Christopher David Sheppard

AGE: 58 •

Christopher David Sheppard, 58, railroad engineer, musician, photographer, astronomer, husband, and father, was struck and killed by a train after he was called to perform inspection work for Bay Area Rapid Transit near Walnut Creek, California on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2013.

Born on Dec. 6, 1954 to Sylvester Thomas Sheppard and Lorraine Cecere in Red Bank, Chris entered the railroad industry as a trackman for Amtrak shortly after his high school graduation. He became an expert in track safety and maintenance, retired from Amtrak as assistant division engineer, and joined BART in 2011. A lifelong self-teacher, Chris filled his home with guitars, gadgets, cameras, and telescopes, and he loved to share what he learned with everyone around him.

Chris is survived and loved by his wife, Barbara; his two children, Christopher and Amanda; and his 11 sisters, Patricia Rainville, Sharon Sheppard, Lorraine Sheppard, Sandra Ford, Joanne Rudow, Carolyn Dominguez, Audrey Phillips, and Pamela, Leatrice, Teresa, and Jacklyn Preston, who deeply miss him and his photos of the stars.

Christopher will be reposing from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, 2013 and from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27 at the Evergreen Memorial Funeral Home and Cremation Service, 1735 Route 35, Middletown. There will be a prayer service at 10 a.m. Monday morning, Oct. 28 in the funeral home. Internment will then take place in Fairview Cemetery in Middletown.

Published in Asbury Park Press on Oct. 25, 2013