



Jerry 'Coley' Coleman

July 28, 1944 - February 7, 2012

Memorial services will be held for JERRY LEE "Coley" COLEMAN, 67, on Thursday, February 16, 2012 at 2pm at the First United Presbyterian Church in Torrington with Pastor Matt Gordon officiating. Jerry passed away on February 7, 2012 at the Cheyenne Medical Center in Cheyenne, Wyoming and cremation has taken place. A private family scattering of ashes will take place later this summer. In lieu of flowers, the family would request that memorials may be directed to either a Scholarship Fund located at U.S. Bank in Torrington for a Torrington High School student seeking higher education or to the Home Away from Home at Cheyenne, Wyoming. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Colyer Funeral Home and friends are invited to send condolences to the family online at www.colyerfuneralhome.com Jerry was born on July 28, 1944 in Scottsbluff, Nebraska the son of Robert and Mollie (Robertus) Coleman. He grew up and received his education at Mitchell, Nebraska; graduating Mitchell High School in 1962. He went on to attend Scottsbluff Junior College and then Chadron State College graduating in 1967 with a double major in Chemistry and Physics and a minor in Math. Jerry then landed a teaching position at Torrington High School and it was during this time that he met Sandy Boyd while on a "boys night out" and the couple began dating off and on while they both worked and she took a trip to Panama. On November 27, 1969 Jerry decided enough was enough and he married his "soul mate", Sandy. The couple then lived in Morrill, Nebraska while Jerry drove back and forth to Torrington High School. In 1970 Jerry

received a "much sought after" National Science Foundation Grant for the University of Wyoming at Laramie. It was there that he received his Masters in Physics and Math. Jerry and Sandy then moved to Red Lodge, Montana where Jerry taught for one school term. The Montana harsh winters sent them packing to Sheridan, Wyoming and Jerry taught at the high school there and was one of the wrestling coaches until 1983. At this time the couple returned to Torrington, Wyoming where Jerry once again joined the Torrington High School teaching staff and began his 22 year dedication to students, forming teacher-student bonds that would last a lifetime. Jerry retired from THS in 2005 and went on to serve as the Quality Assurance Chemist at Holly Sugar for two years. He was then approached by the school system to return to THS which he did 3/4 time for a year before fully retiring. During his teaching career, Jerry had taught over 5000 students; but impacted many more as coach and mentor. Jerry was many things to many people; but mostly a personality most folks loved and came to respect. He was quick-witted and ornery. He never knew a stranger and always one to come up with a good joke or prank. Jerry and some of his colleagues were the hi-light of many faculty dinner parties and retirement gatherings with over-the-top skits. He enjoyed retirement with his "Business Meetings" with the boys drinking coffee or playing pool. Jerry especially liked hunting and fishing. But his number one priority was spending time with his grandkids and the joy they brought him could not be matched. He loved them dearly. He is survived by his wife and soul mate, Sandy of Torrington; his son Chris (Jen) Coleman of Davis, CA; his daughter Stephanie (Brian) Hopkins of Casper, WY; a brother Richard (Mary) Coleman of Springfield, MO; four sisters, Delores Stirrett of Casper, WY; Neola (Ron) Reisig of Mitchell, NE; Karen (Cal) Coleman-Corcoran of Alva, FL; and Kathy (Rod) Schildt of Scottsbluff, NE; his five grandchildren, Jaiden and Brendan Hopkins of Casper; and Delaney, Justin, and Meghan Coleman all of California; a sister-in-law, Shirley Schultz ; a sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Joan and Jerry Schneider; and numerous nieces and nephews, many of whom he was very close to. He was preceded in death by his parents, two

brothers, Bob and Russ; two brothers-in-law, Bob Stirrett and Ed Schultz and a nephew, John Schultz.

Tribute Wall

EB

“ Life is so unfair sometimes. Sandy, I know it is going to be hard but I know you will prevail. Jerry was such a wonderful man and friend. Kristin adored him so.

The last joke Jerry and I played was the end of January at the post office. He was getting your mail held for when you two would be gone. Wayne was out in the vehicle and Jerry asked if I would walk out the door and down the steps of the post office with him with my arm around him. He wanted to tease Wayne. Jerry was saying lookie here.....

