



## Robert Hultman

November 24, 1947 - January 25, 2024

Robert E. “Bob” Hultman, 76, of Summerville, South Carolina, passed away on Thursday, January 25, 2024, at home with his family.

A memorial website for Robert Hultman “HonoringBobHultman” is in process and will serve as a place where people can learn more about his life and remember his legacy at Willowise.com.

Born in Michigan and raised in North Carolina, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, Bob graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a B.S. in Chemistry. He was a veteran and officer in the United States Army and served 23 months as a lieutenant, stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he met his future wife, Beckie, who nicknamed him her “walking encyclopedia.”

Following his military service, Bob began a 34-year career as an investigator with the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA), first in Cincinnati, Ohio, and then for decades in FDA’s Nashville, Tennessee regional office, retiring in 2007. Bob possessed a strong sense of duty and purpose and enjoyed mentoring new investigators with care and humor.

Having loved both model and “live” trains from childhood, for decades he dedicated his talent as vice president of the Tennessee Central Railway Museum, an organization he helped found. He later joined the Charleston

Area Model Railroad Club during his time in South Carolina.

Bob is survived by daughters Andrea and Ashley; brothers, Dick (Jane) and Randy (Lynda); and several nephews, nieces, grandnephews, and grandnieces. Predeceasing him were his wife of 45 years, Rebecca "Beckie" (nee Smith), and his parents, Gustaf and Thelma (nee Funk).

He is fondly remembered whenever a train whistle is heard.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions may be made in his memory to your local food bank or Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee. [Secondharvestmidtn.org](http://Secondharvestmidtn.org)

# Tribute Wall

ST

“ I met Bob when I began volunteering at the TC railroad museum (TCRM). But I really got to know him when I started helping him with the Order Board (the TCRM newsletter) and then took it off his hands entirely. . Under Bob's guidance, we expanded the Order Board to a member-oriented newsletter that depended on submissions from the members long standing and new, young and old, and friends. With the safety protocols during Covid and our building storm damage which had restricted the member meetings, for many members the Order Board newsletter became their primary link to the organization.

Once he announced he was leaving, I began working on a TCRM Memory Book for him, since I knew what a significant part of his life the museum and the member friends were to him. I invited members to submit their stories, their memories, their photos, the humorous adventures and also what they had learned from Bob while working on the train excursions, the maintenance projects on both building and cars. Many members contributed their thoughts and pictures, and were included in the monthly newsletters, and then compiled into the Memory Book. His daughter mentioned to me how much he treasured that book.

His resignation letter to the TCRM Board in December 2021 ended with his statement:

*"Other than marrying my wife and raising 2 pretty smart daughters, I consider TCRM and its predecessor model RR activities my most consequential accomplishments in my life.*

*It's been a great run..... Bob*

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**Susan Thomas** - February 15, 2024 at 09:23 PM

LI

“ Bob was a mentor for me as I began my career with the FDA. He was always willing to share his knowledge of FDA and of course, he also shared his knowledge and love for trains. I always enjoyed working with him and every train depot or train we saw, he would share and explain about railroads and trains. He certainly was a treasure to this world and will be missed. I wish comfort to Andrea and Ashley as you navigate life from this point forward. Know both your mom and dad were wonderful people and loved you both so much. They were certainly proud of the young women you have become.

*Sending love and compassion. Linda Stewart aka with Bob T. Linda*

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**Linda** - February 12, 2024 at 10:52 AM

RF

“ Bob is a first cousin. His sense of humor and stories will be missed. Anyone that has known Bob is aware that he had a passion for trains. He acquired this at an early age and always was working a layout. I remember that he needed coal for a tender and would take the charcoal out of disposed cigarette filters. Must have taken a very long time but Bob was a detail guy and wanted that coal realism. Moving up from toy trains to the real thing at the museum was his jackpot. He gave my wife and I a tour years ago and was very proud of how the museum had grown. I hope he's engineering the eternal Heaven Express with stories at every stop. Rest in Peace Bob.

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**Rick Funk** - February 10, 2024 at 09:48 PM

“ Bob Hultman was a once in a lifetime cousin with a focus that was nonpareil – or should I say NONPAREIL!

