



Reid Emory Hale

A Tribute to a Fellow Rotarian

Reid Emory Hale passed away peacefully at his home in Bothell on Friday, August 9, 2024, at the age of 93.

Born on December 21, 1930, in Yakima to Emory and Gladys Hale, Reid's life was marked by a deep connection to his community and an enduring commitment to service.

He moved to western Washington as a youth when his father took on the role of Chief Enforcement Officer for the Washington State Liquor Control Board.

Reid graduated from Lake Washington High School and joined the United States Air Force in 1950, serving his country during the Korean War. It was during this time that he met and married the love of his life, Mildred "Milly" Kirk. Reid and Milly raised their two sons, Douglas and Gordon, in Burien, later settling in Snohomish County.

Following his honorable discharge from the Air Force, Reid pursued higher education at the University of Washington, earning a degree in Journalism in 1956.

He began his career as a writer for the *Seattle PI* before transitioning to the business side of journalism. Reid owned, operated, and edited several community newspapers, from Burien to Ballard and University District to North Snohomish County, leaving an indelible mark on the communities he and his papers served.

A colleague once described Reid as "the consummate newsman in the strictest sense of the word. Deeply involved and widely respected in every community his newspapers touched."

Throughout his life, Reid remained an active force in his community. His dedication to service was evident as a devoted member of the Rotary Club of Everett, his service spanning over 50 years in Rotary.

His contributions extended far beyond Rotary: he was appointed by the governor to the Board of Trustees of Highline Community College and was an active participant in various Chambers of Commerce. Reid also had a passion for the arts, serving as a longtime board member of the Northshore Performing Arts Foundation.

A voracious reader and lover of history, Reid possessed an encyclopedic knowledge that amazed friends and family alike. One friend fondly remarked, “He was our Google before there was Google—you always wanted him on your team in Trivial Pursuit.”

Reid was also a passionate Seattle Mariners fan, a longtime season ticket holder dating back to the Kingdome era, supporting the team through thick and thin.

As we reflect on Reid's life and legacy, let us stand and observe a moment of silence for our fellow Rotarian, Reid Hale.