

Ross Harold Cole was born on August 31, 1942 in Long Beach, California to Harold Roscoe Cole and Orene Burnidette Goyette. He had 2 sisters, Irene Diane and Allene Mary. Ross grew up in Compton, California and graduated from Compton High School. He was on the high school football team, was pitcher for church softball, and enjoyed ping pong, racquetball and volleyball. Ross and Charlene met in early-morning seminary.

Ross saved money for his mission while earning his AA degree from Compton Junior College. He was called to serve in the South Korea Seoul Mission for 2½ years from 1963 to 1965. Upon returning from his mission, Ross and Charlene were sealed in the Los Angeles California Temple on June 26, 1965.

Ross completed a bachelor's degree in Asian studies from Brigham Young University in 1967 and was awarded a Full-ride scholarship to the East-West Center of the University of Hawaii. While in Hawaii, Ross taught early-morning seminary. Ross graduated from the University of Hawaii with his master's degree in education in 1969.

In January 1970, Ross was hired to teach full-time seminary in Tempe, Arizona. During this time, Ross attended Arizona State University. He graduated in 1973 with his Doctorate in Social and Philosophic Foundations of Education.

The Cole Family moved to Fullerton, California in 1973 for Ross to teach at the Institute of Religion at Cal-State Fullerton. Other Church Education System (CES) assignments included: Assistant to the Area Director of Southern California, Pre-Service Training, and Director for the Cal-State Fullerton Institute. He served as Elder's Quorum President and High Councilor. In 1982 Ross was called to serve as the Fullerton California Stake President.

Ross was offered a position at Church Headquarters in Salt Lake City to train CES teachers internationally. The Cole family of 8 moved to Sandy, UT. After three short years in Sandy, President Gordon B. Hinckley extended a call for Ross and Charlene to serve as Korea Taejon Mission President and wife from July 1989 through June 1992. They took their 4 youngest children with them to live internationally for 3 years.

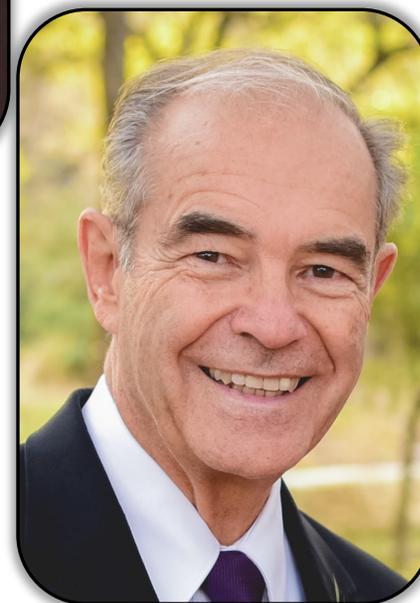
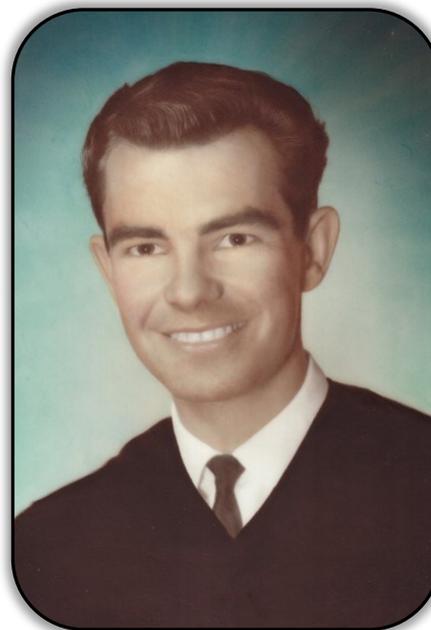
Ross moved to Orem, Utah, and continued to work for the CES as international trainer, and eventually a Zone Administrator. Ross was called to be the Bishop of a BYU Ward from 1995 to 1998. On the same day as he was released as bishop, he was sustained as the Orem Lakeview Stake President, where he served until 2007. Ross retired from CES in 2004 after 34 years.

Ross and Charlene served in the Honolulu Hawaii Mission from 2008 to 2010 where Ross taught religion at BYU-Hawaii and was the Chaplain for non-member students. Ross served as 1st Counselor in the Mount Timpanogos Temple presidency from 2011 to 2014. In 2016, Ross and Charlene were called to the Ventura California Mission to work with YSA and teach institute.

Ross passed away in his home on Monday, December 9, 2024, from leukemia.



Ross Harold Cole



August 31, 1942 — December 9, 2024