



Carol Jean Hale

July 2, 1942 - January 5, 2021

Carol Jean Hale, a strong voice and champion for the history and betterment of Traverse City, passed away Tuesday, January 5, 2021 following a short illness. She was 78.

Born in Ann Arbor on July 2, 1942, she was the daughter Evelyn May (Gilson) and Ward Karcher Parr. After having been educated in the Ann Arbor schools, Carol continued her education earning a bachelor's degree in education and then a master's degree in Russian History. She married Jan Raymond Hale on Friday, August 21, 1964 in Ann Arbor. He preceded her in death on June 23, 2020.

Carol began her teaching career in Livonia and then taught humanities at Traverse City Area Public Schools, retiring in 1998. She was very active in the Traverse City community over the years. She served as a city commissioner for 18 years, served as Mayor of the city in the early 1980's and was an active member of the Board of Directors of the Downtown Development Authority. She had been recognized with many awards over the years, including the Red Rose Rotary Award, the Zonta Community Service Award, the Record Eagle Ten Most Influential People designation and was named Citizen of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce in 1983 and given lifetime achievement awards from both the Michigan Historic Preservation Network and the Grand Traverse Heritage Center. She also served as a director of the Maritime Heritage Alliance, worked to create the formation of the National Historic Districts in Traverse City neighborhoods and served as the chairperson of the Commons Redevelopment Commission. It is rumored that Carol took a stand in front of a bulldozer to stop the demolition of the State Hospital Buildings. She was a strong force in seeing that the properties there were saved and redeveloped to what they have become and continue to become.

Surviving Carol are her sons, David Dart (Jena) Hale of Houghton; Matthew Joseph (Lindsey) Hale of Traverse City; her grandchildren, Jason, Mike and Jack Ackerman and Pearl and Erinn Hale. In addition to her parents and husband, Carol was preceded in death by her brother, David George Parr.

A time for friends to visit will take place Saturday, August 14, 2021, from 11AM-1PM, at Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home in Traverse City. There will be a microphone, so please bring a story or memory to share if you wish.

Carol had asked that she be remembered through memorial contributions to the Maritime Heritage Alliance, 13268 S. West Bay Shore Dr., Traverse City, MI 49684 (online at www.maritimeheritagealliance.org) or to the Inland Seas Education Association, 100 Dame St., #218, Suttons Bay, MI 49682 (online at www.schoolship.org).

Events

AUG **Memorial Gathering** 11:00AM - 01:00PM

14

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home

305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

Comments



“ Send BEAUTIFUL Flowers Locally to the family of Carol Jean Hale. Express your condolences, giving comfort and support. [Click here to view selections on our website](#)

Send Flowers - August 03, 2021 at 12:41 PM



“ I had the honor and privilege to work with Carol at Central High School. What a caring, sensitive, and insightful teacher she was. Carol was smart and witty and her students loved her. Always a beacon for others, her flame will shine on for generations to come through the many lives she so gently touched. I have a deep appreciation for her very supportive family who were always there for her. May they take heart in knowing what a gem was in their midst.

Catherine Annelin - August 11, 2021 at 09:47 AM



“ Carol was one of my heroes. She was a shining example of a public servant. She studied the issues, listened to input and helped create workable solutions. She was smart, articulate and one of the most ardent advocates I ever met for historic preservation. We all owe Carol Hale a great deal of gratitude for her efforts related to the State Hospital and City Historic Districts. My sympathies go out to Carol and Jan's family.
Marsha Smith

Marsha Smith - January 31, 2021 at 04:01 PM



“ Dear David, Matt, and your Families,

My condolences to all of you for the loss of the lady we knew as Carol, but you knew her as mother, mother-in-law, and grandmother. She did so much for Traverse City and our greater region for years.

There's a great deal to remember about her. That is why I will write to you directly in a letter. My memories and gratitude would take up too much in this format.

It's my prayer that you are doing the best you can as you continue in life without your mother and dad. Please swell with pride and joy as you think of them. I hope to be in the garden this summer for the memorial service. It will be so special to honor this lady of Traverse City.

Sincerely,

Mary Orth

Mary Orth - January 16, 2021 at 11:26 AM



“ What great humans Carol and Jan Hale were. May the world experience more like them!

jeremiah goike - January 14, 2021 at 11:51 AM



“ I am so happy having met Jan and Carol again in 2017. I was one of the German students they hosted (1991). To stay with them was an extraordinary experience that I am really thankful for. Their way seeing things and acting for the community influenced my later life and the education of my own children. Although 26 years passed seeing them again, I never forgot them. And I will not.



Andreas - January 13, 2021 at 04:11 AM



“ I appreciate all Carol did for the German exchange students who came on work exchanges through Northwestern Michigan College. I always looked forward to meeting at her house at the end of their stays so we could say good-bye to them all at once. Also appreciate her work as a Docent at the Dennon Museum.

CAROL TABERSKI - January 12, 2021 at 07:47 AM



“ I met Carol through MHA and later learned about her other achievements in our community. The important people in any community are the teachers and the journalists. Check one box there. And then add her participation in local government (an often thankless undertaking, but one we all depend on) and the massive benefits to us all from the State Hospital preservation... what a role model for all of us. She was one of those people who got things done.