Wayne caught on.

Such a fun man and he will be sorely missed. It is OK to grieve for as long as you need and if you ever need anything, please give me or Ron a call.

Elaine and Ron

Elaine Bernatow - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Jerry was simply the greatest! He touched so many young lives, but he was also an incredible friend to many others, too. We'll miss him terribly and share our love and concern for all of you.

Margy and Steve Baribeau - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

WD

“ My sincere condolences. Jerry was a wonderful man and an excellent teacher. I always sincerely enjoyed seeing him, being kidded by him, and loved the joy he projected. He will sincerely be missed. May God bless you in the knowledge that his memory will live on and that he must surely be in Heaven. God takes the best, and Jerry was the best.

Wayne Deahl - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Jerry was a wonderful friend who showed me how a man truly loves his wife, children, grandchildren, and everyone he met. His kindness towards all was unsurpassed. He lived to help someone out in any way he could.

His jokes, humor, and laughter were infectious. Had a great smile!

Never had a bad time when Jerry was around. Truly enjoyed all the time spent with Sandy and him. I have truly fabulous memories of trips, vacations, and times spent together to cherish.

He was a caring and thoughtful friend. He was a loyal friend and always available to help.

Will miss you greatly my friend! Honor to have known you.

*Love,
Shelly*

Shelly Mason - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ Coley you will be missed by all. I will do my best to be there for your family. Love your "brother" Wayne

L. Wayne Gentry - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LG

“Coley gave to everyone he met. He will be remembered for in many ways and always for the laughter we shared. Thinking of you, each and everyone. Love, Lanny

Lanny Gentry - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TL

“Mr. Coleman was not only my favorite teacher I have ever had, he was a great mentor and friend. He recognized potential in me, that I had never even seen in myself. My Senior year of highschool would have been very difficult without his constant driving support and encouragement for me to not settle for anything but the best in all aspects of life. I have been out of high school for 8 years now, finished college and every time I would see him around town, it was like he hadn't seen me in years and was so excited to hear the achievements of one of his students. He will be greatly missed, and has forever made an impact on my life, as I am sure he has for many. One of my favorite memories of Chemistry class was making "fireworks", during this we were highly encouraged to keep the code of the 'what happens in Chemistry, stays in Chemistry'...he was never afraid to push the envelope and let kids learn, instead of staring at a book and taking exams all day. My thoughts and prayers are with all of his family and friends, the world will be a bit less sunny place with out his passion for life and knowledge; but with his absence here, I know heaven will now be just that much better of a place to be.

Tiphonie Lofink - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Jerry will be greatly missed - words can not express how deeply he touched not only my life but also the lives of my children, Andrew and Brianna. He was an inspiration to all of us and Jerry taught us all - every day with his caring and thoughtful words (along with the jokes). God Bless his family and may God's loving arms surround them in their time of grief - grant them comfort, peace, and acceptance. Fly with the eagles, Jerry!!

Becky Cannata - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Sandy, Chris (Jen) & kids and Stephanie (Brian) & kids:
Wow what a man your hubby, daddy, grampa, (and my friend, Coley) was!! He touched so many lives - kids and adults alike - including mine. I got to know Coley about 15 years ago, I worked with him, laughed with him, was the recipient of his pranks! :-) And I got to share some great conversation with him. And now, one never knows how to express heartfelt sympathy in times like this. I know you feel "broken" and none of us can "fix it" though Heaven knows many of us would like to - only if we could. None of our words, no matter how spoken, can heal you . . . you will heal in your own time with God's Grace. Please take that time. It is ok to grieve for that great man of yours. Don't rush to "feel better" ... that will come. So for now, just know deep inside your hearts, how very much I, and so many others, care. We know you are hurting but our lives are soooo much fuller becuz we knew Coley and had the opportunity to share life with him. Feel my arms wrapped tightly around all of you, hugging you close . . . and laugh with me, cuz can't you just hear Coley rite now making some silly remark about our "group hug"? :-) Loved him! And love all of you! Call me anytime. God grant you peace and understanding in your hearts.

xoxoxo and loves, charmie

Charm - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

HC

“ *When we lose a friend like Jerry it is like losing part of yourself. I always admired Jerry's ability, he was an exceptional teacher and a good friend.*

