



## Hayden Ketchin Hale

August 30, 1926 - February 9, 2024

On February 9, 2024, Hayden Ketchin Hale, 97, went from his home on Lake Dorr in the Ocala National Forest in Florida to his eternal home with his Lord and a much-anticipated reunion with his wife, Betty M. Hale, and his youngest daughter, Alison Hale Curtis.

Born August 30, 1926 in the family home in the Kelsey City Community (now Lake Park) of Palm Beach County, Florida to Warren Lester Hale and Pauline Ketchin Hale.

He is preceded in death by his parents and three siblings: Susan Hale Gelston, Ketchin Lester Hale, and Henry Ketchin Hale. He is also preceded in death by his wife, Betty, and his daughter, Alison.

Upon graduating from high school in Connecticut, Hayden enlisted in the Army Air Corps and proudly served during World War II. Following his discharge, he returned to South Florida and began a lifetime career as a general contractor and owner of Florida Construction Company, Inc. During this time, he was an active member of First Baptist Church Pompano Beach, as well as its mission church, North Pompano Baptist Church. He was a member of the Pompano Beach Rotary Club and the Pompano Beach Aero Club. He enjoyed camping trips with his family and friends, including a six-week circumnavigation of the United States and Southern Canada.

Upon retirement, Hayden moved to Lake Dorr in the Ocala Forest where he built "Our Last Resort" for himself and Betty, which was enjoyed for many years as a gathering place for family and friends. Both were active in their time and made many friends at First Baptist Church Umatilla and in the community.

Hayden leaves behind one son, Hayden Garrett Hale (Joann) and one daughter, Valerie Hale, and son-in-law Kendall Curtis. He is survived by five grandchildren: Christopher Garrett Hale (Rachel), Jeremy Werner (Jennifer), Jennifer Werner Hammons (David), Jamie Curtis, and Janelle Curtis Aman (Charles) as well as 8 great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, February 16 at 10:00 a.m. at First Baptist Church Umatilla. Interment will be at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida. The family will receive friends on Thursday from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Beyers Funeral Home in Umatilla, FL. Memorials may be sent to Cornerstone Hospice or First Baptist Church Umatilla Building Fund, 550 Hatfield Dr., Umatilla, FL 32784.

The family wishes to thank Hayden's caregivers, Bonnie White and her team, for making it possible for him to stay in his home on Lake Dorr until his passing.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home of Umatilla, Florida.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **15**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Beyers Funeral Home and Crematory - Umatilla  
279 South Central Avenue  
Umatilla, FL 32784  
(352) 669-2146

## Funeral Service

FEB **16**. 10:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Umatilla  
550 Hatfield Drive  
Umatilla, FL 32784

# Tribute Wall

DS

“ Dear family of Hayden Ketchin Hale, as a resident in Lake Park (formerly Kelsey City) I would like to extend prayers and sympathy to the family of Hayden Ketchin Hale. May his memory be eternal. Dianne Sophinos



Dianne Sophinos - August 26, 2024 at 12:03 PM

XD

“ Xenia D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Hayden Ketchin Hale.

Xenia D. - February 16, 2024 at 12:20 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Hayden Ketchin Hale.



February 15, 2024 at 10:39 AM

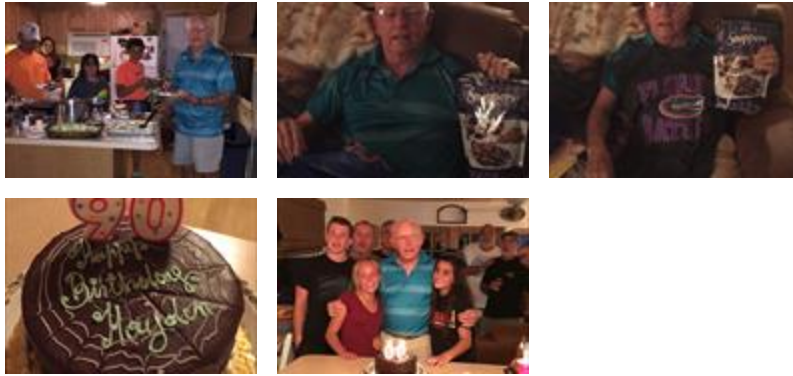
PH

“ Pete & Gigi Hall planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Hayden Ketchin Hale.

