

## **Robert Bruce Hale**

Robert Bruce "Bob" Hale was born on Dec. 12, 1941, in Sturgis, SD, to James and Mildred Hale. Bob was raised in Sturgis and graduated from Sturgis High School in 1959. After attending college at BHSU, he joined the Air Force in 1965. During his military career he became a distinguished aviator while serving his country both overseas during the Vietnam War and state side. Bob received numerous awards and medals during his military service which included Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, and also the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm. While stationed in Germany, Bob met Janet Sue Baikie who became his wife in 1969. After retiring from the Air Force in 1987, Bob moved with his family to Las Vegas, NV, where he spent the next 20 years continuing his aviation career with EG&G Special Projects.

Bob, 72, of Las Vegas, NV, passed away the evening of Dec. 25, 2013, at Desert Springs Hospital.

Bob is survived by his wife, Janet Hale, Las Vegas, NV; son, James Ward Hale of Omaha, NE; a daughter, Julie Ann Hale of Las Vegas, NV; one brother, Norman Hale of Sturgis; and a sister, Donna Meeker (Nyle) of Sioux Falls. He is also survived by three grandchildren, James D. Hale, Robert E. Hale, and Jack T. Hale; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.kinkadee.funerals.com](http://www.kinkadee.funerals.com).

*In Loving Memory Of*



*Robert Bruce Hale*

*1941 ~ 2013*

*The family invites you to join them for fellowship and lunch in the church hall following the committal service. We thank you for your presence and condolences.*

The Cremation of Sam McGee  
By: Robert W. Service 1874–1958

There are strange things done in the midnight sun  
By the men who moil for gold;  
The Arctic trails have their secret tales  
That would make your blood run cold;  
The Northern Lights have seen queer sights,  
But the queerest they ever did see  
Was that night on the marge of Lake Lebarge  
I cremated Sam McGee.

Now Sam McGee was from Tennessee, where the cotton blooms and blows.  
Why he left his home in the South to roam 'round the Pole, God only knows.

He was always cold, but the land of gold seemed to hold him like a spell;  
Though he'd often say in his homely way that "he'd sooner live in hell."

On a Christmas Day we were mushing our way over the Dawson trail.  
Talk of your cold! Through the parka's fold it stabbed like a driven nail.  
If our eyes we'd close, then the lashes froze till sometimes we couldn't see;  
It wasn't much fun, but the only one to whimper was Sam McGee.

And that very night, as we lay packed tight in our robes beneath the snow,  
And the dogs were fed, and the stars o'erhead were dancing heel and toe,  
He turned to me, and "Cap," says he, "I'll cash in this trip, I guess;  
And if I do, I'm asking that you won't refuse my last request."

Well, he seemed so low that I couldn't say no; then he says with a sort of moan:  
"It's the cursèd cold, and it's got right hold till I'm chilled clean through to the bone.  
Yet 'tain't being dead—it's my awful dread of the icy grave that pains;  
So I want you to swear that, foul or fair, you'll cremate my last remains."

A pal's last need is a thing to heed, so I swore I would not fail;  
And we started on at the streak of dawn; but God! He looked ghastly pale.  
He crouched on the sleigh, and he raved all day of his home in Tennessee;  
And before nightfall a corpse was all that was left of Sam McGee.

There wasn't a breath in that land of death, and I hurried, horror-driven,  
With a corpse half hid that I couldn't get rid, because of a promise given;  
It was lashed to the sleigh, and it seemed to say: "You may tax your brawn and brains,  
But you promised true, and it's up to you to cremate those last remains..."

*In Loving Memory Of*

***Lt. Col. Robert Bruce Hale***  
***U.S. Air Force Retired***

***Born***

December 12, 1941  
Sturgis, South Dakota

***Died***

December 25, 2013  
Las Vegas, Nevada

***Funeral Service***

Thursday, January 2, 2014, at 10:30 a.m.  
First United Methodist Church  
Sturgis, South Dakota

***Officiating***

Pastor Jenene Earl

***Soloist***

Danny Chapman

***Musical Selections***

"Amazing Grace"  
"On Eagle's Wings"  
"Going Home"

***Pallbearers***

Jessie Lewis – Bob Davis – Kurt Davis  
Chuck VanSickel – Jerry Davis – Neil Meier

***Military Honors***

Sturgis Veteran's Honor Guard

***Interment***

Black Hills National Cemetery  
Sturgis, South Dakota