*Throughout Bob's youth he had a virtual non-stop fixation on Avalon Hill games and then on trains as the teenage years came to pass. That focus came to rest on every type and stripe of train from our teens onward.*

*Whenever in our youth Bob and I jointly visited our grandmother in Norfolk, upon finishing a meal at the kitchen table we would immediately depart the table – and hit the floor with one of the many Avalon Hill games and their cardboard playing pieces. Our favorite was the evenly arrayed battle of Gettysburg – except that whichever army Bob won on the coin flip was being handed an unfair advantage – as such was Bob's fulsome concentration. And, of course, as with all who lack such a God-given power, I seldom won any of those youthful Avalon Hill "wars." But when I did, I would quickly fold the playing board and fast as lightning stuff it and its associated playing pieces into their box.*

*When Bob and I reached those teen years, I had the joy of many summer trips for weeks at a time at the lighthouse at Cape Hatteras, where Bob's father – Uncle Gus to me – had been stationed by our federal government as the "Head Ranger" for the entire Outer Banks, which at that time had no bridges (just small 3-4 car motorized platforms) connecting the three separate "islands" of those Banks that ran from across the inlet at Virginia Beach to Ocracoke. In fact, the Outer Banks were essentially barren but for wild horse on all three segments. You cannot imagine the nonstop fun we had on those myriad occasions when Gus took us with him on his all-the-way/all-day trips up and down the Banks. Gus, of course, was doing his work while Bob and I carried on in the back seat like a bunch of little kids. As long as I live, I will never forget how much fun was packaged in Bob and transferred to me in part – as I could never equal Bob –on those Hatteras runs!*

*As I conclude this eulogy to Bob Hultman, I am certain that those who already find themselves in the Heaven now have a compatriot that will make even IT a better place because of his presence.*

*[A very saddened Bud Funk in  
Richmond, VA)*

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**mahlon Funk** - February 10, 2024 at 01:19 PM



“ *Bob was definitely a fixture at the museum. He worked on everything that needed to be worked on. He was our popcorn man at Thomas The Tank. It always made me feel good when I could help Bob. Because he did so much for everyone. Christmas at the museum was not the same without Old Santa Bob. He will be missed by so many freinds. Hope there are lots of trains in Heaven.*

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**Doug Uhler** - February 07, 2024 at 07:54 PM

EB

“ *Bob came to check out the Charleston Area Model Railroad Club a little over a year ago; he quickly established himself as a dedicated and knowledgable member, dedicating countless hours helping us complete various improvement projects. He was a role model for young and old members alike, and an absolute pleasure to be around.*

*Thank you Bob for everything*

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**Eli Byron** - February 07, 2024 at 04:22 PM

JG

“ Bob and I worked together at the Tennessee Central Railway Museum for many years. Bob was always there doing whatever was needed to keep the Museum going. Always there when you needed him. Always had the answer to most railroad questions. As a volunteer on the diner car Bob Always gave us our instructions for the days excursion. And he seemed to always beat us there to the Museum every Saturday Mornings around 5:00 AM ! We will miss you Bob . All of us at Tcrm. Fly high with all of our members there that are stacking chairs in Heaven. Say hi to Frank Holt. You will be sorely missed.

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**Jerry Gray** - February 06, 2024 at 11:48 PM

HN

“ Marie and I are saddened by Bob's homegoing. He was a trusted friend as well as a dependable fellow member of the TCRM, in fact I considered him the person that kept the museum running smoothly. He will be sorely missed by the TCRM. We worked with Bob on many projects at the museum and especially enjoyed our trips on the excursion trains. He always had a good attitude and a "lets work together" to get the job done right and safely. Bob was a fellow Veteran serving his Country in the U.S.army he shared many of his adventures with members. A gracious and humble man, he will be missed ! Respectfully, Hugh and Marie Nichols

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**HUGH NICHOLS** - February 06, 2024 at 04:07 PM

KB

“ Bob was treasured by his FDA and tailroad families. Honorable and trusted, and yes, he was our encyclopedia too! He was compassionate and so, so funny! The best mentor and friend you could have. His expertise well known, he made a point to teach and to listen. You ladies and his brothers are loved. Bob loved Beckie and each of you as evidenced by sharing stories of you as you grew up! Sending love. Kari

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**Kari Batey** - February 06, 2024 at 12:54 PM