



Mary Kaye Hale

April 6, 1935 - June 19, 2022

It is with profound sadness that the Hale Family announces the passing of its matriarch, Mary Kaye Hale, and longtime Cheney resident, on June 19, 2022. She will be laid to rest on July 2, 2022, with services at Cheney's St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church at 10:00 am with reception following and an interment at 1:00 pm at Holy Cross Cemetery, North Spokane. As a Colville tribal member, Kaye will be buried in honor of her proud Indian heritage in a Pendleton-draped blanket and wooden coffin befitting a Colville elder.

Mary Kaye Hale was born in Inchelium, Washington to John and Letha Perkins on April 6, 1935. Her birthplace is in a location that is now under the water line of Lake Roosevelt, the lake produced by the dam at Grand Coulee. Letha raised Kaye by herself since Kaye was just 8 years old after John's untimely accidental death while building the Fort Spokane bridge. Letha and Kaye eventually moved to Spokane where, in 1955, Kaye graduated from Marycliff High School and began her nursing studies at Gonzaga University. The following year, while visiting her aunt in Bryan, Texas, she met and soon after, married Alan Hale, an Air Force pilot, and began a new career as a homemaker. Kaye and Alan had six boys (Steven, John, Mark, Phil, Chris, and Brian), adopt a 16-year-old girl (Brenda), and all-but adopted a foreign Chinese student (Zheng Yu).

While raising the kids, Kaye embarked on a life-long trek to discover her

family's ancestry and share it with all who were interested. From her family's original European migration to the United States, to Hudson Bay fur traders, to the Nez Pierce and Colville Confederated tribes, Kaye's passion was to learn her ancestry and then share her collective knowledge with her family and those that inquired along the way. Kaye became a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and was welcomed as a guest researcher for the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Chicago and Washington DC. Her research fills binders enjoyed by many throughout this great country.

Upon Alan's retirement from the military, the family moved to Cheney, Washington in 1981 where Alan became a college professor at Eastern Washington University (EWU). Kaye relished the opportunity to return to the Spokane area where she could care for her mother and spend weekends at their lake place near Inchelium. In 1993, Kaye and Alan started XN Technologies, located in Cheney, where it designed, manufactured, and sold its audio-visual products globally.

Kaye purchased a former sorority house and restructured it into low-cost housing to support Colville Indian students attending EWU. She also established an annual EWU scholarship program to support the tribe youth.

Alan and Kaye sold XN Technologies in 2006 to start a charter aircraft company, XN Air, and eventually sell that company in 2011 to retire once again.

Alan passed away July 2, 2012, from cancer. Kaye would continue to care for her family as long as she was able until her death on June 19, 2022. Kaye will be buried ten years to the day of Alan's passing and laid to rest next to the man she loved so dearly. She will be greatly missed.

Kaye is survived by her son John Hale of Rosalia; son Mark Hale of Cheney; son Phil and wife Kathy Hale of Spokane; son Brian and wife Kate Hale of Tukwila, WA; grandchildren Thomas and Justin Hale of Spokane; Jason Hale of Spokane; Alex Hale of Sisters, OR and Patrick Hale of Hermosa Beach, CA; Ashley, Madeline, and Jenna Hale of Colorado Springs; great-grandson Rowan Hale of Spokane, great grand-daughter Mia DeMaderios and great-grandson Elijah Read of Sisters, OR; and many cousins and friends. Kaye is preceded in death by her sons Steve and Chris Hale, daughter Brenda Hale, and parents John and Letha Perkins.

Funeral Service will be held at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, 460 North 5th Street, Cheney, WA 99004, at 10:00 AM, Saturday, July 2, 2022, with a reception following. An interment burial service will be held at 1:00 PM at Holy Cross Cemetery, 7200 N. Wall Street, Spokane, WA 99208.

Cemetery Details

Holy Cross Cemetery

7200 N Wall St Spokane
Spokane, WA 99208

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JUL 2. 10:00 AM (PT)

St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church
406 N. 5th St.
Cheney, WA 99004

Tribute Wall

SN

“ *Suzanne Nesse lit a candle in memory of Mary Kaye Hale*



Suzanne Nesse - August 08, 2025 at 07:55 PM

JK

“ *Kay and I are from the same Tribe in Washington State. The Colville Confederate.*

Jenny Gardner Kinney - August 20, 2024 at 12:18 AM

JE

I knew Kay in the 1980s. I'm proud to say she was a good friend.

Jenny - October 21, 2025 at 05:58 PM

JE

We knew each other along with my sister Claudia who passed away in 2005. Thanks I'm Jenny

Jenny - October 21, 2025 at 06:00 PM

JK

“ *I'm Jenny, I go way back to the 1980s when I first met Kay. I was at Twin Lakes at Inchelium washington making cinnamon rolls. My sister Claudia took some down to Kay's house. She loved them. Claudia's cabin was just a few cabins away from hers. RIP Kay, LuvLuv Jenny ❤️ 😊*

Jenny Gardner Kinney - August 20, 2024 at 12:16 AM

JA

“ Jaxon sent a virtual gift in memory of Mary Kaye Hale



jaxon - September 12, 2022 at 03:58 PM

JA

“ Jaxon lit a candle in memory of Mary Kaye Hale



jaxon - September 12, 2022 at 03:56 PM

JA

“ i miss her very much -jaxon

jaxon - September 12, 2022 at 03:55 PM

JM

“ I am so grateful to have had Kaye and Alan in my life. I loved Kaye's humor and her stories. She welcomed me to the Cheney Historical Museum and was such a help to me when I became a director. I will always remember the love in Alan's eyes when he looked at Kaye and she at him. They were inspiring.



JOAN MAMANAKIS - July 01, 2022 at 11:45 AM

JS

`she isn't gone she is just away the day her legacy dies shall be the day that she isn't loved that will be never i am honored and so happy to be her grandkid me and my family will never forget her legacy and footprint she left on the world she was and truly truly was a inspiring person i love her dearly and she gave alan the best fathers day present ever she will be loved and missed dearly she raised amazing kids and she was just so full of this joy we all loved her

jaxon shuman - November 17, 2022 at 11:25 AM