Howard & Ellenor Craton - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ *Mr. Coleman was one heck of a teacher and person! It has been 25 years since I was in his classroom, but I remember his wisdom, advice, and humor like it was yesterday. One theme that consistently came up during our time with him and that he believed and lived, "Happiness is the key to life!" He taught us more than chemistry and physics. He genuinely cared about his students as individuals. We always had a great time in class and I am very grateful to have had him in my life!*

Ty Muma - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *I was so sorry to see of Jerry's passing. I will always hold fond memories of him in math class in 1973 at Sheridan High School. He was one of the ones that got through to me!*

Please accept my sincere sympathy to his family! He will be sadly missed by this former student.

John Sanders - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ My condolences to you and your children during this difficult time with the loss of your soul mate and husband, Jerry Coleman. Although I never met Jerry, my friends in the Torrington area said he was a great guy, wonderful husband and admired teacher.

Jerry was a luck man to have shared his life with a beautiful and radiant lady, like you, Sandy Boyd. Throughout the years, during my trips to Western Nebraska and Eastern Wyoming, I thought our paths would cross and I would get to meet Jerry. The young lives that Jerry taught and influenced is a legacy that his children and you will be proud of forever. The highest honor for a teacher is those endearing relationships.

Sandy, I pray that our Lord will walk with you throughout the years ahead and bless you with excellent health and wonderful friends. God bless you Sandy Coleman.

Your old friend from Lyman, Barry Bode.

Barry Bode - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ When I heard that Mr. Coleman passed away, I knew that every single classmate of mine would want to know, because we all loved him so much. I posted a note on facebook, and within 24 hours I had 20 comments from former students sharing their favorite moments. I for one will never forget how he told us that if we needed to blow our nose, we should get a tissue, and then go to the chemical closet. And if we needed to pass gas, we should get a tissue, and then go the the chemical closet. I laugh every time I think of that. I very sad that I won't get to run into Mr. Coleman again, but I know for certain that he lives on in our memories of him. My deepest condolences.

Lisa Warren - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ Word has traveled fast through the Class of 86. Mr. Coleman was a favorite among us all for his patience in class, his wit, and above all...his ability to play world class pranks and teach us how to pull a prank with style. We watched in Awe as he moved Mr. Clark's entire Homeroom class...including chalk, down to the Auditorium. The look on Mr. Clark's face...priceless. We fondly remember the morning he found his car parked between two pillars...courtesy of Mr. Clark. We also learned the word RESPECT for our teachers because of he did raise the bar in class.

To the Coleman family...you are his pride and joy and his Sandy...well the rest of us should be so lucky to find a man who loved you as much as he did. May your memories comfort you at this difficult time and may you remember the Class of 86, We Will Never Forget Our Beloved Ornerly Mr. Coleman.

Thank You for Sharing Him with All of us.

Peggy Sue Meininger - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Praying for your family

Don Daugherty - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ Simply put, one of the best people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. My fond memories are too many to list. Sending love and prayers to you all!

Amy (Steidley) Bennion - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ God bless you Mr. Coleman. I'm honored to have known you. You touched many lives, and the world was a better place with you in it. You inspired generations of young adults, and showed them what it is to be a role model. You will be dearly missed.....

Jared Kelly - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CZ

“ Many fond memories attending graduate school together at the University of Wyoming in days long past.

Our fishing trips to Lake Hattie were great!

carl thomas zmuda - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ He made his classes fun so learning was easier.

February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TO

“ Mr. Coleman was a great teacher who made chemistry fun and accessible. I had him first period and was late a lot because my family did paper routes most mornings. He was always very patient with me about that.

Mrs. Coleman, I have never met you, but I lost my first husband almost 20 years ago, so I have an idea what you are going through. There is not a right or wrong way to grieve - do what you need to and don't worry about what others think. Rely on God and he will give you the strength you need. I wish you and your family peace and comfort.

