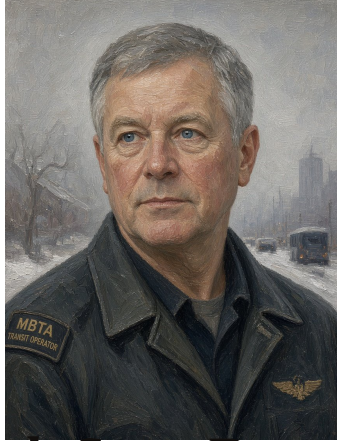




Patrick Sean Dougherty

February 28, 1957 - September 3, 2026

Boston, Massachusetts

Patrick Sean Dougherty died in Boston on September 3, 2026. He was sixty-nine. Born there on February 28, 1957, he grew up knowing the Green Line as a neighbor that complained in public, and he learned a cab before he learned a campus. A schedule, he said, is a kind of promise you make to people who are already late.

He spent twenty-eight years as a motorman, first on a night shift that smelled of wet wool, later as the calm face in the glass when the snow made the city argue with itself. He did not shout into a microphone. He repeated a stop until the car had it. Riders trusted him because he would tell them when he did not know, which is rarer than courtesy. After a bad afternoon he sat in the yard with the windows cracked until his hands were quiet.

He married Mary Dougherty in 1982. They raised a daughter and a son in a triple-decker that needed a new porch every twenty years. Mary taught second grade. Patrick packed lunches that could survive a fourteen-hour shift and still taste like home. He walked the harbor before dawn because that was when the water looked like work instead of recreation.

Neighbors remember a man who brought coffee to a carhouse without staying for thanks, who knew which intern needed a second explanation, and who could hear a switch without making it a personality. He loved a late-summer tomato, a clean punch, and the particular silence after a delay is cleared. He died in Boston, the tight city that had always been enough map. The line is still open. Someone else will call the next stop. They will call it a little faster than he did.

Services

A gathering in Boston at evening. A gift to a transit-workers' fund or a parish pantry suits him.

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