



Welcome New Directors...

BUTCH SAYS; "BEST OF BLESSINGS!"

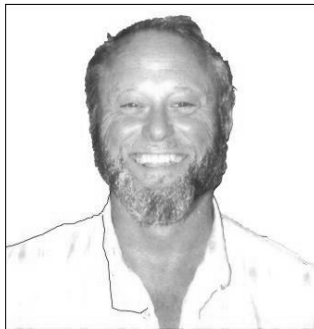
From the Corner Pocket

This year has brought a change of District Directors in three Districts. Earlier this year **Wesley Lum** was voted in as the new Central District Director replacing **Gary Bush**. Thank you Gary for your many years of service.

After the previous QCC'er edition noted the passing of the former D-4 District Director, **Paul Hensley**, **Nigel Blampied** stepped up and offered to take on that position. From my distant position in San Diego, I could only offer him a list of D-4 members and wish him the best. A preferred action would have been to announce that District 4 had voted to elect their new District Director. However, in the event where no District Director is voted in and the position is vacant, the QCC Constitution provides that the State President appoints a District Director.

Unfortunately, D-4 has a major three way, (North, South & East), division problem, (San Francisco Bay), with long bridges to cross between them. To all QCC members of D-4, let **Nigel** know what you could do, or how you might help.

And more recently, an email from the former QCC Officers in D-2, Redding (**Jim Ceragioli**, Director, and **Burt Brockett**, Treasurer) sent info that they were turning over the leadership of the QCC organization there to **Donald (Don) L. Anderson**, the current Deputy Director of CALTRANS D-2. Don was voted in by the District to the post of Director and Treasurer. I am hoping that his connections inside the organization can be of great help for the QCC membership. His email invitation to D-2 QCC'ers tells that things are under way for restarting action, and we wish you all the best of blessings.



A sad side note from D-2 was that formerly their regular meetings were held at the D-2 DO cafeteria that has become 'unavailable' to outsiders.

A parallel item is that in my last year visit to the D-1 QCC'ers, I found that in Eureka, the DO block was being fenced in by a high, spiked-top fence to keep the homeless from camping in the parking areas.

Also, remember last year when **Francisco Paras**, (a D-11 member living in Orange Co), volunteered to take the job as the QCC Director for D-12 / Orange Co, that had never been staffed when D-12 split from D-7. All Orange Co. QCC members could help Francisco get some enjoyable actions up and running.

Thank you to **Wesley, Nigel, Donald,** and **Francisco** for your willingness to step up and take the lead.

DUES

And the annual reminder that your QCC membership dues are due at the first of the annual year, like January first. To find out if you are paid up or not, check the mailing label area on the cover of this newsletter to find the notice printed above your mailing address "**Paid thru <20??>**" to see if your dues are current or not. **Mike** does something different with those getting the QCC'er via email that I'm not familiar with, but I'm confident that he does a great job.

Butch Biendara
QCC President

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CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION FOUNDATION

By Kathy Freeman

Congratulations to **Isabella Salgada** for winning the \$1,000 California Transportation Foundation (CTF) H. Heckerth Scholarship this year. Said Isabella, “Thank you, CTF, for your support and generosity. I am honored to have received the 2019 Heinz Heckerth Scholarship. I am a California native attending Syracuse University in N.Y. as a Civil Engineering major. My goal is to graduate, move back to California, and work for Caltrans”. For scholarship opportunities, visit www.transportationfoundation.org/scholarships.

The **CTF Transportation Education Symposium** hosted 41 students and 40 professionals in SoCal for two days of mentoring the next generation of transportation leaders in November. **Edward Yu**, from the City of LA DOT said of the event, “It was extremely rewarding to see how bright the future is in our profession and the passion that everyone had about today’s transportation challenges.” The event’s major

sponsor this year was Lyft. CTF could not have done the Education Symposium without them.

CTF’s program, Conference Connections, hosted 19 students at five conferences this year by covering their registration, hotel rooms, travel, and meals and pairing each with a mentor to guide them. Conferences were AGC, Focus on the Future, Mobility 21, CA APA and ITS California. **Michael Keever** of Caltrans HQ and **Sergio Ruiz** of CT District were two of the mentors. “I met so many leaders in different areas and developed connections I will continue to reach out to in the future,” said Juliette Love Stanford, who was partnered with mentor **Debbie Hale**, Transportation Authority of Monterey.

2020 CTF Events:

Transportation Forum
 February 11 – Sacramento

SoCal Charity Golf Tournament
 March 23 – Irvine

New Mobility Student Conference
 April 23 – San Francisco

Transportation Awards Nominations
 Due March 2

Transportation Awards
 June 11 – Irvine

NorCal Charity Golf Tournament
 September 1 – Danville

Education Symposium
 November 5 – Sacramento

The Foundation wishes you all a safe and happy holiday season. For more information on our programs and/or events, please visit us at www.transportationfoundation.org. Thank you for your interest and support. We look forward to continuing this important relationship.

In Memoriam

We extend our sympathy to family members and loved ones of our fallen colleagues

Name	District	Date
Russell Montgomery	01	Nov 05, 2019
Mary Kay	01	2019
Karen Comstock	01	Oct 29, 2019
Norman (NC) Brinkmeyer	07	May 01, 2019
Thai Van Nguyen	08	Sep 03, 2019
Richard Huerta	08	Nov 04, 2019
Douglas Worley	10	Sep 22, 2019
Eleanor C Felix	10	Nov 18, 2019
Eric Sarkela	11	Sep 18, 2019
Marla Deyoe	11	Nov 24, 2019
Jim Noel	11	2019
Phil Butcher	11	Jun 19, 2019

Check the current haps at Caltrans at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews>

The Haps in District 1

District 1 QCC/retiree breakfast was on October 17 and 22 attended. We all had a great time and a chance to visit.