Pete & Gigi Hall - February 15, 2024 at 10:39 AM

LW

“ I met you when I was 16 and first visited the Hall cabin and then again years down the road. You were a huge help in 2001 when we bought our cabin just a short walk down from yours. Since then, you and Betty became dear friends. We truly enjoyed you for the many years to follow celebrating many birthday and holiday dinners together! I will miss you dearly but am so glad to have had you a part of my life as well as Jay, Emily and Eric's! We all love you but are happy you are where you wanted to be since Betty left us in 2015! Rest in peace and show us signs of your presence over the Ocala National forest!



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**Loren Weiss** - February 13, 2024 at 07:11 PM

XE

Mr Hale will be missed deeply on our visits to the cabin. it was always the highlight of the weekend to say hello!  
RIP  
Much Love to the family & friends  
Bob & Xenia Popiel

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**xenia** - February 16, 2024 at 12:17 PM

VM

We loved you Hayden and Betty. Awesome folks. So glad to have been blessed to know you for over 15 years. You will be missed for sure.  
Love,  
Calvin and Vicky McGhee

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**Vicky McGhee** - February 16, 2024 at 05:21 PM

TH

“ Ted, Barbara, Teddy, Jen Hoepner purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Hayden Ketchin Hale.



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**Ted, Barbara, Teddy, Jen Hoepner** - February 13, 2024 at 03:43 PM

TH

“ Ted, Barbara, Teddy, Jen Hoepner planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Hayden Ketchin Hale.

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**Ted, Barbara, Teddy, Jen Hoepner** - February 13, 2024 at 03:43 PM

SF

“ Oh Dear Mr.Hale we wanted you to never leave us, we followed you from Lighthouse Point to the Ocala forest, but as time went on your heart only wanted to be with Betty, God has granted your wish.

Since we met you have always been apart of our lives and will be forever. Go in peace Hayden and know you will be remembered. With love and with sympathy ,the Flaten's and the Shaya's

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**Susan Flaten** - February 13, 2024 at 01:16 PM

TS

“ The Flaten's and the Shaya's purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Hayden Ketchin Hale.



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**The Flaten's and the Shaya's** - February 13, 2024 at 12:57 PM

JC

“ *My all time favorite picture of Grandpa & Copper standing on top of the boathouse at sunset.*



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**Jamie Curtis** - February 12, 2024 at 03:33 PM

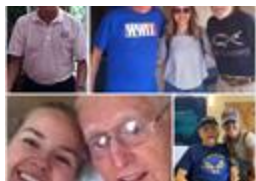
RM

“ *It has been an honor and absolute blessing getting to know Hayden over the last 8 years.*

*He started off as a physical therapy patient and turned into such a sweet friend. Forever grateful God planned our paths to cross.*

*My sincere condolences to his family.*

*With love and sympathy,  
Rachael Huett McCollum*



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**Rachael McCollum** - February 11, 2024 at 03:45 PM

BW

“ *Bonnie White lit a candle in memory of Hayden Ketchin Hale*



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**Bonnie White** - February 11, 2024 at 09:07 AM

BW

“ I met Mr Hale thru Brian my brother in law...I am grateful that I was the one chosen to be there for him the last couple years of his life...with the help of a few friends Kristi and Brenda my Mother Dorothy and my sister Tina we were able to take care of Mr Hale at home on the lake...He made us all laugh at times... I so enjoyed reading the Bible to him and cooking he enjoyed home cooked meals...sitting out on the deck in the sunshine...we would always go to lunch after his dr appointments some time Valerie would meet us for lunch he enjoyed that...when I worked in his yard he drove the golf cart he liked to go fast...I will cherish the memories of Mr Hale and I'm grateful that he is at rest for now...much love to the family and friends of Mr Hale. With sincere condolences,  
Bonnie White

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**Bonnie White** - February 11, 2024 at 09:06 AM