



## Raymond Sterling Hale

December 8, 1948 - March 16, 2016

Colorado lost one of its favorite native sons, Raymond Sterling Hale on March 16th, 2016 in Loveland, Colorado at 67 years old from complications that arose from pneumonia. He was surrounded by his three children and devoted sister and brother-in-law at the time of his death.

Raymond was born in Lamar, Colorado on December 8, 1948. He was the second child and only son born to Zelma Thompson Hale and Aaron Raymond Hale.

Raymond spent his childhood years in Springfield, Colorado. He was both a talented athlete and academic scholar. He had a hunger for learning that lasted the whole of his life and he spent many early summer days visiting the public library in Springfield. He read "Les Miserables" in middle school. He made many lifelong friends in his early years, including his "brother" Daniel Reeder. He was selected all-state quarterback for the state in his junior and senior years. His small town upbringing and the values he was taught led him to appreciate the simple things.

After graduating in 1967, Raymond attended the University of Denver on an academic scholarship. He was involved in student government including serving as president of the student senate and he was a passionate supporter of the civil rights and peace movements. He graduated in 1971 and

subsequently attended law school at University of Denver.

Early in his legal career, Ray was one of the founding partners of Hale, Smith and Williams. It grew to be one of the largest and most-respected law practices in Fort Collins.

In 1992, Ray felt passionately about leaving his career as a lawyer to embark on a new career as a middle school teacher. This second career brought him great joy and pride. As a seventh grade English and life skills teacher, Mr. Hale (as they called him) touched the lives of thousands of students...making them more interested in learning, certainly, but also making them feel seen and respected. He made a lifelong impact on many of his students, who consider him to be not only a great teacher, but also a mentor and friend. He taught at Webber Junior High School for his entire 13-year career.

Ray was a dreamer and an eternal optimist. He loved talking with people, both friends and complete strangers. He loved Colorado, good food, and good music.

With a bright mind, a healthy sense of humor and a talent for loving people well, Ray had a significant impact on many people. He will be forever missed with scores of friends, family and former students striving to live by his example.

He was always quick to say that his life's greatest achievement and blessing was being a dad to his three children. Family was always first for Daddy Ray. He was an exceptionally loving and devoted son, brother, and father.

Ray is survived by daughter Sarah Hale Soboleski (Stephen) of Sarasota, FL, son Benton Sterling Hale (Jennifer) of Greenwich, CT, and daughter, Amanda Hale DeJesus. (Amin) of Coral Gables, FL, grandchildren Sawyer, Devin,

Sydney, Porter and Rosie Pearl. As well as by his sister Beverly Hale Winsett (Joseph).

Join us for a Celebration of his Life on Monday, March 21, 2016 at Crossroads Church at 5420 North Taft Ave, Loveland, Colorado 80538 at 2:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be directed to <https://act.buildon.org/fundraise/team?ftid=73748> to aid his family in building a school in his memory in Nicaragua. Checks can be made out to buildOn in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive, Ft. Collins, CO 80524.

Student Condolences and Reminiscence:

With your intelligence, passion and optimism you inspired so many young minds to be better, try harder and have confidence in themselves. You had a special way of connecting with people and touched so many hearts along your journey, including mine. Thank you for teaching me lessons in and out of the classroom. Thank you for being such an awesome person, role model, mentor, coach and friend! I truly believe that the world is a better place for having you in it, as I know myself and so many others are better people for knowing you. You will be missed by so many who had the honor of knowing you and especially those of us who were lucky enough to learn from you.

Watch over us like the angel you've always been. ~ Stephanie LadMerlot

Thank you for the motivation, laughter and time you shared with me. I'll never forget it. You were great friend and I will definitely miss you. I can only pray that my kids are as lucky as I was and are given the opportunity to have a teacher like you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. You left your mark in this world. ~ Keoni Mikala Sabas

He taught me that even when life is tough it's not permanent. He taught me to push harder and trust myself. To think objectively. To see beyond the tough exterior of people and love them for who they are and where they are going, and gain an understanding from where they came. The ripples of impact are

huge. ~Sarah Evans

Undoubtedly, you made an immeasurable impact on many, many kids. Thanks for making the world brighter and better. ~ Lindsay Mason

I will always remember your affection for your kids and your passion for life.

