



American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association

50 F Street, NW
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20001
aslrra@aslrra.org
www.aslrra.org

Contact:

Amy Krouse
akrouse@aslrra.org
(Cell) 312-371-6947
(Direct) 202-585-3438

ASLRRRA Selects Jack Parliament as the 2023 Schlosser Distinguished Service Award Winner

NEW ORLEANS, April 3, 2023 - The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRRA) is pleased to announce the 2023 Schlosser Distinguished Service Award honoree is Jack Dale Parliament, former president of the D&I Railroad who was actively involved with the Association for over two decades. The award, named for former ASLRRRA Chairman Thomas L. Schlosser, is the highest individual honor bestowed by the ASLRRRA, recognizing an individual for his or her long-term, significant service to the ASLRRRA and the short line industry. Parliament, who passed away in October, was honored posthumously this morning at the ASLRRRA Annual Conference and Exhibition in New Orleans, Louisiana.

“Jack Parliament was a man on a mission, and it was never about himself,” said ASLRRRA President Chuck Baker. “His drive to ensure that the smallest of our Class III members were well represented, well understood and well supported was notable, and his passion and quick laughter were legendary. He made ASLRRRA a welcoming place for all size railroads, and established other short line groups such as the Outback Railroad Association as conduits to share best practices. His impact on our industry, particularly for small railroads, is immense and undeniable.”

Parliament was very engaged with and supportive of the ASLRRA mission, representing small railroads on the Association's Board of Directors and Executive Committee, and establishing the Small Railroad Committee on which he served as Chair until his retirement in 2019.

Throughout his tenure, Parliament stood up for small railroads and their employees, and his work helped amplify and address their unique issues and concerns. Under his leadership, the Small Railroad Committee worked closely with ASLRRA staff to develop essential tools and resources to help small railroads succeed in a complex, heavily regulated industry.

Among the projects Parliament pushed for are the Association's live webinars and On Demand Webinars Resource Library and the Member Discount Program to leverage the buying power of the entire industry and secure discounts for all short lines, especially the smallest railroads with limited resources. His support for the Short Line Education Fund helped facilitate the creation of scholarships for employees of small railroads to attend important industry training, an effort that now awards more than \$10,000 annually.

Parliament was also very active in ASLRRA meetings and events. He regularly attended Railroad Day on Capitol Hill and participated in advocacy initiatives on behalf of short line railroads. At Association meetings, Parliament worked with ASLRRA to push for coverage of relevant topics to ensure members, especially small railroads, had access to information regarding grants, regulations, and legislative actions. According to his D&I Railroad colleague Scott Van Den Top, General Manager, Parliament firmly believed in the networking opportunities provided as members of the ASLRRA.

"Jack's leadership and vision helped establish some of the most important tools and resources we now offer to ASLRRA members," said ASLRRA Senior Vice President of Education and Business Services Sabrina Waiss. "Part of his legacy is that he extended to small railroads a hand up through education; the seeds he planted have flourished and will continue to benefit the entire industry far into the future."

Parliament started his railroad career with the Burlington Northern Railroad in 1979. Over his career he worked for the DM&E Railroad as a conductor/engineer, the Ellis & Eastern Railroad

as Superintendent of Operations and then the D & I Railroad as Operations Superintendent. He held the role of president at D&I from 1999 until his retirement 20 years later.

Parliament also was appointed to the South Dakota Railroad Board and served there for 10 years. He was a founding member of the Outback Railroad Association formed in 2014 to promote safety and training to short line railroads, regularly inviting ASLRRA to speak and provide updates to the many small railroads at the group's meeting.

For a video on the background of the Schlosser Distinguished Service Award, click [here](#).

About ASLRRA - The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) is a non-profit trade association representing the interests of the nation's 603 short line and regional railroads and railroad supply company members in legislative and regulatory matters. Short lines operate 47,500 miles of track in 49 states, or approximately 29% of the national railroad network, touching in origination or termination one out of every five cars moving on the national railroad system, serving customers who otherwise would be cut off from the national railroad network. www.aslrra.org