Tronica (Vonburg) Owens - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

IR

“ *My sincere condolences to the family. RIP. Jerry you will missed but never forgotten*

Irene Robertus - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ *Jerry you will be missed but never forgotten you are a great person the world will not be the without you RIP Jerry*

donnie lee white - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ *Jerry was my favorite cousin of all cousins. He always made me laugh and had alot of fun with him. I wish I could be there for the family and enjoy their company. Now, the Lord will keep him and we will get to see his smiling face once again. God Bless the family. His loving cousin, Mike Robertus.*

Mike & Debbie Robertus - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KL

“ *I can't remember a time being within the walls of Torrington High School and not seeing the face of Jerry Coleman. Basketball game, class reunion, prom night, etc. He just seems to mysteriously show up every time I am there to say hello and ask how I am doing. I have grown to expect his presence and I don't believe that expectation will ever change.*

Kelly Lively - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ *My thoughts are with Mrs. Coleman and all of the family. Mr. Coleman was one of my favorite teachers and got me interested in science in a way that no one else could. I am thankful to have had him as my teacher and to have known him.*

Sincerely,

Keelin McCreery Cromar

Keelin McCreery Cromar - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ *To Sandy and family, Kathy and her family,*

So saddened to hear of your loss.

What a smile Jerry brought to everyone he met. Quite a character!

Always enjoyed visiting with Jerry at conferences with both my girls over the years... a great science teacher!

My parents and family has all known Jerry for a long time, Mitchell has always had the greatest people and friends! He will be greatly missed.

S. Durfee - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ Chris Kephart
Mr Coleman,

It's because of you I've seen a banana shatter. It's because of you I understand the equation $PN=nRT$. It's because of you I can explain what the Triple Point of water is, just in case I'm ever on Jeopardy.

And it's because of you I know the feeling of achievement can solidified by a pat on the back and an honest look in the eye.

...

To the Physics Class of '94-'95, please remember, "Only in the Jeep".

Chris Kephart - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ *My thoughts and prayers to all of Jerry's family. He was a special person, so full of the very devil, and I have so many wonderful memories because of him and all of you. He was a super teacher and I'm sure touched many students' lives positively. What an accomplishment. We will all miss him.*

Jeni - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ *I was lucky to be touched by the magic that was Jerry Coleman. He was a true friend and "matchmaker". My thoughts are with Sandy, Chris and Stephanie during this time of loss.*

Matt Kruse - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Sorry for your loss. I am keeping your family in my prayers. Anything I can do please let me know. Mr. Coleman was a wonderful man and friend.

BOBBY BROOKS - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

IH

“ Sandy,

Friends are "there" to share the joys and sorrows. Friendship improves happiness and abates misery, by the doubling of our joy and the dividing of our grief.

*Two to double & two to divide,
Calvin & Isabel Hoy*

Isabel & Calvin Hoy - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SO

“ I only got to know Jerry & Sandy this past couple of summers, as they were very caring and encouraging for my friend Jill West, after she lost her husband. I could tell right away what a great marriage and relationship Jerry & Sandy had. Jerrys zest for life and humor was wonderful. He had a great and lasting impression on me. Sandy, you are such a bubbly person who has that same zest. Great memories... Thank you Jerry and God Bless You Sandy.

Shelly Osmera - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RN

“ *Dear Sandy, and Family,*

We are thinking about the sadness that you are suffering, and we are sorry for it.

Jesus has promised us life everlasting, and though there is grief when our loved ones depart. I hope this promise can bring comfort for you and your family.

Our heart is reaching out to you in sympathy, and prayers. May God be with you at this time.

We love you.

Rocio, Dimitri and John Nesbitt

Rocio Nesbitt - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AP

“ I had the privilege of taking two classes from Jerry, and the excellent luck to run across him during my myriad visits back home. I think the reason that so many students gravitated to Jerry was that he was a teacher and coach for life, not just Chemistry, Physics, or Math. Jerry taught all of us that we could be academic, youthful, energetic, and rebellious all at the same time. Few teachers are able to offer lessons that transcend instruction and become education...

One day I was goofing off (as was my custom) in Jerry's class, and he brought his disappointment to my attention by jokingly whacking me across the face. I stood and mockingly grappled with him, and before I knew it he had tumbled both of us to the door in a classic wrestling take-down. After a quick laugh, it was back to calculating static friction (or something like that). I'll never forget Jerry, and am grateful for him.

DP

Andrew Patrick - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM