

Michael C. Brestel
May 14, 1951 – May 22, 2024

CINCINNATI MODEL RAILROAD CLUB POSTING

It is with very heavy hearts we are sharing news of the passing of long-time Cincinnati Railroad Club member Mike Brestel this afternoon (May 22, 2024). Mike was an active member, volunteering in various ways including the club's steam trips and presenting many programs. He was especially known as the expert on the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway's Cheviot Yard and environs. In fact, many referred to him as Mr. Cheviot Hill. But Mike was much more than Mr. Cheviot Hill . . . He was also a railfan, photographer, owner of Western Hills Photo & Hobby, model railroader with his own C&O layout at one time, member of the Cincinnati Model Railway Club, honorary life member of the NMRA - National Model Railroad Association and Cincinnati Division 7 MCR NMRA where he held multiple offices, served on the Summerail committee (as the audio person), and so much more than this space has room for.

Most importantly, Mike was a husband, father, grandfather, mentor, and friend to many who will greatly miss his presence in their lives.

Now, it seems only fitting to close with OVER & OUT . . . the words Mike wrote in 2012 as the title of his final magazine column as NMRA President.

Mike, may all your signals be green.

NMRA NATIONAL POSTING

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of a true legend in the model railroading community, former NMRA President, Michael C. Brestel. Mike's dedication and passion for the NMRA spanned over 57 years, leaving an indelible mark on all who knew him. His tireless service, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to our organization have left a lasting legacy that will never be forgotten.

Beyond his remarkable contributions to the NMRA, Mike was a loving husband, father, and grandfather, deeply involved in his community and church. His love for the Cincinnati Reds and his enthusiasm for model railroading were infectious, touching the lives of many.

We remember Mike not only for his numerous roles within the NMRA but also for his warmth, kindness, and friendship. His presence will be sorely missed, but his spirit and dedication to the model railroading community will continue to inspire us all.

Rest in peace, dear friend. You will always hold a special place in our hearts.