



## LTC (Ret) Earl Eugene Hooper

July 27, 1958 - January 27, 2020

LTC (Ret) Earl Eugene Hooper, 61, of Waynesville, MO, passed away Monday, January 27, 2020 in the General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital of Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

Just the day before he had said that when his time came, he wanted the Lord to surprise him, and no one argues with Earl, apparently not even God.

LTC (Ret) Hooper is survived by his wife: Deborah Hooper of the home; two children: Margaret Payne (Christian) of Chicago, IL and Michelle Hooper of St. Louis, MO; two sisters: Diane Pardue (Bill) of Crestview, FL and Judy Taylor (Ray) of the state of Kentucky; one brother: Mike Hooper (Vicki) of the state of Texas; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Earl grew up working construction with his dad and loved building and tinkering all his life. He went to college on an ROTC scholarship to study engineering before getting his Masters from Florida Institute of Technology in 1994. He met his wife of 33 years, Deborah, while stationed abroad and they were married in Hanau, Germany on July 18th 1986.

Earl lived a big life, racing cars, jumping out of planes, and scuba diving in the ocean. He loved photography and filled his home with pictures. He was a lifelong learner and a story teller, whether it was homemade pyrotechnics in

college that nearly set a building on fire, running the Marine Corps marathon twice and bonking hard both times, or getting so bored with a job assignment in the Army that he and a friend wrote a computer program to manage troop schedules, back when everything was still being done on paper - he was always ready to entertain and teach you something new.

Earl served 20 years in the Army Corps of Engineers, leading the Terrain Visualization Center at Ft. Leonard Wood for several years up until his retirement. After he left the Army, Earl devoted much of his time to the church and children's ministry. Whether it was AWANA, Vacation Bible School or a random Wednesday night, Earl was always there, finding the boys that most needed his guidance and support and doing everything he could to set them on the right path. His purpose in life was to serve God, help others and take care of his family.

Earl was a devoted husband and an enthusiastic father. Not one to brag about himself, he never missed an opportunity to tell you how great his children were. Being a dad was one of the highlights of his life.

Even though he admitted to "mellowing" in his later years, he never slowed down. When God called him home, he was training for a 5K in April and making plans for a trip to the mountains this summer with his wife and girls. Still, he was a man at peace with his life, and enjoying each day as a blessing. His legacy will ripple through all those he touched and the lives he impacted in his time on this earth. May we all live up to the example he set for us

Services were held at 1:00 p.m. Monday, February 3, 2020 in the Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert with Pastor Harold Elson officiating. Inurnment with military honors followed in the Missouri Veterans Cemetery of Waynesville. Military honors were provided by the United States Army of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of LTC Earl Hooper to the Honey Springs Baptist Church of Brumley, MO and may be left at the funeral home.

# Cemetery Details

## Missouri Veterans Cemetery - Fort Leonard Wood

25350 Hwy H  
Waynesville, MO 65583

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 3. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville/St. Robert  
202 Historic 66 W.  
Waynesville, MO 65583  
(573) 774-6111  
memorialchapels@embarqmail.com

## Celebration of Life Service

FEB 3. 1:00 PM (CT)

Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville/St. Robert  
202 Historic 66 W.  
Waynesville, MO 65583  
(573) 774-6111  
memorialchapels@embarqmail.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of LTC (Ret) Earl Eugene Hooper*



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**Memorial Chapels and Crematory** - February 10, 2020 at 12:22 PM



“ *LTC (Ret) Earl Eugene Hooper*

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January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of Earls passing. My heart goes out to you and the family, Deborah... Sending love and prayers and comfort as only our dear Lord can give. Hugs*



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**Mary Haas** - February 04, 2020 at 02:19 AM



“ *Dear Deborah, I'm so sorry for your loss. I worked with Earl in AWANA at Westside Baptist when my kids were very young. My heart and prayers goes out to you and your girls in this hard time. He was a great man of God, I know he will be missed by many.*

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**Helene Kulic** - February 03, 2020 at 01:02 PM

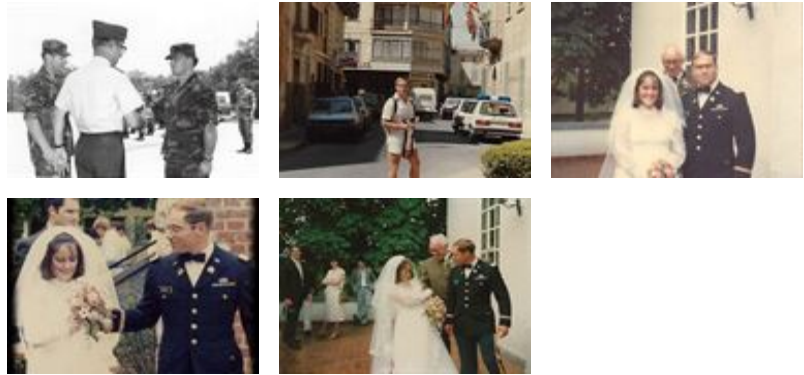


“ One of the nicest gentlemen I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. My prayers to your family.

Melany Gilbert - February 02, 2020 at 04:09 PM



“ 99 files added to the album Life Tributes



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - February 02, 2020 at 10:26 AM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.



