

Co



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

ASLRRA to Induct 2025 Hall of Fame Class at Annual Conference Ron Batory, Earl Durden and Henry Posner III to be Honored

WASHINGTON, January 7, 2025 – The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association will induct Ron Batory, K. Earl Durden (posthumously), and Henry Posner III into the Short Line Railroad Industry Hall of Fame on April 8, 2025 at the ASLRRA Annual Conference & Exhibition in Denver, Colorado.

This year's honorees include a former Federal Railroad Administrator, a visionary who enabled the formation of today's ASLRRA, and a life-long railroad activist.

"The short line industry is one of the All-American success stories, built over more than 100 years by hard working entrepreneurs, who saw potential where others did not. The Short Line Railroad Industry Hall of Fame recognizes extraordinary contributors to our history. This year's inductees, Ron Batory, Earl Durden and Henry Posner, are a unique class of leaders – three individuals who not only transformed small railroads into significant economic contributors, but each in their own way advanced the industry through dedicated leadership and advocacy," said Chuck Baker, President of ASLRRA. "Their contributions have changed our industry for the better, and we look forward to honoring each of them at our Annual Conference in April."

Created in 2020, the Short Line Railroad Industry Hall of Fame recognizes short line railroad visionaries who through their dedication, commitment, and achievement best exemplify the

qualities of innovation, entrepreneurialism, perseverance, and service that have advanced the short line railroad industry.

2025 Inductees

Ronald “Ron” Batory – *Five Decades of Railroad Operation and Policy Expertise*

As the story goes, Ronald “Ron” Batory’s father, a car checker with the New York Central Railroad, did not want his son to “waste a college education on a railroad.” Nevertheless, Batory found his calling in the rail industry, eventually serving as head of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

Before leading the FRA, Batory spent five decades working directly for railroads, starting in 1971 with a union craft position for the Detroit, Toledo and Ironton Railroad Company (DT&I), and progressing in management positions with Grand Trunk Western Railroad, Chicago, Missouri & Western Railroad Company, Southern Pacific Transportation Company and The Belt Railway Company of Chicago, where he led the switching terminal company to an array of unprecedented safety, service and financial performance records. These accomplishments in Chicago led to Batory being appointed in 1998 as president and chief operating officer of the Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail), a position he held until his retirement in 2017.

Batory was nominated to be the fourteenth administrator of the FRA and was confirmed in the Senate by unanimous voice vote in 2018. Since the end of his tenure as FRA administrator in 2021, Batory has continued to be active in the railroad industry, serving in advisory and governance roles for rail related business. In December 2024, Batory was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as a member of the Amtrak Board of Directors.

Kedrick Earl Durden – *A Transformational Leader for Communities and ASLRRRA*

As a short line railroad owner, K. Earl Durden played an instrumental role in the development of ASLRRRA as it exists today, supporting a merger of the American Short Line Railroad Association and Regional Railroads of America in 1997. Durden served as chair of ASLRRRA for many years and was a member of several of the Association’s committees including the Finance and Administration Committee and Legislative Policy Committee. Durden was also influential in the legislative arena and worked tirelessly to get the first 45G short line railroad tax credit passed.

In 1980 Durden founded Rail Management Corporation and Rail Switching Services, Inc. Through Rail Management Corp. Durden owned and operated 16 short line railroads across the U.S.

Outside of railroads, Durden was active in communities across Alabama, Georgia and Florida. When *Florida Trend* magazine released its 2004 list of Florida's 100 Most Influential People, Durden was named one of the "Most Influential in Business," recognized for his efforts in local economic development, particularly with advancing transportation improvement projects.

Durden passed away in 2010 at the age of 73 after a battle with cancer.

Henry Posner III – *A self-described life-long railway activist*

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Henry Posner held a variety of rail-related positions, including Amtrak ticket sales, and summer jobs at the Official Railway Guide and Rock Island Railroad, beginning his extensive career as a self-described railway activist.

In 1987 Posner and Bob Pietrandrea formed Railroad Development Corporation (RDC). RDC made its first investment in the Iowa Interstate Railroad in 1991, followed shortly by an investment in Argentina's Urquiza Railway, launching RDC in both the USA and overseas. Today RDC's portfolio includes freight and passenger businesses in the U.S., including Iowa Interstate, RailPulse, and Pop-Up Metro, LLC, and in France, Germany and Peru.

Posner is currently serving the industry in numerous capacities, including the Transportation Research Board's Agriculture and Food Transportation Committee and the newly formed Surface Transportation Board (STB) Passenger Rail Advisory Committee, where he is co-chair.

Along with work in the private sector Posner is active in education and serves on the faculty of Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), is an emeritus trustee and former president of the Winchester Thurston school, and a board member of the Independent School Chairperson's Association.

For more information on each Short Line Railroad Hall of Fame 2025 inductee, click [here](#).

About ASLRRRA - The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRRA) is a non-profit trade association representing the interests of the nation's 603 short line and regional railroads (Class II and III 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, particularly in rural and small-town America. Categorized as small businesses, short lines transport all commodities, with the agriculture, energy and manufacturing sectors being particularly reliant on short line service. www.aslrra.org