



Edgar Lee Rice, Jr.

July 16, 1935 - December 25, 2019

Edgar (Ed) Lee Rice, Jr., was born on July 16, 1935, to Ed C. Rice and Leona Schildt Rice. He died peacefully at home on December 25, 2019. Born and raised in Wellington, CO, he was valedictorian of Wellington High School class of 1953, and captained two state championship teams. Ed married his high school sweetheart, Janice Reckard, December 26, 1954, while on leave from the Army. Ed passed one day before their 65th anniversary.

When his military service was complete, Ed pursued higher education at CSU. He earned a B.A. in Education and a M.E. in Education/Administration. His teaching career commenced in Minatare, Nebraska. Returning home to Colorado, he began a 32-year career serving the students and families in Poudre School District. His tenure included positions at the former LaPorte High School, Poudre High School, Rocky Mountain High School, and Wellington Jr. High. He was named principal of Poudre High in 1986, retiring in 1992. Ed's many years of service as a teacher, coach, mentor, and administrator were recognized when he was given the honor of having a school named for him. Rice Elementary opened in Wellington, CO, in 2007.

In addition to his family and professional contributions, Ed found time to be involved in other community service. Over the years he held membership in the following organizations: LaPorte Presbyterian Church, Golden K Kiwanis and Lions' Clubs, Poudre and Colorado Education Associations, Larimer

County Democratic Party, and the Wellington Alumni Association. Always active as a coach, he was one of the founders of Fort Collins Youth Baseball.

Ed was the heart of a large and loving family. He was preceded in death by his parents, his 4-year-old son, Gary, and his grandson, Tyson. Survivors include his beloved wife, Janice, four children, Larry (Diane), Sherry (Ernie Anthony) of Greeley, CO, Terri, and Kerry (Cindy Cushman) of Louisville, KY. Also surviving him are his siblings Jerry Rice (Carol), and Patricia Rice Noffke (Pete) of Menasha, WI. Survivors also include 10 grandchildren: Bryson (Johnna), Brent, Austin, Beau (Katie), Alyson (Dante Conti), Grace, Natalie, Chelsea, Joshua, and Isaiah, as well as, 6 great-grandchildren, four great-great grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

The family wishes to invite you to a 10:00 AM visitation, 11:00 AM memorial service, with lunch to follow, Saturday, January 4, 2020, at First Presbyterian Church, 531 College Ave., Fort Collins, CO. In lieu of flowers, donations to Ed's favorite charities would be appreciated: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Shriners Hospital for Children, or LaPorte Presbyterian Church, LaPorte, CO.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 4. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (MT)

First Presbyterian Church
531 S. College Ave.
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Memorial Service

JAN 4. 11:00 AM (MT)

First Presbyterian Church
531 S. College Ave.
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Reception

JAN 4. 12:00 PM (MT)

First Presbyterian Church
531 S. College Ave.
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Tribute Wall

TC

“ He was the kindest heart,giveing person I have ever meet.Awesome principal, he helped me growing up threw school,9th grd.to my graduation,he will be missed ,the district losses a one of a kind humanbeing...



Tammy Cortez - January 08, 2020 at 07:12 PM

VI

“ Ed was a great man and will be missed by all. Sincerest sympathies to all of the Rice family our thoughts are with you.

Virgil and Lois Davis and family

Vicki - January 03, 2020 at 03:43 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Edgar Lee Rice, Jr..



January 02, 2020 at 09:57 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Edgar Lee Rice, Jr..



January 02, 2020 at 10:23 AM

JO

“ *In these days of sorrow, we pray that the Lord will give your family guidance as we remember Ed as a teacher, Coach, Friend and Administrator.*

*I will personally miss the discussions we had over the years!
“An Impala talking to a Lambkin”. :)*

May God bless your family.

John and Barb Olander

John Olander - January 01, 2020 at 11:49 AM

KP

“ I taught English at Poudre High during Ed's tenure as Principal. He was a supportive and knowledgeable leader. Ed understood the value and responsibilities of public education. He believed in it's intent to educate and to reach out to all students. He therefore believed that no personal religious or political agendas had any place in the classroom; not by a teacher or by the community. I'm afraid I put these values to the test. I was teaching a book where the main character meditates and finds enlightenment. My students wondered about meditation, so I said I would show them and we would meditate. But a set of parents just knew that I was inviting the devil into the classroom and wanted it stopped. They were kind and truly alarmed. We all met with Vice Principal Dick Banister who supported my right to do this activity (not that he, or Ed, thought it was a good activity). They then asked to speak to Ed. As always, Ed was supportive of the mission of public schools in general, and explained this to the parents. After the meeting Ed put his head in his hands and groaned. He said, "look at my tie." His tie was covered with little images of Arizona State's Sparky the Sun Devil. Little devils with pitch forks all over his tie. Ed loved this story and we had good laughs over it (much later)!

Kathy Price

Kathryn Price - December 31, 2019 at 03:02 PM



“ On behalf of the 59 members of the Poudre Golden K Kiwanis Club, we offer our sincere condolences to Ed's family. Ed was a revered and respected member of our service organization. His cordial friendship and fellowship as well as his many years of service to our club and our community are greatly appreciated and will be genuinely missed. RIP, dear Ed.

*F Brent Reeves
Secretary, PGK Kiwanis
Fort Collins, CO*

Brent Reeves - December 31, 2019 at 01:26 PM

JR

“ *Dear Rice Family:*
I was so Blessed to have Ed in my life as an educator and friend. I met Ed when Rocky opened.. Being an Industrial Arts teacher and coach I was in contact with Ed a lot in those early years at Rocky.. When he applied to be the principal at Wellington and Poudre he asked me for a recommendation. I was honored to write a recommendation for Ed. He always gave the best he had for kids.. We had many visits about growing up on farms, and how hard a life that was back in the good old days. I know Heaven is rejoicing celebrating Ed's homecoming. Our prayers are for Family and Friends left behind.. But we are left behind with great memories. The Lord be with the Rice Family in their loss of a great man who made a difference in this world. God Bless!

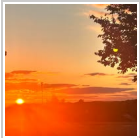
Jim and Sandy Robbins

Jim Robbins - December 31, 2019 at 01:13 PM

BP

“ *Janice and family,
So very sorry for your loss. Ed will be missed by the entire Fort Collins community. He will also be missed by all the students that he came in contact with. I know I will personally miss the man that taught me all about being a student athlete. Thanks Ed!*
Barry Peterson
Poudre High School 1966

Barry Peterson - December 31, 2019 at 12:33 AM



“ *My deepest sympathies to all the Rice family. I was so sorry to hear of Mr. Rice's passing. He was a great principle that always made me feel like he wanted nothing but success for me. He was such a happy person to be around, and he made me feel accepted, which was great for a teenager. I personally know he had such a positive impact on many students lives in Northern Colorado. My heartfelt wishes for your wonderful memories of him to help your healing as you move forward. Your are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Sharyl Ellerby - December 30, 2019 at 10:08 PM

KS

“ *Dear Rice Family,
You are in our thoughts and prayers. Mr Rice as I still call him (even after knowing him since I was 6 years old) was always a Larger that Life man. Much loved and respected across so many generations. We will be there Saturday , we will continue to keep you in our prayers.*
The Tysdal Family, Marylyn, Kelli, Kalene and Ed.

Kelli Jo Tysdal Stadlman - December 30, 2019 at 10:05 PM

ES

“ *Rice family. Very sorry to here of the passing this past weekend. Will be thinking of you all.*

Erik sampson - December 30, 2019 at 05:53 PM

BA

“ *Janice and family, How I shall miss Ed! From the early times of our friendship -- summer baseball, '4th July Old Timer's Baseball', to the many memorable Canadian fishing trips with all our good friends -- what fun and laughs we ALL have had over the years. Blessings to you and Roses in your crown. Lovingly, Bud Anderson, Marilyn and family.*

Bud-Marilyn ANDERSON - December 30, 2019 at 05:05 PM

HS

“ *Ed was the Principal of all principals. His objectives were clear and his standards were fair. I was happy to go to work each day knowing there was a person wanting the same goals as the rest of his faculty - success for the students.*

My heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family (his Children, Wife Janice, Brother Jerry). I will always admire him. God Bless

Hugh Shepherd - December 30, 2019 at 03:04 PM

SW

“ I knew Ed as my principal at Wellington Junior High. He was the greatest boss I ever had! He didn't feel like a boss, more like a friend! He was so supportive to his teachers and so fun! He said, "Go in your room and teach and I'll take care of the rest of the stuff! I will also have your back!". He did! When he came to Wellington he inherited a staff that had been through a lot and was pretty broken. He put us back together and made coming to work fun! I always felt he cared for us and had a great sense of humor. I knew I could joke with him. One morning I saw him before school and I asked if he had had a rough night and he replied no then I said how about before school, was your morning rough and he said no, why are you asking. I said because you are wearing two different kinds of shoes! We had a good laugh!!! He was the best and I regret that I didn't have one more chance to tell him! Blessings to you all! Thanks for sharing this amazing man with us!!! Love to you all!
Suzy Swanson Wells

Suzy Swanson Wells - December 29, 2019 at 03:34 PM

CN

“ My sympathies go out to the Rice family, especially his loving wife. Mr. Rice, who I now called my friend Ed, has been an integral part of my family since the opening of Poudre High School. He was a coach and mentor that morphed into a longstanding friendship. I feel so fortunate in the fact I was able to spend quality time with him in the past few months as he graciously attended our 50 year class reunion and then a few weeks later the 50th anniversary of the State Championship football team. Rest In Peace my friend.
Clark Nelson
Poudre 69

Clark Nelson - December 29, 2019 at 03:03 PM

JA

“ *Mr. Rice is an icon in the northern part of our community. He was my principal and his daughter, Terri, my basketball coach during my time at Poudre. My first year in Poudre School District, I had the opportunity to refine my practice from Diane and enjoy having their son Austin in class. With each experience with a Rice family member, I gained a deeper appreciation not only for our profession as teachers, but most importantly the value of community. I have been fortunate to be part of opening the school in his name sake and continuing his legacy in education. My deepest sympathies to all of you.*

Joalie Alldredge

Joalie Alldredge - December 28, 2019 at 04:04 PM