God bless you. ~ Jim Macdonald

I will never forget how you sparked a passion for English and literature in my life. And I will never forget how genuine and caring you were towards me as a person. Even as a young student, you saw the best in me and treated me as an equal. I am forever indebted to you. The memory of you will always hold the most special place in my heart. ~ Britony Orwick

There are truly no words to adequately express how much you will be missed and what an impact you had on so many lives. ~ Jenna McNealy

Mr. Hale you are hands down the best teacher I have ever had! Thank you for your passion to teach and to connect with us! You are an amazing man! ~

Ashley Crane

You were one of the biggest role models and inspirations us kids had to look up to. ~ Brittani Gooden

Mr. Hale brought good good vibes wherever he was. ~ Morgan Baptist

You've been a role model and mentor to more people than anyone I've ever had the pleasure of knowing. Your smile, your laugh, your spirit and the way you cared about others will ALWAYS be missed. ~ Amanda Brooksmith

Rest in peace cousin Ray. Rest high on that Mountain with your Daddy and Momma. ~ Linda Webster Logan

Thanks for your editing, guidance, and perspective. You were a great man and teacher. Even though we didn't always see eye to eye, I'm better for it.

Looking back, without a doubt, you were one of my favorites. You go on ahead, we will carry on your good grace knowing your influence will guide us until we ourselves are called to the next adventure of this universe. Have no doubt, you made your life count. ~ Kevin Lane Butts

Mr. Raymond S. Hale always had such a huge impact on me . I always looked forward to his class and to see his smile. ~ Afton McGlothlen

Mr. Hale, you taught me that there is no situation that laughter and love can't fix. Thank you for what you have done for me and countless others. You were the embodiment of what every teacher and every human should strive to be.

To say you will be missed is an understatement. ~ Darcy Darland

He was great soul who did many great things for thousands of kids he taught.

He could light up the room and make any ones day better with a smile. He told many great stories. He will be missed deeply. ~ Tina 'Dowling' Thompson

In life there are a handful of people that have impacted your life to the point that they have left a permanent mark on your life. Mr Raymond S. Hale was one of those people for me. I had a hard road academically and mr Hale was one of the best teachers I ever had!!!! Or have ever known. The way he approached his classroom and his students you just don't see today. His faith and encouragement never failed me. ~ Marissa Radney-Bruce

To me you were a teacher, a coach, a mentor, a friend, like a second dad and a boss. I've known you for nearly 20 years and have cherished all of them getting to know you more, hearing about your growing family and introducing you to mine. ~ Ambrosia Belchic

Mr. Hale will be truly missed. He was an amazing teacher, coach, mentor, and friend. Mr. Hale made me believe that one day I will finish, and publish, my book, he brought me rhubarb from his garden, always sent me the nicest birthday messages, And he was always willing to listen and give advice. ~ Erin Burk

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAR 21. 2:00 PM (MT)

Crossroads Church  
5450 North Taft Ave.  
Loveland, CO

# Tribute Wall

ZA

“ We just saw this over a year late due to being out-of-state. So sorry for this tremendous loss. We rented Ray's home (or "Hale Ranch" as he liked to joke) in the Seven Lakes area when we moved from Texas. What a tremendous man with that wry sense of humor. We miss you Ray!

*All our love - Ruth, Zack, and Ryan*

---

**Zack** - April 02, 2017 at 02:32 PM

RT

“ My name is Rebecca (Gowin) Tommack. I knew Raymond from activities we shared as high school students involved in MYF. Ray & I attended University of Denver as scholarship students & graduated the same year. Before we attended our freshmen we took a trip by bus to Seattle & back again by bus with other Methodist students to attend a conference. We enjoyed the adventure & spent long hours talking on that long bus ride. We didn't spend time together during our time at DU, but my best friends husband was a member of his fraternity so I heard of his accomplishments through them. We both had competed for the Holt scholarship & the Rocky Mountain Methodist Regional scholarshi. I received that scholarship but Ray was awarded others so we both could attend. Anyway I thought the world of your dad & had only recently found him on Facebook. I hope that my husband & I can help with the building of the school that your family plans to build. Please keep me informed as you move forward with your plans. I am a former teacher &!would love to be a part of your project to honor your father.