Lonnie and Maureen Arney celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 9/21 at the Fortuna Veteran’s building in Fortuna. Congratulations to you both.

I had a busy last few months. I helped with and attended our 60 year high school class reunion and was also involved with Humboldt County’s first History symposium. Both were very fun events and a great chance to see everyone.

Sadly, we lost some wonderful people recently. **Russell Montgomery**, retired Heavy Equipment Operator in Willow Creek and

Orleans, passed away on 11/5 at his home surrounded by family. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, **Mildred**, a sister, children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and leaves behind many cousins and special friends. He worked for Caltrans for 36 years before retiring. I remembered hiring him. He was a great worker and a wonderful human being. He was a proud member of the Hoopa Valley Tribe and loved participating in its culture.

We also lost **Mary Kay**, widow of retired Senior Engineer, **Bob Kay**. She and her sister were volunteers at the Eureka Elks Lodge so I got to see them many times over the years. I made it to her memorial on 10/28 at the Elks Lodge. It was so well attended and many tributes from family and friends, including her children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews. She was a much loved lady.

Karen Comstock, who was married to retired Engineer, **Donald Comstock**, **QCC Honorary Member**, passed away on October 29. She had worked as a restaurant cook, but her real love was painting. She and her sisters had a business called Talent Poel, where she continued her artwork and beautiful scenes of animals and birds were sold. She is also survived by a son, daughter, grandchildren, sisters and nieces and nephews.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of **Russell Montgomery**, **Mary Kay**, and **Karen Comstock**.

Merry Christmas to all and have the happiest of holidays.

- Arlene Hartin

Check out the new QCC website here: <http://www.caltransquartercenturyclub.net/index.html>

The Haps in District 2

On November 11th, the District 2 Quarter Century Club held a luncheon meeting at Round Table Pizza on Lake Blvd in Redding. Those present were **Don Anderson, Russ Azevedo, Bill Belcher, Chris Brace, Jim Ceragioli, Les & Mary Farley, Arturo Robles, Retha Rubiec, Rob Stinger and Russ Wenham.**

Don Anderson presided over the meeting, and the first order of business was the election of officers for the District. **Don Anderson** was elected as Director, **Bill Belcher** was re-elected as secretary and **Don Anderson** was elected as treasurer, with a future consideration to change as membership increases.

Don gave a quick presentation on District issues and the recent Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS). Next, **Russ Wenham** then gave a presentation detailing a synopsis of the issues and processes now facing those tasked with developing the initial reports and supporting documentation used for new developments and installations. His presentation had considerable detail regarding the legal, environmental, government regulations, and miscellaneous demographic political hurdles which come in to play during the process.

Rob Stinger, Chief of Traffic Ops for District 2, then talked about the effects that the PG&E power outages have had regarding our traffic signals, and the efforts being made to mitigate those issues. The first issue was determining which signals were being affected, and prioritizing which ones were of the highest priority to restore and maintain functionality. He stated that currently they are working with generator installations at some key locations where having fully functioning signals are of high priority during these outages.

Finally, **Don** asked that each person recruit at least 1 person for the next meeting we have in January

and bring them to the meeting. Don will line-up a speaker for the next meeting.

From **Jim Ceragioli** - This past October saw **Sandy** and I join six friends on a tour of some East coast points of interest. We left San Francisco on Saturday morning October 12, at 6:20am, for Washington DC. We toured Washington for a couple of days and then went to Charlottesville Virginia for a couple of days. Our next stop was Gettysburg and then on to Philadelphia. From there, we went to New York, where we boarded a cruise ship, and headed for Boston. Our next stop was Newport and then Bar Harbor. Our next stop was supposed to be St. Johns Bay, but the weather was very bad and the harbor was closed, so we went back out to sea and headed for our next stop at Halifax. We then returned to New York and boarded our return flight to SF. The weather was great except for that day we were planning in St. John's Bay. We ate lots of lobster, saw a lot of history and had a very enjoyable trip.

From **Bill Belcher - Sandy Reiter** moved out of state. I have her updated email address, and phone number if any of you want to contact her.

You all know Anne and I moved to Nevada earlier this year. We like the climate and the local folks. It's just a down home, rather simple place to live, that never closes (casinos, etc.). We really like how well they treat seniors down here too.

A while back, the Carson City Symphony Association advertised for a director for their chorus, the Carson Chamber Singers. I applied for the position and was selected. I am currently their interim conductor for this performance year. We do performances with the Symphony, and separate concerts with



just choir and guests as well. Our repertoire varies widely from classical to modern, with an emphasis on community involvement. This has been a truly rewarding experience, and it's possible that it may continue beyond this season. Here is a link to the Chamber Singers portion of the Symphony web site. You can find a lot out about music in Carson City here: <http://ccsymphony.com/ccsingers.htm>

Well, it's time to put a wrap on this month's issue for District 2. Anne and I wish all of you a most Merry Christmas and a happy, and joyous, New Year.

- Bill Belcher

The Haps in District 3

District 3 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

The Haps in District 4

Welcome new District 4 Director **Nigel Blampied**. In the previous edition, QCC President **Butch Biendara** pointed out the need for a D-4 Director and **Nigel** stepped up. To all QCC members of D-4, let **Nigel** know what you could do, or how you might help.

The Haps in District 5

District 5 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

The Haps in District 6

District 6 is always looking for stories about your trips, your health and anything else of interest. Send your input to **Terry Littleton**.

The Haps in District 7

This HAPS section is dedicated to Caltrans environmental planner **Leonard Cornett**. He was a dedicated volunteer at the Railroad Locomotive Historical Society's Rail Giants Train Museum at the Fairgrounds in Pomona CA. His special project was the care and maintenance of "Big Boy Steam Locomotive 4014," a static display at the museum.

First, you need to know the story of this steam locomotive. Here is information straight from the Union Pacific website.

'Twenty-five Big Boys were built exclusively for Union Pacific Railroad, the first of which was delivered in 1941. The locomotives were



132 feet long and weighed 1.2 million pounds. Because of their great length, the frames of the Big Boys were "hinged," or articulated, to allow them to negotiate curves. They had a 4-8-8-4 wheel arrangement, which meant they had four wheels on the leading set of "pilot" wheels which guided the engine, eight drivers, another set of

eight drivers, and four wheels following which supported the rear of the locomotive. The massive engines normally operated between Ogden, Utah, and Cheyenne, Wyo.

There are seven Big Boys on public display in various cities around the country. They can be found in St. Louis, Missouri; Dallas, Texas; Omaha, Nebraska; Denver, Colorado; Scranton, Pennsylvania; Green Bay, Wisconsin; and Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Big Boy No. 4014 was delivered to Union Pacific in December 1941. The locomotive was retired in December 1961, having traveled 1,031,205 miles in its 20 years in service. Union Pacific reacquired No. 4014 from the RailGiants Museum in Pomona, California, in 2013, and [relocated it back to Cheyenne](#) to begin a multi-year restoration process. It returned to service in May 2019 to [celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad's Completion](#). [Source *Union Pacific website*]

So now the D-7 connection from **Marie Martin**. When the anniversary of the driving of the Golden Spike was imminent, Union Pacific got the idea to resurrect their largest steam locomotive for the commemoration event near Promontory, Utah. Twenty (Five) Big Boys had been built, but U.P. selected the one in Pomona due to the fact that **Leonard's** diligent maintenance had kept it in the best shape of all the surviving Big Boys across the country.

The train has been traveling since the Promontory Point celebration and was offering excursion rides in Southern California. Caltrans retirees **Daria Simolke**, **Bob Walters** and myself, **Marie Martin**, in addition to Bob's son, **Jason**, rode the train from Barstow to Colton Yard on October 13. It was an amazing journey. Rail fans by the hundreds were on the train, and by the thousands were lining the entire route as we passed by. The onlookers had everything from cell phones to huge professional cameras on

tripods set up to record the event. Scads of cars raced alongside accompanying us wherever a road ran nearby. Many people just stood and waved. We passed by a couple of Freeway interchanges and traffic was at a standstill in all directions as motorists gaped at the huge huffing anachronism overhead and the Highway Patrol were tearing their hair out.

Unfortunately, **Leonard** died in 2007 and did not live to experience his dream of seeing Big Boy



Leonard Cornett

4014 restored to full operation. Sadly also, our longtime rail fans and traveling buddies, Caltrans co-workers **Kirsten** and **Stewart Stahl** have also gone to the Big Rail Yard in the Sky. All of them were much missed on this adventure. We made up

badges commemorating **Leonard's** achievement (see above) and took a photo of the Stahls with us, so all were there in spirit.

- **Marie Martin**

Road Last Traveled

From Kent Brinkmeyer (son) - **Norman C. (NC) Brinkmeyer**. passed away on May 1, 2019. He retired in December 1984 as Head of Maintenance for District 7 after about a 40 year career with Cal Trans. **NC** was an **Honorary QCC Member**.

The Haps in District 8

First off I would like to wish each and every Quarter Century member a very safe Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Where has the year gone? Yours truly is now getting everything ready for our annual Christmas Luncheon on

Saturday, December 14, 2019. I'll have a full article in our next newsletter.

Our President **Sybille Phillips** has been out of the country in Germany for the last month or so taking care of her Mother and moving her to an Assisted Living Facility. I'm sure she will have lots of news for our next newsletter.

In the meantime, I've a few items of interest, mainly from **Linda Supernaw**. She is still working at Caltrans as a Consultant and has been very good on sending me articles that might be interesting to our members. Thank you very much for doing this Linda.

This month is mainly news of promotions, retirements, and several members passing away.

I received news from **Linda Grimes** in October that **Les Franz**, had been in the hospital three days for tests. He had been having weakness in his arms and legs and is slowing down from his activities. He is done with driving, bowling, and the coffee group on Wednesday. His mind is good, but doctors are checking his head and neck. His son, Robert, and his wife Laurie are assisting him at home. His cousin, Tim, is also helping **Les**. I believe he's had surgery and hope to have more information soon.

Mr. **Mark Pertile** was recently promoted to a Supervising Transportation Engineer, (Civil) effective November 1, 2019. Mark received his Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Engineering Technology in 1988 from Montana State University. Soon after graduation, Mark applied to every State Highway Department west of the Mississippi River, and chose Caltrans, District 8, primarily because of its Rotation Program. (That makes yours truly feel old as I was involved with Mark's initial hiring!) His rotation assignments included Project Studies, Design, Construction, and Traffic Design.

