tribute Wall

DB

“ Like so many others, we too were saddened and surprised to learn of Jim's passing. To us, he was "Jim 2" as he was the second Jim to join the shop volunteers with that first name. He was a very good sport about that nickname, even when I (Margie) probably embarrassed him calling it across the entire length of Bel Air's produce department to get his attention. He first endeared himself to Dave and others when shortly after his arrival at the Museum, he referred to himself as a "homeless millionaire" caught unprepared after the quick and profitable sale of his Southern California home.

Jim had a delightful sense of humor, a quick mind, and a love for people. Even though we already knew this, we found these qualities on vivid display when he served as a docent on our railbus tour through the grounds and had us all engaged in the sights, history, and humor of the place. We will miss Jim (we already do) and thank you for sharing your Dad with us all. He was truly one of the good guys!!!

*Dave and Margie Ballenger*

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David G Ballenger - August 23, 2020 at 08:08 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of James Martin Fessler.



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August 20, 2020 at 09:25 AM

AS

“ The moment Jim came to the NCSGRR Museum we knew that we had found someone special. He radiated enthusiasm immediately and urged us to “get a credit card machine.” Jim had spent his cash on several items in the Gift Shop and wanted to give us a donation - but we did not have a credit card machine. Consequently, one was eventually installed and the revenue went up. We can also credit Jim with his creative talents making a perfect model of the Railbus and a model of a locomotive headlamp large enough for donations. They will be cherished. Jim was normally a quiet, reserved man, though very personable, so it was so fun to discover that he was a terrific and entertaining actor as a Docent on the Railbus! Jim was also a good Vice President on the Board helping with the many issues that come up with a busy museum. Jim Fessler, Docent of Docents, VP on the Board, Restoration Volunteer, and a friend to all, will be sorely missed.

*In Sorrow,  
Arlene and Ken Siprelle*

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**Arlene Siprelle** - August 19, 2020 at 03:43 PM

BR

“ The entire Roberts family is deeply saddened by the loss of our friend and neighbor. Jim was a fine man who enjoyed life and helping others. His legacy will live on and be apparent to anyone who visits the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad in Nevada City. Rest In Peace.

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**Brisn Roberts** - August 18, 2020 at 06:08 PM

KA

“ 1 file added to the album Jim



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**karobi913** - August 18, 2020 at 01:54 PM

LC

*What a kind, intelligent and gentle man. He is and will be missed.*

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**Lynn Ching** - August 18, 2020 at 02:47 PM

KA

“ 2 files added to the album Jim



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**Kari** - August 18, 2020 at 11:58 AM