



Alan B Hale

May 12, 1936 - July 2, 2012

On July 2, 2012, Cheney lost a great member of its community. A husband, father, decorated fighter pilot, Air Force test pilot, businessman, and professor, Alan Hale left an indelible mark on the many lives he touched and we were all fortunate to have known him. Born in Providence, Utah, 1937 to Seymour (Bill) and Velda Hale, Alan was the eldest of seven children and grew up in the communities of Oakley and Payette, Idaho. At the age of 16, Alan began his life-long passion for flying as a crop duster, applying fertilizer to the fields in Southern Idaho. After graduating high school in 1954, he entered the service as a pilot in the Idaho Air National Guard and soon transferred to the U.S. Air Force. While in Air Force pilot training in Bryan, Texas, Alan met his wife of 55 years, Mary Kaye Perkins, a Spokane native. Within three months the two were engaged and married the following spring in Spokane. Six children (all boys), an adopted girl, and a host of military bases would follow. While serving as an Air Force flight instructor in Oklahoma, Alan earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in electrical engineering and became an Air Force test pilot. In 1964, the Hales moved to Edwards AFB where Alan worked for notable test pilot Chuck Yeager during the "Right Stuff" era. In 1968, Alan was sent to Vietnam. Flying close-air support for helicopters rescuing downed pilots, Alan earned the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, and Air Medal (first through fifth Oak Leaf Clusters) for aerial gallantry. Returning to Edwards AFB under base commandant, Buzz Aldrin (2nd man to land on the moon), Alan was a flight instructor for test pilots, including notable Washington State University

graduate Dick Scoby, commander of the ill-fated Challenger shuttle. In 1974, after Air War College and earning a Master's degree in Business Administration from Auburn University, Alan was transferred to the Pentagon in Washington D.C. He was promoted to a Colonel and worked in the Air Force's Research & Development Appropriations department. Within the next four years he appeared before Congress on multiple occasions to seek funding for various military research projects before his retirement in 1978. The family moved back to Payette to help Alan's parents with their business. While there, Alan started a computer business integrating a microcomputer with cash registers. A novel concept in 1979, the company was soon purchased by a large corporation. In an effort to relocate back to Spokane in 1981, Alan took a position at Eastern Washington University (EWU) and became one of the first computer science professors for the new Math and Computer Science department. Alan spent 15 years teaching students the fine art of computer programming and microprocessor design. While working at EWU, Alan and his students won a contract from NASA to create an onboard processing unit for the Space Shuttle program. This project spawned the creation of the electronics manufacturing company XN Technologies, Inc. (XN). XN grew quickly after it began developing audio-visual switching equipment under the brand name AutoPatch. In 2006, with the company employing over 140 employees, Alan sold his interest in XN to AMX Corporation (AMX) of Richardson, Texas. To this date AMX continues to grow the AutoPatch division in the Cheney manufacturing facility. After the sale of XN, Alan focused on his new company, XN Air, an aircraft fueling and maintenance facility located at the Spokane International Airport. Last year, when Alan's medical condition made it impossible to continue XN Air, the fueling portion of the company was sold to Ross Aviation and the maintenance was sold to Aviation Services. Alan was a decorated war hero, test pilot, entrepreneur, and educator. Cancer brought down this man that enemy bullets could not. He passed away at his home in Cheney with his family at his side. Alan is survived by his wife Mary Kaye of Cheney; Brother,

Bill Hale Jr.; Sister, Barbara Wharton; Sister Gwen Clem. son John Hale and wife Laurie Hale of Cheney; son Mark Hale and wife Jodie Hale of Cheney; son Phil Hale and wife Kathy Hale of Cheney; son Chris Hale and wife Cindy Hale of Anchorage; son Brian Hale; grandchildren Thomas and Justin Hale of Spokane; Jason Hale of Idaho Falls; Alex and Patrick Hale of Ripen, CA; Ashley, Madeline, and Jenna Hale of Colorado Springs; Codi and Gage Onda of Cheney; great grand-daughter Mia DeMaderios of Ripen, CA; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Alan is preceded in death by his son Steve Hale, daughter Brenda Hale, and parents Seymour and Velda Hale of Payette, ID. Donations in memory of Alan may be made to: Native Project 1803 W Maxwell Ave Spokane, WA 99201 or St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church 460 N 5th St Cheney, WA 99004. Visitation will be Tuesday, July 10th from 6 to 8 pm at Cheney Funeral Chapel. A Funeral Service will be held at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, 460 North 5th Street, Cheney, WA 99004, at 11:00 AM, Wednesday July 11, 2012 with a short reception following. A full military burial service will be held at 2:00 PM at Holy Cross Cemetery, 7200 N. Wall Street, Spokane, WA 99208.

