



Jan Raymond Hale

June 14, 1943 - June 24, 2020

Jan Raymond Hale, 77, of Traverse City, passed away Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at Munson Hospice House in the presence of his family.

Jan was born on Monday, June 14, 1943 in Saginaw, the son of Barbara Joyce (Bailey) and Raymond J. Hale. He attended Saginaw High School and after graduation continued his education at Delta College, the University of Michigan for his Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics and Indiana University earning his Master's Degree in Mathematics. He married the former Carol Jean Parr on Friday, August 21, 1964 in Ann Arbor.

An educator, Jan taught in Livonia for 3 years prior to coming to Traverse City. He taught math and computer programming at Traverse City Central High School for 28 years. He was named Teacher of the Year in 1998. For a short while after retiring, Jan taught some classes at Mill Creek in Williamsburg. He had a great passion for sailing and had earned the Coast Guard Merchant Marine Officer License for 100 Ton vessels. He enjoyed volunteering for the Inland Seas Education Program and was a Captain on the Tall Ships Madeline and Inland Seas. He received the Maritime Heritage Award in 2019. Jan enjoyed doing home restorations on historic homes as well.

He is survived by his wife Carol; sons, David D. (Jena) Hale of Houghton, Matthew J. (Lindsey) Hale of Traverse City; his grandchildren Jason, Mike and John Ackerman all of Houghton and Pearl and Erinn Hale of Traverse City. Also surviving are his siblings, Joseph S. (Sally) Hale of Lake City, Brooks (Linda) Hale of Merrill and Joy Ann (Jack) Landskroener of Finley, OH; as well as his nieces and nephews, Kirk, Kelly, Joey, Lisa, Leslie, Jack and Jennifer. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Friends and family may visit with the family on Friday, July 17, 2020 from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM at The Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home. Due to the circumstances, everyone is being asked to follow all guidelines for the health and safety of everyone. A private celebration of Jan's life will take place in a family setting.

The family has asked that Jan be remembered through contributions to his favorite charities, The Maritime Heritage Alliance, 13268 S. West Bayshore Dr., Traverse City, MI 49684 (online www.maritimeheritagealliance.org) or to the Inland Seas Education Association, 100 Dame St. #218, Suttons Bay, MI 49682 (online www.schoolship.org)

Comments



Carol,

We are so grateful you and Jan were able to enjoy the 6th St. house together for all these years. So sorry for your loss.

Margaret Collins Strong

Margaret Collins Strong - July 04 at 11:35 AM



Mr. Hale,

You were the most instrumental math teacher I have ever had. You made math so much fun and so easy to learn! You will always be remembered as a great teacher, not only in my life but in thousands of students lives. Thank you for always caring and always going the extra mile for each and every student! You will always be remembered as the teacher that stood far above all the others. Thank you!

M Carboneau Graduating Class of 1982 - July 01 at 05:33 AM



Jan was one of the first captains met when I started crew training with MHA in 1994. He was calm, genial, modest, and generous. One special memory was sailing into an eastern U.P. harbor that he did not know, probably Government Bay. It was a decision forced by weather and time. The wind was unfavorable and it was getting dark. We had a choice between a long bash into an unfavorable wind in the dark, or entering an unfamiliar and somewhat challenging place in the dark and resting peacefully. Jan decided we'd be happier in harbor. But it was poorly marked. Finding a good anchorage in the dark would be hard. In we went. Jan had one person standing watch at the bow, one person on the depth sounder, one person on the GPS, and one on the radar (me). He was the one who had to integrate the inputs from all the data sources. Afterward we discussed where we thought we were. In the morning, we were exactly where intended. It was a bold plan, perfectly executed by a capable mariner.

Our lives are enriched by the good people we meet and learn from.

Chris Campbell

Chris Campbell - June 29 at 12:07 AM



“ Jan was one of four sailors that struggled mightily to convert me from landlubber to sailor. My first sailknife was a gift from him. He taught me four of the six ways he knew to tie a bowline. He added St. Killians Day to my Holiday Calendar and steeped me in the life cycle of the baggy wrinkle. I will miss him a lot. I hope he'll have a glass waiting if I get to Fiddlers Green.