Chris Campbell

Chris Campbell - January 10, 2021 at 10:50 PM



“ We so will remember Carol! I was working in the TCAPS substitute teaching office when Carol signed up to sub. Our phone calls came very early in the morning. Carol kept her phone next to her bed. She had a hard time waking up. One morning she fell back to sleep & didn't make it to school on time...she got there eventually. We talked later & came up with a plan. Her phone had a long cord so she put it in the hallway, it worked like a charm. Loved her laugh & wonderful sense of humor. Appreciate all she has done over the years to make TC such a special place. Sending our love to David & Matt & their families.

Betsy & Maurie Allen - January 10, 2021 at 11:14 AM



“ Carol was my neighbor on Sixth Street for 30 years. When my family moved into our home across the street, Carol, Jan, David, and Matt were there to help us unload. That was the beginning of our friendship. Over the years we shared many of life’s funny and sad moments. We recently met at her home and shared mutual sorrows, she over the death of her husband Jan and I over the illness of my husband Don who has both Parkinson’s and dementia.
Peace and love to you dear friend.

Marilyn Jaquish - January 09, 2021 at 07:44 PM



“ What a fine corner of town your street was. Wonderful examples of humans in the Jaquish and Hale households!

jeremiah goike - January 14, 2021 at 11:49 AM



“ I'm so sorry for the loss of Mrs. Hale. She was incredibly influential to me and so many other high school students as an amazing teacher and role model. When I was in 12th grade she led the Traverse City High School Close Up trip to Washington, DC to study American government and democracy. Years later, as a young kid from TC, I ended up working in the WH and I always credit Mrs. Hale for inspiring the path there. She was truly a great American. Her contributions to Traverse City education and civic life are immeasurable and will live on for years.

Jake Bright - January 09, 2021 at 10:54 AM



“ Thinking of Carol’s family and friends.
She made our community better.
With gratitude,
Susan Odgers & Tom Mair

susan odgers - January 08, 2021 at 04:03 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



David Hale - January 08, 2021 at 11:19 AM



“ We have lost a community hero: beloved TCAPS teacher, former TC mayor, President of the League of Women Voters and the warrior that prevented the demolition of the State Hospital- among countless other ways she served us. She was a mentor for me and I will really miss her. Sincere condolences to her family.

Jan Warren - January 08, 2021 at 07:07 PM



“ As a student in her government class, I remember her talking about the fact that if we really wanted to make a difference, we could work with the local government. We could make big changes that would affect our everyday lives. I remember her and my mother making changes in TC and as a mother of a dear friend, she will be missed.

Elizabeth Ashley Thompson - January 08, 2021 at 08:32 PM



“ Carol was a mentor to so many of us, always encouraging and inspiring. Her visionary leadership has contributed to the successful city we know today. She was always there whenever you needed to work through a problem or share an idea. You will be missed Mrs. Hale.

Jeanine Easterday - January 08, 2021 at 08:42 PM



“ A real pleasure to work with her on the Grand Traverse Commons Redevelopment Board. RIP Carol/ TC will miss your "Attitude of Gratitude".

Jerry Keelan - January 09, 2021 at 08:29 AM



“ Carol shaped Traverse City to her vision. And it was always 20-20.

W. Peter Doren - January 09, 2021 at 09:52 AM



“ Carol was the textbook definition of a leader -- continuing to serve her community until the end. We're incredibly grateful for her efforts to preserve the Traverse City State Hospital property and will continue to honor her legacy.

Christie Minervini - January 09, 2021 at 10:22 AM



“ As mayor, among countless other wonderful things, she christened the Maritime Heritage Alliance's new Mackinac Boat at Clinch Park in the fall of 1982. She served so many important causes in our community. An inspiration for us all. She will be missed.

Rich Braue - January 09, 2021 at 12:41 PM



“ Carol was a wonder, I remember her chaining herself to a tree on the Common's. she directed the path of the former state hospital. When I was Mayor she would call with comments on what was right and wrong while gently correcting my approach to a subject. As School board president in 1987 the superintendent asked if I could support Carol as a teacher, I whole heartily supported Carol because of the depth of her commitment to effective government. You will be missed Carol Hale.

Linda Johnson Mayor of Traverse City '94

linda m johnson - January 09, 2021 at 01:25 PM



“ I respected Carol's activism as a City Commissioner and then as Mayor. I was fortunate to work closely with Carol on various groups to support the redevelopment of the State Hospital, including the Community Task Force (1988-1990), GTCRC (1992-2003) and following activities for the Historic Barns up to last year. Her insights were invaluable on how local governmental agencies function, and how to best influence positive decisions. If I were ever to write a memoir on the restoration of the State Hospital, I would call it "Carol's Front Porch"...so much happened there on 6th Street. I will miss her, but always remain grateful for the opportunity to work closely with her.

Dan Tholen - January 10, 2021 at 03:34 PM



“ Sorry to hear of her passing. She was a great teacher and person.

Danielle Shipman Smith - January 12, 2021 at 09:01 AM



“ Carol was a mentor, an activist, and an advocate for sensible growth in TC. I teamed with her in the Humanities program and found her to be insightful, enthusiastic, and well read. On a personal note, Carol convinced me to stay in education even though there were few jobs available in the mid 1980s. She, Waldo Keating, and Dean Shipman went to bat for me and, after ten years of subbing and running an alternative ed program on Beaver Island, I became a TCAPS teacher. Great career aided by a great lady. I'll miss, you Carol. Gary Powell

Gary Powell - August 11, 2021 at 09:40 AM