Tribute Wall

SN

“ *Suzanne Neese lit a candle in memory of Alan B Hale*



Suzanne Neese - August 08, 2025 at 08:33 PM

LS

“ *Lost touch with this family many years ago but I have thought of you often. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Truly a great loss.*

lisa shook - July 20, 2013 at 06:24 AM

DA

“ *To Alan's Family:
I am so sorry for your loss.
As the days and weeks pass, and as you return to life's routine, may you continue to feel comforted by the love and support of family and friends. Please accept my sincere condolences for your loss. Please find comfort in the following Bible verse, John 11: 11 where Jesus said: "... Lazarus our friend has gone to rest, but I am journeying there to awaken him from sleep." Please also find comfort in knowing that our Almighty Heavenly Father holds out the hope of the resurrection and the ability to see our loved ones again.*

D. Anderson - August 23, 2012 at 03:21 PM

FH

“ *Our deepest sympathies to your family!! Love and prayers. Frank, Angelique, Emma & Donald.*

Frank & Angelique Heinzen - July 17, 2012 at 07:52 PM

BB

“ To the Hale Family, with hearth felt sorrow, I received word of Al's passing. What a great man. He shall always be rememberd by me as a friend, great story teller & a true hero.
He will be greatly missed by all that knew him. My prayers are with you.

Breezy Burlison - July 16, 2012 at 06:04 PM

BH

“ Kaye, I am so sorry for your loss. Alan was always so easy to talk to and I loved being around both of you so much!
May God be with you and your family. I am praying for you!
Love, Brenda Holder

Brenda Holder - July 15, 2012 at 03:29 PM

JM

“ Kay, I am so sorry for your loss! Alan was the best client I ever worked with. No one has even come close. He was a great man and left a great legacy. God now has a new wing man. I know that you know this is true. Our prayers are with you and your family. Love,
Jim and Bonnie Meland

Jim Meland - July 14, 2012 at 01:28 AM

EC

“ I was blessed to know Al and Kaye since the launch of XN Air as our company was their fuel supplier. When I think of Al, these are the words that come to mind; unpretentious, fair, loyal, calm, visionary, optimistic and honorable. I looked forward to meeting with Al and the dinners we enjoyed with he and Kaye. I thank the Lord that our paths crossed and for getting to know this great man. My prayers are with the family as he'll be deeply missed by me and many.

Ed Croymans - July 13, 2012 at 12:07 PM

TS

“ Al was an amazing person and will be missed very much. He touched so many lives and did so many wonderful things. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to get to know him and his family. My prayers go out to Kaye and all the kids. Al will be missed very much.

Tia Stoken - July 12, 2012 at 08:34 PM

JP

“ Ever since I was a little kid I thought that Alan was bigger than life! This man really lived!! My children have grown up with their Mom bragging about him... To Kaye and the family my deepest condolences. I pray the good Lord comforts you through this time.

Julie Kaye Pollard - July 12, 2012 at 01:24 PM

LK

“ A life well lived will leave huge holes in many hearts. Hearts are bleeding this day. Our condolences are with the family.

