



## Raymond James Kruse

March 25, 1917 - April 22, 2012

Raymond James Kruse, 95, of Fort Collins, passed away April 22, 2012. Mr. Kruse was born March 25, 1917 in Greeley, Colorado to Ernest G. and Elizabeth Potter-Kruse. Ray was the youngest and last surviving of twelve children. Ray married Edna May McFall in 1942 in Miami Beach, Florida. They were married for 53 years. Edna passed away in 1995. They had one daughter, Dr. Karen Kruse-Shirey and a grand dog Roxy. Ray married again in 2001 to Alice Weaver in Fort Collins. He had 2 stepsons, Jim and Bill Weaver. Raymond graduated from Greeley High School in 1937. He attended Colorado State College and graduated in 1941 with a major in math and minor in physical education. He was selected to Colorado State College Athletic Hall of Fame in football and wrestling. In 1994 he was selected an Honor Alumni at the University of Northern Colorado. Mr. Kruse received his Masters of Education Degree in 1949 from Colorado State University. Mr. Kruse served in the U.S. Army Corp during World War II in China, Burma, and India for a year and a half. During the Korean War, he served in the U.S. Air Force for 2 years at Hill Air Force Base in Utah. Raymond also taught ROTC at CSU for eight years and retired as a Major with 20 years of military service. Raymond was employed in the Poudre School District from 1946-1977. He taught physical education and coached, served at Lincoln Junior High School as Assistant Principal, Boys' Counselor, Principal, District Director of Physical Activities and Athletics from 1963 - 1977 In 1975 he was inducted into the Colorado High School Coaches Hall of Fame and in 1992 Kruse Elementary School was built

and named in his honor. Mr. Kruse was Fort Collins City Recreation Director from 1957-1962. He was involved in the community through Special Olympics, Fort Collins Lions Club, First United Methodist Church, Red Feather Lakes Chapel in the Pines, Girl Scouts and Retired Teachers Association. Mr. Kruse always lived his life by following the Golden Rule of doing unto others as you would have them do unto you. He wanted to make a difference, set a good example for those around him, enjoy each day, and be a thoughtful, good human being. CONGRATULATIONS, RAY, ON A JOB WELL DONE!

Survivors include his wife, Alice Weaver-Kruse of Fort Collins; daughter, Dr. Karen Kruse-Shirey of Fort Collins; stepsons, Jim Weaver of Boise, Idaho, Bill Weaver of Dubois, Wyoming; and 15 nieces and nephews. A Celebration of Ray's Life will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday at the First Presbyterian Church, 531 South College Ave. Private interment Resthaven Memory Garden Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, Memorial contributions can be made to Salvation Army or the American Red Cross in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive St., Ft. Collins, CO 80524.

# Tribute Wall

KT

“ Remembering days at Lincoln Jr. Hi. Mr. Kruse touched the lives of many of us. Prayers for his friends and family.

Kathleen Tuttle - May 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GJ

“ Karen: I am very sorry for your loss. I remember Ray as a small child growing up. He was firm but fair with me, and I appreciated that. Knowing somebody your whole life; like Ray, was an honor. I will miss him!!

Garry Johnson - April 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LI

“ What a wonderful dear man. The Class of 1965 from FCHS and PHS will miss him at our reunions. Every five years he would attend our reunion dinner. Every five years he would look at me and say "Linda, I remember when you used to take tap dance lessons in the basement at Lincoln Junior High". AMAZING, AMAZING man. We are all honored to have known him.

Linda Smith Ingram - April 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ To Karen and the family of Ray Kruse: what a wonderful man and role model your Dad was. He will be missed by so many people. Blessings...Mary Hickey Lacock

Mary Lacock - April 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Wonderful memories of a teacher and principal with a ready smile and a good word Rest in peace, Mr Kruse

Sharon McMahon Moffitt - April 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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VF

“ My sympathy to all Ray's family.

Virginia Febinger - April 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Ray wasa mentor in many ways. Teahing integrity, honorable sportsmanship, always remebering my name, open for long conversations, enjoying coffee with him, even though I graduated FCHS in 1955. He will be missed. He is in my prayers. A very honorable life.

David Drage - April 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ When I became the second principal of Kruse Elementary I knew immediately why they named the school after Ray. He was so dynamic and such a great person! I was so impressed with his educational background and work history. After I moved on to open Zach Elementary and then retirement, I lost touch with Ray. I always hoped I would connect with him again some day. My condolences to his daughter, wife, and family. Respectfully yours, Kim Nohava

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**Kim Nohava** - April 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ I met Ray Kruse when I came from a country school Harmony to Lincoln Jr. Hi. in 1949. He was my gym teacher and football coach. Of course we never called him Ray. It was either "Coach Kruse" or "Mister Kruse". He was one of those imposing individuals who commanded not demanded respect. A very difficult task master, I never found him to be unreasonable, unjust or unfair. Although my career took me away from Fort Collins, I saw Coach numerous times after Lincoln-- the last time about two years ago. He will always stand out in my mind as one of the "really good guys" and a superb roll model. I feel fortunate and my life has been enriched by having known him. God speed Coach, Jerry Stroh

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**Jerry Stroh** - April 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM