



Reid Duane Pope

November 7, 1929 - September 20, 2023

Reid Duane Pope was born in Loveland, CO on November 7, 1929. He passed away on September 20, 2023 just short of his 94th birthday. Reid's family moved to Johnstown, CO when he was five years old. He attended first through twelfth grade in Johnstown and graduated from high school in 1947. During his senior year, at 17 years old, he obtained his license to drive a school bus, driving the bus each morning and afternoon the remainder of the year while participating in sports during the last period of the day.

Reid graduated from Colorado State College of Education (now University of Northern Colorado) in 1951 with a B.A. degree in Physical Education. He started his teaching and coaching career at Timnath High School teaching math, industrial arts and P.E. He was the assistant coach in football, basketball and track. Reid continued to drive the school bus in the morning. The fall of 1952 he was elevated to head coach in all three sports. He coached the Class B State Championship Track Team in 1953, which was the first and only state championship Timnath High School won.

He served in the Army National Guard prior to being called to active duty in June 1953 and served until December 1955. The last 18 months of his service was in Okinawa, Japan where his middle son was born. He achieved the rank of Master Sergeant, serving in the Field Artillery Branch. While in Okinawa he coached the Okinawa Army football team for two seasons. His last season

there, he was selected to coach the Japan Army All-Star team which played the Japan Navy All-Star team on Thanksgiving Day.

After being discharged from the Army, he returned to Greeley and received his M.S. degree in 1956. He then went to Cache La Poudre High School as Principal, head football and basketball coach and assistant track coach. That fall he coached the football team to the State Class B Football Championship which was the only state championship for Cache La Poudre High School.

Reid was the Superintendent of Cache La Poudre School District for the school years 1959-1960. In the fall of 1960, the school district was merged into Poudre R-1 School District, and he once again became the principal of Cache La Poudre High School.

In the fall of 1964, Poudre High School opened, and Reid was appointed the principal. The students from Cache La Poudre High School, Wellington High School and students from the north side of Ft. Collins were merged into Poudre. He was principal at Poudre for 21 years, retiring in June 1985. Reid was employed a total of 34 years in what is now Poudre R-1 School District, in which he served 29 years as a principal.

During his career, Reid served on numerous school related local and state education and athletic committees and boards and also served as the Poudre R1 School Board's negotiator with the Teacher's Union for 12 years.

From his first marriage of 20 years, three sons were born, Randy, Greg, and Russ. After 13 years of being single, he met Nelda Sue Leopard -Blythe. They were married in June 1985, four days after he retired from the school district. Nelda had four children, Darrell, Brent, Garen and Rhonda. They have 14 grandchildren and 15 great- grandchildren.

Reid and Nelda owned a travel agency for two years after Reid's first retirement and they were able to travel extensively.

Reid was preceded in death by his parents, both brothers and a step-son.

A Celebration of Life will be held Monday, October 9 at 10:30 am at Faith Church in Ft Collins.

Bohlender Funeral Chapel will be handling the arrangements. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Poudre High School Impala Fund, PO Box 722, Ft Collins, CO 80522, <https://www.foreverpoudre.com/>

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT 9. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (MT)

Faith Church
3920 S. Shields Street
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Tribute Wall

JT

“ Reid and his three sons were my neighbors for about a year around 1974. He was an impressive person in many ways, someone that I didn't see much of as he was obviously very busy with his work as a school principal. I'm amazed to read about all his roles as principal of various schools, coach of many sports teams, teacher, and even driving a school bus early on, even before leaving high school. That is dedication to education and a great example for all of us. I looked him up today out of curiosity if he was related in some way to Mark Pope, new head basketball coach of University of Kentucky. They seem to have a lot in common.

Joe Tomlinson - April 17, 2024 at 11:55 AM

JH

“ My condolences to Mr. Pope's family He was a true leader for us at PHS.
Class of "75"

Jerry Hurt - October 09, 2023 at 08:29 AM

“ Dear Mr. Pope,

I wanted to take a moment to express my deep gratitude for the profound impact you had on my life during my time at high school. Your leadership style, leading by example, made a lasting impression on me. You weren't just a principal; you were a mentor and a friend.

I'll always remember how much you cared about my education and growth. Your emphasis on respect, honesty, and bringing out the best in everyone inspired me to strive for excellence. Even in times when discipline was necessary, I knew it came from a place of genuine care. Your sincerity in wanting to see me develop into a person of good character and values was evident in every interaction we had.

Your sense of humor and hearty laugh brought a lightness to the school atmosphere, making it a place where I felt not just educated but also happy. Your fearlessness in standing up for what was right, regardless of opposition, taught me the importance of integrity and standing firm in my beliefs.

What touched me most was your genuine concern for my family. Your inquiries about my parents and your sincere interest in their well-being made me realize that your care extended far beyond the school walls. It was evident that you truly valued the connections you had with your students and their families.

The camaraderie you fostered among students, adults, and even past graduates created a sense of belonging that made our school a true community. I have no doubt that the impact you made will continue to shape the lives of those you touched, including mine. Your legacy of kindness, respect, and genuine care will forever be a guiding light in my life. You leave a legacy of leadership, care, and commitment.