After rotation ended, **Mark** spent two years in Traffic Operations, before settling in Design in 1994. Mark promoted to Senior Transportation Engineer in August, 1999 and has served as the Office Chief of Design M since then.

Congratulations, **Mark**, on your promotion!

Another promotion was the appointment of **Ruben Campos** as the District 8 Deputy District Director of Administration effective October 31, 2019. Ruben has over 29 years of state service with approximately 21 years of supervisory and managerial experience. Currently he is the Chief of Business Management Services and Facility Operations which includes overseeing and managing the building operations staff and the Office of Health and Safety Management Services.

While at Caltrans he also worked as a Senior Right of Way Agent in District 7. In 2005, he worked as a District 8 Construction Liaison assigned to the 60/91/215 interchange project in Riverside performing public information services.

Ruben is a graduate of Chapman University and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Science. Congratulations **Ruben**, on your promotion.

Mr. **Ramadan Farag (Ramy)** was promoted to a Senior Transportation Engineer in the Division of Maintenance.

Ramy earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt in 1987. After graduation he spent 9 years in the public sector as a Resident Engineer. In 2000 he joined Caltrans and spent 11 years in the Division of Design and the last 7 years with the Division of Maintenance. While in Design, he assisted in delivering many notable projects; 60/91/215 design sequencing project in Riverside, I-215 Segment 3 in downtown San

Bernardino and many other District 8 projects. As a Project Engineer in the Division of Maintenance he successfully delivered numerous Highway Maintenance (HM) projects.

Congratulations **Ramy** on your promotion.

Several District 8 employees are retiring: After 29 ½ years of State service, **Cindy Flores** has decided it's time to relax, travel, and enjoy her grandkids!

Cindy celebrated with her family and friends at a lunch at The Mexico Café.

Please join with everyone in wishing **Cindy** a very Happy Retirement.

We received a note from one of our Maintenance employees, **Jeff Renfro**. "My time for retirement from Caltrans civil service has arrived. Working alongside so many dedicated driven people who strive in helping California travelers is what we, together, can be so proud of.

"Over the many years, we've dealt with some very difficult situations in Southern California and have helped our Northern neighbors at times. Through those struggles, I've met so many wonderful people along the way. I am very proud of the work we do at Caltrans. Now more time spent sharing time with family and friends, ministry, gardening and travel.

"Keep up the good work, remember we're all relying on you to help get our family, friends and ourselves where we're going. "Best and warmest wishes. God Bless." - **Jeffrey Renfro**

Steve Pusey, Deputy District Director – Maintenance is retiring after 40 years of State service.

Steve is looking forward to spending time with staff and sharing stories of the good times he shared with everyone.

Congratulations and best wishes to Steve on his retirement.

We received this nice retirement note from **Syed Raza** on his retirement.

"When I started working for Caltrans in 1991 as a Junior Civil Engineer, I had no idea what an amazing career and journey I was starting. Over the next almost 29 years, I had the humbling experience of working for one of the best organizations in the world. I always thought I would work for Caltrans as long as I had the passion, drive and enthusiasm, to come to work every day and try to make a difference in the life of the residents of the great State of California – And if it began to fade, I would retire... That day never came. So, instead of waiting, I have decided to pass on the torch to the next generation of leadership at Caltrans who are ready, willing and fully capable of taking Caltrans to the next level.

"During the course of my career here, I had the distinct pleasure to work with so many wonderful people. It has been a privilege to work alongside so many talented employees and an absolute honor to serve as a Deputy District Director for almost 17 years. The District has delivered so many unique and history-making mega projects, as we rebuilt our transportation infrastructure. The District also played a leadership role in partnering with our Regional Transportation Planning Agencies, San Bernardino County Transportation Authority and Riverside County Transportation Commission to baring managed lanes to the region using alternative delivery methods and innovative unwavering commitment, integrity, dedication and support.

"As I look back at my career, I take pride that I got to work for an exceptional and innovative organization with so many dedicated employees committed to serving the public each and every day. None of this would have been possible

without the support, hard work and professionalism of each and every one of you. I am immensely proud of all of you and the work you have done.

“Thank you for giving me the honor to work with you. All the best to my Caltrans family.”

- **Syed Raza**

Congratulations to another Caltrans employee. Again, to show how old I feel, Syed volunteered early in his career when I was in charge of our Caltrans Maintenance/Landscape Worker examination one day filing period which always was a big undertaking. He was ready and willing to help wherever he was needed and I really appreciated that! Congratulations again, **Syed**.

Joseph Potwardowski called a month or so ago and he informed me that he'd had a couple of minor strokes in October while in Detroit, MI. He is staying with family and doing better after the strokes. He sounded good and I told him I hoped he'd be back in California soon.

It is with deep sadness that we were informed of the passing of former Caltrans employee, **Thai Van Nguyen**. Thai passed away peacefully on Tuesday, September 3, 2019. Thai retired from State service in December 2014, after 26+ years with Caltrans.

There was a private family service and a visitation was held on Sunday, September 15th, 2019, at Preciado Funeral Home in San Bernardino, CA.

All our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

We also heard that former District 8 Safety Officer, **Richard Huerta**, passed away on Monday November 4, 2019, surrounded by his family. Before retiring last December 2018, Richard was the District Safety Officer in the Division of Administration for several years and

started his Caltrans career in the Division of Maintenance. **Richard** was a veteran of the United States Marine Corp.

Again, all our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

Our dear friend and **President** of the **Quarter Century Club** for many years, **Wes Grimes** passed away just before our (September) newsletter went to publication.

A beautiful memorial service was held for **Wesley Grimes** at the Sunrise Church in Rialto, CA at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 26, 2019, Wes's 81st birthday.

It was a wonderful service with Chaplain Reuben Russell Officiating and **Linda** and sons, Chris, Scott and Michael gave brief messages on their Husband and Fathers influence on their lives.

There was a wonderful smorgasborg luncheon in the church's auditorium. There was a who's who of Caltrans employees and several District Directors including **Bob Sassaman**, **Stan Lisiewicz** and his wife **Ina**, **Anne Mayer**, **Al Hudgens** and his wife **Judi**, **Bill Feenstra**, **Gary Cohoe**, and our current District Director **Mike Beauchamp** and his wife **Paula** and so many other retired and active employees of District 8, too many to acknowledge here.

Linda was completely overwhelmed with emotion that so many of Wes's friends and workers made the effort to attend his services. She was so appreciative, and I didn't want to leave, but needed to get home to assist my husband, Craig, who has been bed bound since January.

In closing in **Wes's** amazing life, he worked on most of the highways in San Bernardino County, traveled to five continents, played and coached many sports. He liked watching golf, the Lakers and the Dodgers. He was an Elk. His home

lodge was in San Bernardino, CA. Also, he was active in many community events through the lodge and with Sunrise Church where he was a regular attendee.

He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, co-worker and friend. He will be fondly remembered and truly missed.

Wesley is not gone, he just changed his address!

That does it for District 8 this month and again have a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

- **Marsha Lotze**

The Haps in District 9

District 9 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

The Haps in District 10

District 10 Retirees are still meeting at 8:00 a.m. on the last Tuesday of the month but location has changed. Contact the Director **Stan Randolph** for more information.

Road Last Traveled

Douglas Worley, Nov. 19, 1929 - Sept. 22, 2019, was a tough, kind and complex man. He was a stepfather and grandfather and had worked for CalTrans as an Engineer for 41 years. He was an outdoorsman, a hunter, avid reader and multifaceted all around good guy. He will be terribly missed.

Published in The Record on Oct. 6, 2019

Eleanor C. Felix, Feb. 2, 1926 - Nov. 18, 2019 was born in Oxnard and died peacefully in her Stockton home surrounded by her loved ones on November 18, 2019, at the age of 93. She was the D-10 executive secretary.

Published on Dignity Memorial website

- **Brian Young**

The Haps in District 11

The 2018 District 11 QCC Fall Picnic was held again this year at Admiral Baker Field. The QCC provided hamburgers, veggie burgers and hot dogs along with beverages and quite a few club members brought yummy side dishes while the rest paid \$5 at the event. The picnic was well attended with over 75 members and their families who came out to enjoy the day. The 50/50 Drawing and Raffle were a great hit as usual and thanks to our many participants who donated unique items, the Quarter Century Club made \$375! After accounting for the rental of the venue, members who paid to attend and purchase of the food and drinks, the total cost of the event was only \$137!

We'd also like to say a big **Thank You** to **Butch's** friend **Lee Cain** (US Navy Retired) who acted as our sponsor for the event. Both Lee and his wife Sally attended the picnic and we couldn't have done it without them!

The CT Retired Ladies Lunch Group meets twice a year to catch-up and check in and recently met in November when a record number of the gals showed up! Some attendees have been retired for 20+ years and others have recently joined the ranks. New adventures, family and the joys of retired life are usual topics of conversation and all who attended had a great time chatting up a storm. The next CT Retired Ladies Lunch is set for Tuesday, May 5th, 2020 at 11:30am at Souplantation, 7095 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.

Please contact **Ava Sarkisian** at Ynotyak@aol.com for more info.

The ROMEO (Retired Old Men (and women) Eating Out) breakfast at the Denny’s in Fletcher Hills begins at 8:00 AM on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Come on out and meet up with some of the old gang to reminisce and see what they’ve all been up to.

Road Last Traveled

Longtime **Quarter Century Club member Eric Sarkela** passed away on September 18, 2019. Eric started his career at the Division of Highways in November 1964 as an Aid 1 where he worked as a Construction Field Tester. He



was promoted many times throughout his career ultimately becoming a Resident Engineer in September 1983. After retirement, **Eric** continued to work as a Subject Matter Expert for Cal-State Sacramento. Since

2008, he served as Chairperson and Member on many Dispute Resolution Boards (DRB), and at the time of his passing he was working on several DRBs.

Eric loved spending time with his children and grandchildren, and they were his greatest source of solace after the death of his beloved wife **Pat** in 2015. After his retirement, Eric and Pat spent many happy years traveling around the US in their 5th wheel trailer and especially enjoyed their trips to Oregon! **Eric** leaves behind his daughter Shannon Whipple, her husband David and their children, Ashley, Amanda and DJ along with his son Tod, his wife Stacy and their sons Gunnar and Asher. He is also survived by his sister Susie Ault and his brother Jon Sarkela. Eric’s Celebration of Life was held on October 18 at the

Elks Lodge in El Cajon and was attended by over 100 people.

