

## **A Tribute to Ray Stone**

I wish to share my thoughts on the passing of my good friend Ray Stone. In 1970, I was interviewed by NIC Dean of Instruction Ray Stone and NIC President Barry Schuler for the opening political science position. Ray called two days later to offer me the position that began a more than four decades of friendship. I served as chair of the NIC Division of Social Science for 14 years and during most of that time I reported to Dean Stone.

When Ray decided to seek a seat on the Coeur d'Alene City Council, I became involved in that first campaign and continued to work in all his other races for council and mayor. We spent many hours together addressing political issues and most important of all we worked with other members of the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations to promote human rights in Coeur d'Alene and the region. Ray was so proud of three very significant and special human rights ceremonies and events that took place while he was mayor. First, Mayor Stone joined the late Bill Wassmuth, the late Larry Broadbent and journalist Dave Oliveria at the New York City Hall to receive the Raoul Wallenberg Civic Award in 1987 for the city's stand against hate and bigotry. Second, we convened in the city council chambers with a live hook up with Governor Cecil Andrus from Boise in the spring of 1990 when Governor Andrus signed the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr./Human Rights State Holiday Law as Mayor Stone responded to the Governor's signing. Third, Mayor Stone was excited to receive the "All American City Award" for Coeur d'Alene from the National Municipal League (now the National Civic League) in 1990 based on the city's dedication to promoting human rights. Coeur d'Alene was the first city in Idaho to receive that prestigious award.

Our friend Ray used his office as mayor to promote equality and fairness for all our residents.

My friend rest in peace.

Tony Stewart