---

**Rebecca (Gowin) Tommack** - June 15, 2016 at 11:42 PM

KC

“ Sarah, Ben and Amanda-- I am very sorry to hear of Ray's passing. I remember him as a very caring and involved father! I also have always admired the fact that he changed his career mid-life to teaching. I know he really enjoyed and had a lot fun with middle school kids!  
My thoughts and prayers are with you! Enjoy the memories.  
Karen Courtney

---

**Karen Courtney** - March 24, 2016 at 11:05 PM

AZ

“ Sarah, Amanda and Ben: Both Colleen and I want tell you how saddened we are with your Dad's passing. He was a wonderful friend and someone that I spent many fun and enjoyable hours. He never lost his enthusiasm and lust for life.

I also want you to know that when I talked with your Dad last fall he mentioned several times how proud he was of you and your families. All of you were very important to him.

Art Zimmer

---

**Art Zimmer** - March 22, 2016 at 10:09 AM



“ Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Raymond Sterling Hale.



---

March 21, 2016 at 12:51 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Raymond Sterling Hale.*



---

March 20, 2016 at 11:21 AM



“ *Sarah, Ben and Amanda, I know what a difficult time this is but, remember that you will always carry with you the unconditional love of Ray Hale. Our Love, Mick and Peggy Sage*

---

**Peggy Sage** - March 19, 2016 at 07:46 PM



“ *Ray hired me out of law school and was a mentor, teammate, partner and friend. He had the strength of character to give up the practice of law to pursue his dream of being a teacher. He was exceptional at that vocation as well. Ray was a kind, thoughtful, and good man. If I'd known our recent lunch together would be our last meeting, I would have more openly expressed my thanks and appreciation to him. Carpe diem. May he rest in peace. Blessings to you, Sarah, Ben and Amanda.*  
*Zach Wilson*

---

**Zachary Wilson** - March 19, 2016 at 03:50 PM



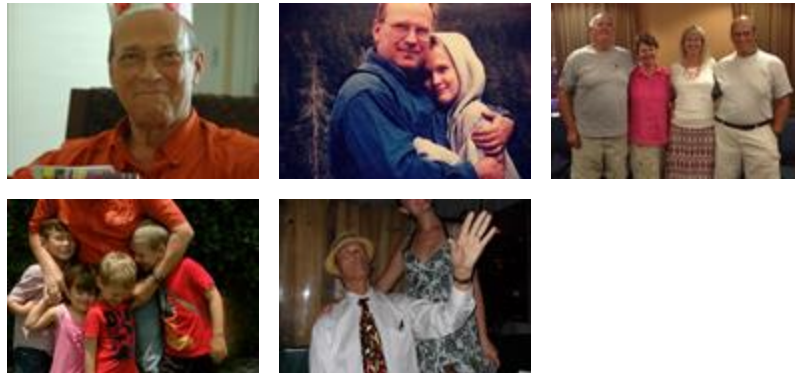
*Rest in Peace my friend. So sorry for your loss, Ben, Sara, Amanda and Beverly.*  
*Warm regards, Karen Gray Livas.*

---

**Karen Livas** - March 28, 2016 at 01:53 PM

SS

“ 7 files added to the album Raymond through the years



---

**Sarah Hale Soboleski** - March 19, 2016 at 02:11 PM

SL

“ *Dear Sarah, Ben, and Amanda,  
My heart goes out to you and your family. Many great memories of you all from the old neighborhood.  
Your Dad was an exceptionally kind and thoughtful person. He will be missed by many but will always remain in our memories.  
Sunie Liley*

---

**Sunie Liley** - March 19, 2016 at 12:23 PM

JM

“ *My sincere and heartfelt sympathy go out to family of Ray. From 1960-62 I taught and coached in the Springfield Middle School. One of my delight was having Ray in my classes and on the football and basketball teams. He was a good student and a good athlete and always projected a positive demeanor. His classmates and teammates genuinely liked him. I left Springfield in 1962 and lost track of Ray. I was truly sorry to see his obit in the Coloradoan.*

*Jim Mark  
Fort Collins*

---

**Jim Mark** - March 19, 2016 at 12:18 PM

CW

“ *Carolyn Wilson lit a candle in memory of Raymond Sterling Hale*



---

**Carolyn Wilson** - March 19, 2016 at 08:05 AM

CC

“ *Beverly, you, and the rest of Raymond's family, have my deepest condolences. I hadn't seen Raymond since my folks moved from Springfield in the 1960's, but he was the loveliest little boy!*  
*Carla Davis Clerkin*

---

**Carla Clerkin** - March 18, 2016 at 08:08 PM