Larry & Evelyn Keogh - July 11, 2012 at 07:16 PM

RG

“ *Kaye, We express our deepest sympathy for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you because Alan was truly a great guy. He will be missed.*
Ron Goold and Family

Ron Goold - July 11, 2012 at 06:00 PM

SW

“ *Kaye and family, It was a privilege working with Al on the construction of the Xn facilities. Al was a brilliant man who never forgot that he was a gentleman-sheep-farmer from Cheney. I respected him, and enjoyed him. Sorry I can't be with you today--but know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.* Steve Walker

Steve Walker - July 11, 2012 at 12:39 PM

BT

“ *I am so very sorry that we have lost such a vital man and friend. His wife, Kaye, is such an outstanding woman, who is a longtime friend and I dearly love her. Alan did have the time to make sure Kaye had full knowledge of all the business and he made sure she did. We are just glad that he did not have to linger in pain and suffering and he is now at peace.*

Bette B. Topp - July 11, 2012 at 11:39 AM

DR

“ *I worked with Al for many years. My sympathy and condolences to Kay and the rest of Al's family.*

Dan Rash - July 11, 2012 at 11:03 AM

WM

“ Alan was such a wonderful person in my life. I learned so much from him. He was a terrific role model and friend to all who knew him. He was an awesome grandfather to my sons Thomas and Justin. I treasure the great times we've shared and he will forever be in my heart. Our Sincerest Sympathies, Angel, Will, and Loren

Will, Angel, and Loren Mellick - July 10, 2012 at 11:25 PM

TL

“ The world has lost a wonderful, kind and gentle man in Al Hale. Whether it was from his myriad experiences, or Kaye whipping him into shape over the years, he is and was the kind of man I now and will always aspire to be. I can only imagine the sense of loss felt by Kaye and her family and have you all in my prayers right now.

Tom Lienhard - July 10, 2012 at 11:11 PM

HP

“ Words can't express how sorry I am for your loss. Hold your memories close. Hopefully some day soon you'll be able to smile when remembering all your wonderful times with him.

Helen Perkins - July 10, 2012 at 10:36 PM

JS

“ Words do not describe how I admired Al Hale and his friendship, support and love he passed on to me for 8 years at his business. Thank you Al for your kindness, understanding and courage shown to me by your presence and attention. I am sure you are with our Father in Heaven both of you smiling at each other.
Your friend and employee,
Jim Seier

Jim Seier - July 10, 2012 at 09:59 PM

SP

“ Our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Alan. With the help of the Hale family, Northwest North Pole Adventures has been able to grow and create the ultimate experience for the under-served children of our region. Our North Pole is a tribute to his spirit, love and compassion for others. He was a great elf and we are honored to ring our bells in his memory.

Steve Paul - July 10, 2012 at 08:34 PM

LV

“ We are very sorry for your loss of Al as a husband, father and friend. We will be thinking and praying for you.

Lee and Gayle Venturino - July 10, 2012 at 07:03 PM

JP

“ Our Deepest Sympathy Treasure the memories Love to all the family James & Lucy

James & Lucielle Perkins - July 10, 2012 at 12:35 AM

MW

“ We offer our deepest sympathies to the Hale family. I have many fond memories of Alan as my EWU Computer Science post-graduate advisor, mentor, and boss at XN Technologies for nearly a decade. My wife and I will sincerely miss him.
Marc and Lisa Weddle

Marc and Lisa Weddle - July 09, 2012 at 11:18 PM

Jl

“Thanks for the Memories, Alan”. And we have many! Frank & I met you and Kaye shortly after you moved to Cheney but it wasn't until the non forgettable Steheken get together on Lake Chelan in July 1984 that you two, us, Liljegrens and Whites began our journey. We've had an amazing 28 years of annual (+) trips...boating, camping, exploration and cruises. Comaraderie, conversation and companionship, not to mention good food and the infamous DRINK of the EVENING. You will be with us on our future trips as we cry and smile in remembrance. Our hearts go out to Kaye and the boys...we love you! Frank & Jeanette Ide

Jeanette ide - July 09, 2012 at 09:12 PM

JS

“ Al's loss leaves a very big hole, not only in the lives of his family and friends, but in this community as well. Our thoughts and prayers are with Kaye and the family.