On another sad note, a good friend and Caltrans Senior Transportation Engineer, **Marla Deyoe** passed away suddenly on November 24. Marla was working as the Senior Hydraulics Engineer at the time of her passing. **Marla** leaves behind her husband, **QCC Member Chuck Deyoe**, son Charles Deyoe, daughter Janae Wyckoff (Tom) and the light of her life, her granddaughter Lexie.

Her sudden and tragic loss has devastated both family and friends and our condolences go out to them during this difficult time. For those of us who were fortunate enough to work with her, known her, or be her friend, she will be missed.

Happy Holidays to all our Members and their Families!
-Kelly Manning

The Haps in District 12

District 12 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

The Haps in Central

Central District members and visiting retirees enjoyed their Winter Luncheon on December 4 at the Spaghetti Factory. A good time was had as the 55 attendees visited, ate, drank, and won raffle prizes.



We congratulated our newly identified Honorary

Members: **Maria Cornelius, Bob Giess, Hugh Griffin,** and **Al Raymon.** A huge thank you to **Dave and Judy Saxby** and **Pat and Jerry Laumer** for arranging this luncheon.

From **Merle & Denise Larrabee** –

“From February 15 thru March 1, 2019, we cruised on the Coral Princess from San Francisco to Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The cruise was very enjoyable, except for several rather minor events. Leaving SF was a somewhat rough ride for the first night. Lots of seasickness. The other spot was San Juan Del Sur, Nicaragua, where we were unable to go ashore (via tender) due to the wind exceeding 50 MPH! Otherwise, the rest of the trip was great. It was very interesting to see the new locks at the PANAMA CANAL. They are adjacent to the old ones, but almost twice as wide. A very nice viewing area has been constructed at the Atlantic end of the Canal, for viewing them. All-in-all, it was a very good trip. We recommend it, if you haven't been there.”

Our good friend and colleague, **Bob Watkins,** sends his recollection of a 1982 Caltrans Haps in District 9. **The Right Thing** follows:

The small town of Bishop California can be isolating at 4000 feet elevation with mountains towering to 14000 to both the east and the west. There is no rail line and only one highway, Hwy 395, which climbs to 8000 feet north of town. In 1982 I was the district director for the highway department, known as Caltrans, and my wife, Janet, was the county school superintendent for all of Inyo County.

Some way we got the idea of a GED class for Caltrans workers. (Generalized Education Development or Certificate of High School Equivalency) We found a retired teacher from Los Angeles who was anxious to teach a formal evening class with study material provided by the state.

But there was a problem. The state was willing to pay for the tuition but the maintenance workers were required to do it all on their own time and travel. The workers were stationed at yards miles away from the district office. For example, the Shoshone yard was 220 miles on the other side of Death Valley, over four hours away.

We had a strong response to the announcement. Twenty four men signed up for the evening classes which was held in the district office cafeteria. They came from the mountains to the north and the desert to the south. I attended the first meeting and to no one's surprise in the parking lot was several orange pickups. Time and travel? I just looked the other way.

For the last class the state sent a proctor to give the GED test. Twenty two took the test and all passed. (They had lots of practice tests.) Then came the precious part. On Saturday we had the graduation in the cafeteria. All twenty two attended. The room was full of kids and families. There was an outburst of joy as their fathers, sons or husbands, one in his fifties, received their GED certificates. There were tears and hugs and excitement that could only be found at a high school graduation. One gray haired mother had come all the way from Pico Rivera in the Los Angeles area to be with her son and his family.

Why the big fuss over a GED? Think about how times have changed. When these men were in high school the graduation rates varied from 30 to 60% depending on the neighborhood. Were they the first in their family to reach this level? Some of these guys had worked a half day with the crew, drove for hours, attended class, drove home, got up and worked all the next day then studied all that evening. It was time to celebrate. I was sure the state had some dedicated maintenance men who through great personal effort had done the right thing and would do so in the future.

It became known that I had allowed workers travel time and the use of state pickups for these classes

so I had some explaining to do. I just told the director in Sacramento that I had done the right thing. - **Bob Watkins**

From **Allen Wrenn** –

Allen Wrenn spent the month of October traveling in the Northeast part of the US. His lady friend accompanied him on this trip.

They flew into Dulles, outside Washington, DC, rented a car and drove for a month. The genesis for the trip was an annual family reunion, with this year's being held in Powhatan, VA, near Richmond. Before attending the reunion they visited a wide range of attractions in Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and across the border into Ontario, Canada.

Among the highlights of their month-long trip was visiting Niagara Falls, Ontario where their hotel room overlooked the Falls. They also enjoyed learning about the Amish and Shaker cultures in the respective areas where they are prominent. Another highlight was their enjoyment of lobster and other seafood in Maine. The timing of the tour was just right for the enjoyment of the Fall Colors in New England.

A downside of the trip was that **Allen** came home with a broken jaw. He broke it two weeks before returning home, but did not realize the reason for his discomfort until he came home and had a routine visit to the Oral Surgeon who had removed a wisdom tooth shortly before the trip began. Yeah, Allen knew something was wrong because he heard a loud "crack" when he bit down on a piece of biscotti. After the trip, beginning October 31, **Allen** had his mouth wired shut to allow the jawbone to mend. He was told to figure on having the closed-mouth condition for six weeks. He is now looking forward to a diet of something different than creamed soup and smoothies. Yes, that was his menu for Thanksgiving.

- **Wes Lum**

Events

Got a group that meets regularly? Let your director know and we'll add it to the event calendar.

District 1 -

Caltrans retirees and QCC members meet on the 3rd Thursday of the months of January, April, July and October at 9:30 am at the Pantry on Broadway in Eureka. Contact **Arlene Hartin** at ahartin@suddenlink.net or call (707) 443-8841 for details.

District 2 -

Retired Caltrans Ladies Lunch Bunch meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11:30 AM, location varies. Contact Retha Rubiec at goldmine@c-zone.net.

Retired folks meet on the 3rd Monday of each month between 7:30 and 9 am at the District Office snack bar at 1657 Riverside Drive, Redding.

District 3 -

Weekly Tuesday Coffee/Breakfast at 8:30 am at the "Green House" in the Raley's Shopping Center in Placerville.

Contact: **Doug Becker** 530-622-1665, doug.becker@att.net

District 4 -

The Caltrans Lunch Bunch meets on the second Tuesday of every month.

Contact: **Ed Coble** 925-465-4219, edcoble49@astound.net

Administration Retirees Lunch Bunch meets the third Wednesday each month at 11:30 a.m. at the Guadalajara Restaurant in Oakland – right across the street from the Fruitvale BART station. Contact **Anita Appiano** (anita.appiano68@gmail.com) or **Kathy Freeman** (kathy.freeman1@att.net). All are invited.

The North Bay Caltrans Retirees meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

District 5 -

Contact **Kathy Copeland**: 805-544-1834 bcopel4674@aol.com

District 6 -

The Caltrans Retiree Breakfast meets at 9 am on

the third Wednesday in March and September at the Waffle House on Route 68 in Lindsay.
Contact: **Don Phillips** 559-781-2057

Informal Coffee at 8 am on Thursdays at Country Waffles at the NW corner of Herndon and Cedar.

An informal District 6 bunch meets at Santa Fe Basque Restaurant at 3110 N Maroa Ave, south of Shields in Fresno the first Monday of the month.

District 7 -

The **Tom Fera** Monthly Luncheon Club meets on the second Wednesday of the month in LA.

Ventura Monthly Meeting

Caltrans retiree luncheon is held the third Monday of each month at 11:30 AM, in Oxnard at BJ's Restaurant & Brewery

San Gabriel Monthly Meeting

Caltrans retiree meets on the Third Thursday of each month at 11:30 AM, in San Gabriel at the **Golden Soup**, 1039 E. Valley Blvd., San Gabriel.

District 8 -

Every Wednesday morning at 9:00 Construction Retirees and anyone else interested meet at the Family Home Style Café on Redlands Boulevard near Tippecanoe in San Bernardino.

A group meets for lunch on the third Wednesday of even numbered months. Currently they meet at The Sizzler on South Waterman at 11:30am. Everyone is invited.
Contact **Sybillie Phillips** for more info

District 9 -

Contact: **Lance Hinek**, 760-873-3885

District 10 -

Details on events contact **Brian Young**
209-329-3445 cell or blyoung365@gmail.com

Lenny's Huddle meets at 8:00 am on the last Tuesday of the month. Location has changed.
Contact: **Stan Randolph**, 209-957-1278,
stanran3672@aol.com

District 11 -

D-11 Retirees meet 3rd Wednesday at 8am every month at Denny's at Fletcher Parkway and Navajo Road.

Informal Luncheon meets at Soup Plantation in Kearny Mesa. For more information, contact Ava Sarkisian.

Central District -

QCC Luncheon
Contact **Wes Lum** (916-243-9824)

To Honorary Members

If you are at least 80 years of age, you are classified as an Honorary member of the QCC. Being an Honorary member qualifies you for a discounted rate for the printed QCCer, or the electronic version of the QCCer for free.

If paying the dues would be a hardship for you, you may be able to get your dues waived. Contact your QCC District Director and if they approve, send the request to the QCC Secretary/Treasurer. See Renewal Form on next page.

The 2020 Roster is coming in March Have you made your selection?

By Mike Ogilvie

The QCC Roster of Members will be printed and mailed along with the March 2020 QCCer newsletter. Your name will be listed. This will be the third biennial roster to include a member's contact information, at the discretion of each member.

This new feature was offered at the request of many QCC members that wanted other members to be able to contact them, as Caltrans no longer keeps or provides contact information for retired employees.

If you will be owing dues for 2020 (remember dues need to be received by the end of January), or, if you are already paid up for 2020 but want to change your selection of which contact information will be included with your name, please use the Special QCC Membership Renewal form found in the back of this QCCer newsletter (don't use an older renewal form because it won't have the check boxes). It has a place for you to indicate if you want any of your contact information printed in the 2020 Roster.

Look at the address block on this QCCer newsletter to see what you currently have in effect. Look for Roster <> on the first line above your name. The letters between the brackets will be A=mailing Address, T=Telephone number, E=Email address, or blank=no contact information printed in the roster for you.

Example:

Status <R> Paid thru <2020> Roster <AE>

John Filmore
123 Main St
National City CA 91234

Note: members who receive the electronic version (e-QCCer) will see their current selection in the follow up status email message, or, they can look in their orange 2018 Roster.

On the special QCC Membership Renewal form at the back of this newsletter, you can check any or all of the first 3 boxes to indicate what contact information you want printed. Or, you can check the 4th box to indicate you do NOT want any of your contact information printed in the roster.

Only the contact information on file in the QCC database will be used. Don't write in different contact information to be printed instead of what we have on file.

If you don't send in this special form, or if you don't check any of the boxes on the form, your previous selection will remain in effect for the 2020 QCC Roster. Thank you for giving this issue some thought.

New Members

Since last issue of QCCer

Name	District
Azar Habibafshar	11
Anne Mayer	8
Dennis Wilder	11

John Hood: Dine [Navajo] Artist, USMC Combat Veteran's Art is in Smithsonian

By Roy Cook

Following **John Hood's** service in the Marine Corps he attended San Diego State University. He has been employed by Caltrans as an artist and designer for most of his professional career. National recognition is being acknowledged following an assignment to create the undocumented immigration road sign.

Peter Liebhold, a curator for the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, said the museum wanted to acquire an example of **John Hood's** art in the presentation role of road sign for its permanent exhibit on transportation, which opened a year and a half ago, but curators found the 5-by-7-foot sign too large for the allotted space.

The Smithsonian settled on a photo of the sign instead. It hangs one floor down from the original 1813 Star Spangled Banner, the flag that inspired the national anthem. "It transcends its local history," Liebhold said. "Its importance is as a metaphor for undocumented immigration into the United States."

The sign is intended to warn drivers they might encounter people frantically darting across lanes of traffic as they tried to evade border security. The job landed on the desk of Caltrans graphic artist **John Hood** in the late 1980s. He was asked to design an image that, in the blink of an eye, would alert drivers to the unexpected sight of pedestrians in their headlights.

Before Hood began drawing the sign, he and his supervisors met with Highway Patrol officers and saw photos of accident scenes. What got to him most were the deaths that involved families. "Graphically, I wanted to show a family," said Hood, who lives in San Diego. He chose to

include a pigtailed girl, rather than a boy, because "there is something about a little girl running across with her parents that we are more affected by."

At first he drew detailed figures, with faces that showed "a little bit of fright." But, in the end, Hood and his supervisors decided on a



silhouette. "When you are looking through headlights, that is what you see," Hood said, "an outline of the image itself."

As he sketched, Hood tried to imagine the despair that might drive such a family across the border and onto a forbidding foreign highway. He drew from his own experience fighting in Vietnam, where he had seen families run for their lives as villages were attacked. He remembered stories his Navajo parents had told him about ancestors who died trying to escape as U.S. soldiers marched them onto reservations.

John Hood was born and raised on the Navajo Reservation near Gallup, New Mexico. He is named after an uncle who died as Prisoner of War in the Pacific and an uncle was a Navajo Marine Code Talker, the late Mr. James Nahkai, Jr. John graduated from a Bureau of Indian Affairs (B.I.A.) boarding school Wingate High School and as a student he Rodeoed, riding bareback broncos and bulls on the Navajo Reservation. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps while still attending high school. Did a tour in Vietnam as combat infantryman in the late 60's and early 70's. "While serving with the First Marine

Division in connection with combat operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam from 1 June 1970 to 21 March 1971, lance Corporal Hood performed his duties in an exemplary manner." He is decorated for his military service with the AWARD OF THE NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL with COMBAT "V".

The drawing was finished in a week. Even without faces, the characters conveyed a sense of urgency in their flight. "It doesn't just mean they are running across the freeway," Hood said. "It means they are running from something else as well. I think it's a struggle for a lot of things, for opportunities, for freedom."

The first signs were unveiled in September 1990 at Camp Pendleton. With a new purpose **John** was again in close proximity to the Marine Corps.

Hood, the Caltrans artist, a modest man by nature, didn't set out to create anything of the sort, just a road sign to help save lives. Over the years, he has watched the transformation of his simple creation into souvenir, protest art, icon and metaphor with a mix of amazement and amusement, wishing only that some of the money being made from it today were generating funds for public safety. Hood earns no royalties. He's lost track of his original sketches. His wife filed them away, but he's not sure where. Not that it bothers him. His road sign, or at least some version of it, isn't hard to find.

"That was my baby," he said. "It has its own life now."

Article Source:

<http://www.americanindiansource.com/hoodart.html>

[Editor's note: **John Hood** retired from Caltrans about 6 years ago after many years of service.]

**QCC Membership Renewal Form, effective 2019
SPECIAL ROSTER FORM**

Please complete and return this form, **even if** your dues amount is \$0.

Name _____ District _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip code _____

Phone (_____) _____

E-Mail address _____@_____

Date of Retirement _____ Years of Service _____

Date of Birth _____

Your contact information to be included in the 2020 QCC Roster of Members

Check up to 3 boxes:

- Mailing address
- Telephone number
- Email address

Check this box if you do NOT want any of your contact information printed in the 2020 Roster.

Dues amounts: check one

80+ years of age, born before 1931, printed/mailed QCCer	\$5	<input type="checkbox"/>
80+ years of age, born after 1930, printed/mailed QCCer	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/>
80+ years of age, online (emailed) QCCer	\$0	<input type="checkbox"/>
80+ years of age, printed/mailed QCCer*	\$0*	<input type="checkbox"/>
80+ years of age, NO QCCer newsletter, but keep me on your roster	\$0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Printed/mailed QCCer for younger members	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online (emailed) QCCer for younger members	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/>

*- this option is for hardship situations where the Honorary member does not have email and cannot afford the normal dues amount. Your QCC District Director's written approval must be enclosed with this renewal form.

Make any checks payable to the Quarter Century Club

QCC
PO BOX 421292
SAN DIEGO, CA 92142-1292