

# Kentucky Steam Heritage Corporation acquires Norfolk Southern SD40-2 Locomotive

Irvine Ky - On Thursday, Kentucky Steam Heritage Corporation (KSHC) announced on June 18, 2020 that they have acquired SD40-2 locomotive number 6162 from the Norfolk Southern Corporation. In its 42-year career, NS 6162 saw service in the Appalachian coalfields and hauled countless tons of freight through Central Kentucky.

Chris Campbell, president of the 501(c)(3) non-profit, says the addition to Kentucky Steam is a major milestone in the development of the rail-based economic development project taking shape in Irvine, Kentucky.

"This generous contribution by Norfolk Southern is a fantastic addition to our collection, which is being curated to tell the story of how railroads built our region and the Nation as a whole. We are flattered to have a locomotive as relevant and as valuable as NS 6162, and its inclusion in our roster in another exciting milestone for our organization."

NS 6162, a 3,000-horsepower SD40-2 locomotive, was built in May of 1978 by General Motors, Electro-Motive Division (EMD) in LaGrange, Illinois, for the Norfolk and Western Railway. It performed duty all over the railroad, predominantly hauling coal out of Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky. In 1982, the Norfolk and Western Railway and Southern Railway merged to form today's Norfolk Southern Corporation, and NW 6162 became NS 6162. It remained on the active roster for NS until this Thursday, when it was officially donated to Kentucky Steam.

The locomotive will remain in operational condition and will be displayed at the KSHC headquarters in Irvine, Kentucky.

KSHC was founded in 2015, with the intent to boost tourism in Kentucky through rail-related operation and development. The organization's efforts have centered around the restoration of historic steam locomotive C&O 2716, which was built in 1943 and is owned and leased by the Kentucky Railway Museum. The organization also is currently developing a large tract of former-CSX railyard in Irvine into a multi-use rail-based community center.

Campbell says that the 6162 is a valuable addition to KSHC and is a worthy comparison to the historic 2716 steam engine, as both locomotives were the workhorses of their eras on the railroad.

"6162 is one of the thousands of SD40-2's that were built for American Railroads between the early 1970s and the late 1980s. Much like historic C&O 2716, the 6162 is an excellent example of what helped further our Nation's rail empire. We are excited for members of the public to visit our developing Rail Heritage Center in Estill County, Kentucky, in the future, and to compare the technologies of different eras of 20th-century railroading."

Norfolk Southern 6162 joins the KSHC roster alongside CSX 1100, a former-CSX and L&N SW-1500 switching locomotive, and R.J. Corman 2008, a Chinese-built steam engine, given the moniker "Old Smokey." Both engines were donated to KSHC by their respective owners within the past year.

The organization also rosters Nickel Plate Road 2-

8-2 steam locomotive number 587 which is on indefinite loan by the Indiana Transportation Museum.

Kentucky Steam aims to maintain and operate 6162 and its stablemates as their rail project takes shape in Appalachian Kentucky.

"We are honored to have this opportunity, to both

showcase this fine example of American ingenuity, and to help tell the story of the fine men and women who have helped make this country what it is today through our national rail system," Campbell said. "We cannot thank Norfolk Southern enough for this exciting donation."



Photo credit: Casey Thomason



Photo credit: Brandon Townley

# Estill County MIA Fairce Conner is remembered June 20<sup>th</sup> on anniversary of his being listed

Estill County's Fairce Conner was remembered Saturday, June 20, 2020 by Rolling Thunder K5 on the anniversary of his being listed as Missing In Action. There was a Facebook Live Remembrance at Noon beside his marker in the Sand Hill Christian Church Cemetery in Irvine, Kentucky.

76 years ago today, on June 20th, 1944 the B-24 Liberator "Bottle Baby", took off from North Pickenham Airfield in England. Their mission was a bombing raid on the well defended Politz oil refineries in Poland.

While approaching the target over Pomeranian Bay, the formation came under attack by the German Luftwaffe. The 856th Squadron was completely wiped out, as all eleven of their B-24's were lost.

Staff Sgt Conner's plane was hit by cannon fire, lost a wing, rolled over and dove, before finally blowing up.

Pilot Lt. Milton Goodridge, the only survivor, didn't jump but was blown from the plane. He was picked up by a German patrol boat and became a prisoner of war. His 8 fellow crew members, including Fairce, were lost in the Baltic Sea area and remain missing today.

You Are Not Forgotten



ABOVE: Fairce; then his family. BOTTOM: Crew of the B-24J Liberator "Bottle Baby" #44-40169 856th Bomber Squadron, 492nd Bomber Group U.S. Army Air Forces. Standing top left is Pilot Lt Milton Goodridge, the only survivor. Fairbanks "Fairce" Conner is a bottom left.