Bob Hagerman - June 26 at 07:12 PM



“ First captain I sailed with on Schooner Madeline... learned so much from him, and loved his quiet handling of any crisis... he will be missed. Fair winds, Captain Jan!

Linda Posler - June 26 at 03:33 PM



“ Fair winds, my dear shipmate. I will always remember your calm, subtle (and often math-based) humor, your kindness and generosity, and the way you could always find the positive in everything.

My earliest memory of you was sitting aloft with you (a spry 57 at the time) on the crosstrees of Inland Seas in the freezing cold, the bay still iced over, and hearing you say, “the geese are flying back to the south.”

Jamie Trost - June 26 at 02:41 PM



“ Jan was an excellent captain, inspiring teacher, and wonderful shipmate and friend. Memory...? So many sails; so many Union meetings... St Killian's Day, Union cards, songs and merriment. I think my favorite was sailing with Jan and Jamie from Suttons Bay to Escanaba. Three captains and we competed as to whom would be the deckhand each day. It was a long slog into fairly high seas for 11 hours with the wind on our nose just about the whole time, checking the forward bilge (thanks, Tom) and Jamie's first time captaining a vessel.

Fair winds and a following sea, Jan...

Tom Kastle - June 26 at 12:32 PM



“ Oh, what a trip!

Jamie Trost - June 26 at 02:29 PM



“ Great guy!! Jan was the first captain I had the pleasure of sailing under a number of years ago from Munising to Ontanogon. My first voyage. His easy going way coupled with his knowledge of seamanship made it easy and enjoyable for me. A humble man and a natural teacher. The world needs for guys like Jan. Fair winds Jan.

chris shotwell - June 26 at 12:25 PM



“ I will always remember Jan's kindness, good humor and clever wit shipboard and in the Union Hall. There are many things I will never forget but in particular, the night at the Hall when the crews of three working Great Lakes schooners swapped stories and sang shanties together. Fair winds, Jan Hale.

Chris Kastle - June 26 at 11:20 AM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Sally Somsel - June 26 at 11:07 AM



“ Jan was always a teacher, and shared his love for sailing out on the Schooner. My condolences to the Hale family.

Sally - June 26 at 11:09 AM



“ My condolences to Jan's family on his passing. I worked with Jan for a number of years rigging Schooner Madeline but perhaps my best memory with Jan is a summertime moonlight sail across Lake Michigan from Escanaba to Beaver Island with a steady NW breeze. He was always a very personable captain and placed the well being of his crew and safety of the boat above all else. He will be missed by all.

Bill Horning - June 26 at 09:43 AM



“ I cannot send enough hugs to the Hale family. Mr. Hale gave me my first taste of computers. He had me programming in 1988!!! I still remember my little animation. He believed in me and encouraged me to stick with it even when it didn't work the way it was supposed to. I appreciated his patient and kind wisdom and always felt

cared for in his presence. My sincere condolences!

Kelli Woodrow van den Broek - June 25 at 02:29 PM



“ Loved working with Jan at TCAPS over the years. He will be missed! Keeping Carol & family in our thoughts & prayers.

Betty & Msurie Allen - June 25 at 08:48 AM



“ I wanted to share an addition tribute.

ST. KILLIAN'S DAY

It was St. Killian's Day!
The beer flowed freely--
Red foaming glasses of fun.
The smell of seared beef and buffalo
Peel-on fries and vinegar
Perfumed the pub.

Mariners and friends
Together once again;
Another sailing season.
Gather and greet
At the old "union hall"

Toasts and proclamations.
Shanties sung on shore
By the crews of schooners
In a way not heard
In a hundred years
On the vast Inland Seas

Raise your glasses
In that other time and place
And in the days of now
To celebrate
A holiday made for family
By Jan, our old shipmate
Be he ever in our minds.
"Huzzah and Fair Winds!"

-- Chris Kastle

Chris Kastle - June 29 at 08:20 PM



“ We have and will continue to fondly remember

Jan from our sailing trips upon the Great Lakes and several sunset cruises on Grand Traverse Bay. It was always a pleasure to work with him. We have smiles on our faces and in our hearts from the memories he left us with. Our prayers go out to his lovely wife and their family. John and Liz Radlicki

john radlicki - July 01 at 10:49 PM