



Wallace (Wally) Rice

April 8, 2023

Wallace “Wally” Rice of Cheyenne, Wyoming left the life he loved April 8, 2023 in Fort Collins, Colorado with family at his side. Services will be held at Ascension Lutheran Church on Saturday, May 6th at 11 a.m. and will be live streamed for those unable to attend in person. Scouts are encouraged to wear their uniform. A lunch reception will be provided afterwards. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Camp Chimney Park Scout Camp c/o Rick Eckhardt (scouter.eckhardt@gmail.com) or a charity of your choice. To access Wally's service via live stream, please follow the link provided: www.ascensioncheyenne.org. Once on Ascension Lutheran Church's webpage, follow the YouTube channel link to view.

Born May 3, 1936 in Basin, Wyoming to William and Emma Rice, Wally grew up in Laramie, Wyoming. Wally attended the University of Wyoming, majoring in Geology, and graduated in 1959. He worked in the oil fields, spent eight years with the Wyoming Army National Guard, and worked for the Wyoming Highway Department. He then found his passion teaching for Laramie County School District #1 for 33 years with 30 of those years teaching Earth Science and Geology at Central High School. He spent 16 years taking his Geology class on a week-long summer field trip to Utah. While teaching, Wally returned to the University of Wyoming to earn a Masters Degree in Natural Science in 1967. In 1964, Wally started coaching wrestling, initially at Central High School and later at several local junior high schools. He coached wrestling

annually for 58 years until his passing. Each school year, the school district presents the Wally Rice Award for the Most Outstanding Junior High School Wrestler. Wally was very proud to have his name associated with the award.

Wally had a life-long love of Scouting. In 1948, Wally became a Cub Scout, staying with the program to earn his Eagle Scout as a Boy Scout in 1955. Wally became one of the fifty-one founding members inducted into Kola Lodge in the Order of the Arrow (OA), a Boy Scout honor camper society. He was elected Lodge Chief in 1954. In 1955, the OA awarded him the Vigil Honor and in 1996 the National Founder's Award. The Boy Scouts presented Wally the Silver Beaver Award in 1986, the highest award to a volunteer Scouter by a Boy Scout council. Chimney Park Scout Camp was his ongoing project of love with countless hours spent repairing and improving the camp.

In addition, Wally was Secretary/Treasurer of the Laramie County Rheumatic Fever Prevention Society for 33 years. He spent 52 years as a local Science Fair judge. He also sponsored two Westinghouse National Science Fair winners in 1969 and 1975. He was a life member of the National Science Teachers Association. He was a member of Ascension Lutheran Church.

In his rare spare time, Wally enjoyed “drowning worms” by fishing, both at Chimney Park and at the cabin in Glen Haven, Colorado. Food was also always his passion with buffet his favorite food category.

Wally was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Richard Rice. He is survived by his sister Janice Smith, sons Steven Rice (Rita) and Kevin Rice (Shanda), granddaughters, (Maria, Ella, and Joelle), nephews, niece, cousins, and longtime companion Margaret Sewell and the families of her two children.

Tribute Wall

CH

“ *Mr. Rice was one of those special teachers that created a spark. His influence on me, and likely countless students, can't be underestimated.*

Chris - May 01, 2023 at 01:03 PM

KW

“ *Wally and I worked together in Troop 101 and in Cheyenne District BSA. We didn't always agree but we both had the best of the program in mind and so we always found a resolution and never lost respect for each other. He will be missed.*

KIRK WOOD - April 22, 2023 at 10:27 AM

GC

Thankyou Wally for taking care of Chimney Park Lodge, as long as Chimney stands your memory will forever be with us. GC Troop 116.

Glenn Connor - April 22, 2023 at 05:20 PM

LB

Wally inspired me into a life as a Geologist

Lee Bongirno - April 25, 2023 at 10:49 AM

DH

Wally made me realize I had rocks in my head. (Said with a fond chuckle.) Wally was one of the best teachers I've ever had. He will be missed.

DeWayne Hepner - April 26, 2023 at 08:17 PM

JC

Wally Rice was the most patient man I ever knew. Some years ago I took a Geology class for UW credit. Wally was the teacher. We had one other man and 8 or 10 women. When we set out in June, we ran into snow before we got to Laramie. We were setting up camp at Dinosaur National Monument in the dark with flashlights, trying to put up tents. I said to the other women, "If my husband were in charge right now, he would have us all in tears." I really liked Wally although I haven't seen him for a lot of years.

Janet Cunningham - April 26, 2023 at 10:30 PM

JA

Kevin, i am so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. he was a great man, loved by many globally.

James - April 27, 2023 at 10:24 AM

TM

So sorry to hear of your dad's passing, praying that you give each other strength and courage during this most difficult time. Trish and Shawn Meares

trish Meares - April 27, 2023 at 03:40 PM

EE

Those of us who spend most of our lives teaching do so because we have had great mentors in our lives. Wally Rice was one of these mentors. He did so with his knowledge, encouragement, patience, understanding, and kindness. He was always enthusiastic about his teaching and students, always providing a welcoming environment tempered by many life experiences. He will always live on through the hundreds of students whose development he touched and molded. In the case of we teachers who he guided early in our lives, this will be passed on to our students. It is a long glorious continuum.

Emmett Evanoff - April 27, 2023 at 08:57 PM

ES

Mr. Rice is the man who inspired my love of geology. My senior year field trips were bar none, the most fun I've ever had in any science class. He was such an amazing teacher and the gifts he left behind will stay with me for the rest of my life. Thank you, Mr. Rice.

Elena Smith - April 28, 2023 at 12:34 PM

EH

TNTC = too numerous to count.....Eric R. Hemsath

Eric R. Hemsath - May 01, 2023 at 08:06 AM

R(

Wally or Uncle Wallace was always someone that I looked up to. He always had something going on. Whether it was remodeling his rentals, working on the Scout camp or entertaining out of town relatives. I really enjoyed his tours of Laramie and Cheyene and all the points in between, and especially our trips through the Snowy Range. When he found out that I had a hobbyist interest in geology we never ran out of thing to talk about and learn. He gave me several of his geology books over the years that I will cherish forever. I really wish we could be there to celebrate his life with everyone. We will be there in spirit and online.

Roger & Elaine Fraley (nephew) - May 05, 2023 at 04:28 PM

CD

Kevin, your dad was a great man and I really enjoyed working with him on the scout lodge addition. He was such a talented man, he could do anything related to building maintenance. I will really miss him and his humor.

Dick and Carol Dubay

Carol Dubay - May 05, 2023 at 11:07 PM

PY

*To Wally's family,
I am one of Wally's Rice relatives and only learned of his passing today June 15, 2023. Wally and I corresponded about our family connections and kept in contact at Christmas. I grew up in Montana where Wally came to visit at various times. I particularly remember a family picnic where he saved me from drowning in a stream near Dupuyer, Montana, in a whirlpool that caught me. He also came to several family reunions held in Montana and I just want you all to know how much I respected him for his kindnesses and loving ways. You were blessed to have him in your lives. Sending you sincere sympathy and may God bless all of you. Phyllis Rice Yeager from Indiana*

Phyllis Rice Yeager - June 15, 2023 at 09:07 PM