Jack & Jewell Swan - July 09, 2012 at 06:27 PM

BD

“ Kate; My sympathies go out to you and your Family, Alan was a dear friend, whom I will miss dearly. Barb

Barbara Drake - July 09, 2012 at 05:40 PM

DD

“ To a great cousin who will be missed dearly. Our Sympathies to Kate and Family, Love Debbie and Alberto

Debbie Drake - July 09, 2012 at 05:37 PM

SB

“ During this challenging time for the Hale family, I know I am not the only one who can say that Al was an inspiration to me. Al was a truly great man who created a proud legacy as a husband to Kay, father to a very good family, a decorated combat veteran, an educator, an entrepreneur who created good jobs for hundreds and products that served the world. Al’s legacy will go on. He made quite an impact on this good earth and lived a life we can all learn something from.

I very much enjoyed every moment I spent with Al and always knew I was privileged to have met him. He led an amazing life filled with achievement.

The city of Cheney and the Hale family have every reason to be very proud of Al.

I can’t say enough about how I enjoyed and admired him.

Steve Byars - July 09, 2012 at 12:15 PM

SM

“ My prayers are with you. It was a privalage to know and work for Al at XN. I have fond memories of the times I was privileged to fly with Al. He touched alot of lives in a positive way. God created a special man extra ordinary abilities, he will be missed. Scott Manina

Scott Manina - July 09, 2012 at 11:19 AM

MH

“ Mary Kay and family....so sorry for the loss of Alan....I didn't know him very well, but I remember when we all flew to Phoenix for a family reunion...what an amazing man...loved his stories...Mary Kay I will remember you and your family in prayer...

Mary Cress Harrell - July 09, 2012 at 12:33 AM

JE

“ Dear Kaye and family- we are so saddened to learn of Alan's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time. He was quite a guy!
Jon and Val Eliassen

Jon and Val Eliassen - July 08, 2012 at 10:42 PM

JA

“ We were so sorry to hear of Alan's death. We will always think of him with fond memories. We loved when he shared his many stories with us as an Air Force pilot at Sunday coffee and donuts. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

Jim and Marti Abrahamson - July 08, 2012 at 07:59 PM

JS

“ It was a pleasure knowing and working with Al at Eastern. When I think of him, I always remember his energy, intelligence and all the students he helped.
I also appreciated his help in fund raising when I worked in Development.
Judy Samples

Judy Samples - July 08, 2012 at 07:43 PM

CK

“ I will forever remember Al as one of those wonderful men that so loved his family, people, and life in general that he set the standard for others to follow. So many good memories of him baling our hay just for the love of it (and doing me a favor), and then hanging around to chat and tell such funny stories.
I first met Al when he came to "borrow" a few Pygmy goats for a party at his home. I made him show me his drivers license and leave me with a major credit card, which he gladly did. I had no idea who he was and I wanted to make sure my goats would return:-). The goats were intended as a joke at first but of course he fell in love with the critters and soon owned a few himself. That's how he was . . . passionate about all things. So many good memories, and yet not enough.
I'm praying for you Kaye and send my love to you. I can't imagine the void but what a true blessing to have Al in your life for over 55 years. God blessed you both - and me for knowing you.

Carol King - July 08, 2012 at 06:34 PM

DW

“ One of the greatest men I ever knew. God Bless you and your family always.

Donna (Brooks) Walker - July 08, 2012 at 06:10 PM

PN

“ Dear Kay and Family:
I and my family are sorry for your loss Al was a great man kind gentle and brilliant. I will miss him very much. My prayers are with you all.
Pete

Peter D. Nelson - July 08, 2012 at 04:39 PM

RR

“ i reme. Reember AL from Edwards.
A great guy. the World is ,missing a real patriot.
Chwers Go In peace,,my comerae At arms?

RObert Roth - July 08, 2012 at 12:32 PM

PA

“ Kay and Family.....we were so saddened by the death of Alan. He was such a wonderful person. His personality and friendship, were so cordial. He achieved so many great things in life. He will be missed, by all. We love you.....Our daughter, Dee, sends her love and her condolences.

Paul & Pegi Ackerman - July 07, 2012 at 12:45 PM

MP

“ What a wonderful obituary documenting Alan's life. What I will remember firstly is his smile and laugh! Our thoughts and prayers to you Kaye and family as you celebrate such a great life and the impact he has left on all! God Bless, and All our love, Mike and Donna

Mike & Donna Perrault - July 06, 2012 at 04:03 PM