With heartfelt gratitude and warmest regards,

Former Mayor Ray Martinez

Ray Martinez - October 09, 2023 at 08:00 AM

CP

“*Reid was a very special man. I'm so happy our paths crossed 50 years ago.*”

Catherine Shull Patience - October 08, 2023 at 11:49 AM

KS

“*Principal, coach, and good friend. Many good memories of hunting and fishing. Will miss you. Kendell Smith*”

Ken Smith - September 30, 2023 at 02:04 PM

AD

“*Reid was an amazing leader for PSD and a mentor to literally hundreds of educators. His firm belief in students and staff helped start Poudre High School during a difficult time, with the closures of other schools. He leaves a legacy of leaders behind, who have and will continue to be a reflection of him. Proud to have known him as a principal, a mentor and a friend.*”

Alicia Durand - September 29, 2023 at 03:34 PM

FM

Dear Mr. Pope,

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With heartfelt gratitude and warmest regards,

Former Mayor Ray Martinez

Former Mayor, Ray Martinez - October 09, 2023 at 07:57 AM

 Beth
Hughes
Houston

“ So sorry to hear of Mr. Pope's passing. He was a wonderful principal. I was there from fall of 69 to spring of 72.

Beth Hughes Houston

Beth Hughes Houston - September 29, 2023 at 12:47 PM

MH

“ I am so sorry to hear of Mr. Pope's passing. He was Poudre High School and helped to make it the fantastic school it was and is! Hugs to the family!

Milre Goodrich Henry-PHS'70 - September 29, 2023 at 11:26 AM

LP

“ Fond memories of Reid and sons joining my family for pancakes in the Harmony Community. Condolences to his sons.

Lois Williamson Peltz - September 29, 2023 at 09:51 AM

MA

“ Thank you, Reid Pope, for all you did for the children of the Poudre High School community..... and personally, thank you for being the TERRIFIC individual you were. My late husband, Buidy M Anderson, Fort Collins, talked about the Canadian Fishing Trip you joined with about 10-12 other crazy fishermen on the week-long bachelor "fish" trip to Canada. How enjoyable time was that for all you guys!
You were Principal during the time Bud's & my 4 children attended PHS! THANK YOU. Marilyn Anderson, Windsor CO

Marilyn Anderson - September 29, 2023 at 09:29 AM



“ *Connie (Seaworth) Roper*



Connie Roper - September 28, 2023 at 08:24 PM



From the first graduating class at PHS. He could have suspended me once for ditching but chose not to. Thanks Mr. Pope

sharon mcMahon moffitt - September 29, 2023 at 12:27 PM



“ *Karen Blanco lit a candle in memory of Reid Duane Pope*



Karen Blanco - September 28, 2023 at 02:22 PM

DW

“ Mr. Pope was a great Principal. He was my principal when I went to Poudre High School in 77,78,79. He would defend his students when needed and he would deal with students when they did something wrong. I remember when he defended the students when we were going to have our 2 nd annual goldfish eating contest and the humane society got involved and he stood up to them. He even set up a debate between the humane society and our high school debate team and the humane society backed out at the last minute and threatened to press charges against any student who participated in the goldfish eating contest. Mr. Pope told us at the assembly that he was with us until they threatened to prosecute students and he told us that in life you had to pick and choose what battles to fight. He told us when picking battles, you had to weigh the pros and cons and make your decision based on them and risks. He said this was one of those battles where it wasn't worth the risk and that he didn't want to risk any students to the legal system. So then at the assembly they passed out goldfish crackers and we still had a contest only instead of live goldfish we ate goldfish crackers. He was a great man!!

David White - September 28, 2023 at 02:10 PM

RF

“ Rhonda's HST 2 Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Reid Duane Pope



Rhonda's HST 2 Family - September 28, 2023 at 09:39 AM

HF

To the entire family from HST 2

HST 2 Family - September 28, 2023 at 09:40 AM

JH

*My condolences to Mr. Pope's family He was a true leader for us at PHS.
Class of "75"*

Jerry Hurt - October 09, 2023 at 08:28 AM

RF

“ *Rhonda's HST 2 Family lit a candle in memory of Reid Duane Pope*



Rhonda's HST 2 Family - September 28, 2023 at 09:38 AM

HF

Prayers and deepest condolences from HST 2

HST 2 Family - September 28, 2023 at 09:40 AM

DA

“ *"MR. POPE" was parts feared, respected and loved. I feel blessed he was my HS principal! I got in a bit of trouble once, and he actually defended me to my dad (after breaking a window out in the old CSU stadium off College. Circa 1973. A great example for future Poudre principals to follow!!!❤️*

Deborah Anderson - September 27, 2023 at 11:10 PM

JG

“ *Mr. Pope was a excellent educator, principal and mentor. He was excellent for Poudre High School and our community. He will be so surely missed. RIP Mr. Pope.*

Jerry Gavaldon - September 27, 2023 at 10:26 PM