Lorna West - February 01, 2020 at 08:42 PM



“ Amanda lit a candle in memory of LTC (Ret) Earl Eugene Hooper



Amanda - January 31, 2020 at 07:44 PM

RH

“ *Deborah, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.*

Rachel Hulseley-Olguin - January 31, 2020 at 02:57 PM

GW

“ *Deborah. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Grant Warren - January 30, 2020 at 11:15 PM

CS

*RIP see u again one day u inspired me so much thx u*

Camronn Storberg - January 31, 2020 at 05:50 PM

AS

“ *Anne Solomon sent a virtual gift in memory of LTC (Ret) Earl Eugene Hooper*



Anne Solomon - January 30, 2020 at 09:50 PM

AS

“ *It's going to take a lot of men to fill the void without Mr. Earl! What a fearless man of God he was. The children of our community have been touched by him. Prayers to Deb and the girls! We love you and Mr. Earl was loved by many! God Bless!*

Anne Solomon - January 30, 2020 at 09:43 PM

AE

“ Earl and I were housemates in Virginia when we were both stationed at Fort Belvoir. We were later assigned together at Fort Leonard Wood. I am shocked and saddened to hear of Earl's death. It happened way too soon. Plenty of stories and good memories. Earl was salt of the earth.....honest, sincere, and caring for those around him. I remember him for babying his car and writing computer programs on a tape and TV monitor in the early 80's before most people knew what they were. I will miss Earl greatly and send my heartfelt condolences to Deborah and the rest of the family. Rest in peace good friend.

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**Al Estes** - January 30, 2020 at 01:09 PM

GA

“ Sending prayers for you and your family, so sorry for your loss. Worked with Mr. Earl at AWANA Westside Baptist when our daughters were teenagers.

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**Grace Alvarez-Gutierrez** - January 30, 2020 at 11:05 AM

UH

“ Deborah, we are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

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**Ute Harshbarger** - January 29, 2020 at 08:14 PM

TC

“ Deborah, we are so saddened to hear about Earl. We are praying for you and your family's peace and comfort. Charles Hill and Family

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**Theresa Hill Clay** - January 29, 2020 at 07:45 PM

WF

“ Whitney And Family sent a virtual gift in memory of LTC (Ret) Earl Eugene Hooper



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**Whitney and family** - January 29, 2020 at 07:00 PM

JF

*Deborah, Jackie and I send our love and prayers to you and your family at this time of loss. Earl was a very kind and giving person. We hope, at this difficult time, that your faith provides comfort to you and your family. God bless.*

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**john and jackie Farris** - January 30, 2020 at 06:48 PM

VW

“ So very sorry to hear this. Our heartfelt condolences to Deborah and family. Neal & Vicki Woody.

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**Vicki Woody** - January 29, 2020 at 06:14 PM

JT

“ Jim and I send our deepest condolences. Sending you a big hug and prayers for comfort during this difficult time.



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**Jim and Barbara Thomas** - January 29, 2020 at 05:57 PM

JC

“ Our condolences to Deborah and daughters. This world lost a godly and loving man, but Heaven gained a saint. We will miss his humble spirit and gentle smile  
Art and Joyce Connor

joyce Connor - January 29, 2020 at 05:55 PM

SG

“ Deborah, My heart and love go out to you and your family.

Sharon Green - January 29, 2020 at 01:59 PM

PM

“ LTC Hooper was a fine officer and I was proud to work with him.  
Our condolences to you, Deborah.

Pete Malley - January 29, 2020 at 12:18 PM

JM

“ Deb, I am so sorry to hear this terrible news. What beautiful things people have written here. I am sorry I didn't get to know your husband, but he sounds like he absolutely fulfilled the job he was put on Earth to do. My heart is with you, as are my prayers.  
Judy Meehan

Judith Meehan - January 29, 2020 at 10:47 AM

HB

“ Deborah-Our deepest sympathy during your season of bereavement; loving family members and friends are only a call away when you need support.



Harold and Brigitte Burleson - January 29, 2020 at 10:18 AM

PG

“ Pulaski County Camp Gideons lit a candle in memory of LTC (Ret) Earl Eugene Hooper



Pulaski County Camp Gideons - January 29, 2020 at 10:16 AM

KE

“ My family is grieving with you, Deborah. Earl had such a passion for helping children know the love of God. Sorry doesn't begin to express our sorrow for you and the girls. Tons of love from Joe, Kelly, Ben and Jordan York.

Kelly - January 29, 2020 at 08:52 AM

LS

“ Linda Schonbok sent a virtual gift in memory of LTC (Ret) Earl Eugene Hooper



linda schonbok - January 29, 2020 at 08:33 AM

LS

So sorry for your loss Deborah!! RIP EARL!!! you will be missed

linda schonbok - January 29, 2020 at 08:34 AM

LM

“ This Godly man made a huge impression on me. His values and integrity just made me stop and check myself to try to become a better person. Deborah my heart and prayers go out to you and your entire family. Please accept my deepest sympathy.

*Laura Milner*

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**Laura Milner** - January 29, 2020 at 02:01 AM

MT

“ My deepest sympathies go out towards your beautiful wife and girls. You were such a positive impact on my children and myself. You had a passion for sharing God's love with everyone you had contact with and your presence here will definitely be missed. But we know you are busy praising our heavenly father.

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**Mary Tromblee** - January 28, 2020 at 10:13 PM

CG

“ I am so sorry for your family's loss. I just shared this with my son and daughter and they both said "OH NO, the camera guy! He was so cool". He was my sons 1st camp counselor at the Pulaski Baptist youth camp, he also was at the Horsemanship Bible camp my son went to and really took him under his wing that first yr. He shared the love of Christ with kids, and was such a blessing.

*May peace be with your family at this time.*

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**Catherine Glackin** - January 28, 2020 at 09:45 PM

AN

“ Deb I'm so sorry for your loss. My heart is heavy for you and your girls.

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**Adrienne Narug** - January 28, 2020 at 09:10 PM

SH

“ I'll never forget the many memories with Earl from seeing him at church camp. He was a leader when I started going as a little kid all the way up to where I could be a leader along side of him. I will miss him at church camp along with so many others.

Scott Hendrix - January 28, 2020 at 08:33 PM

Heather  
Brenner  
Shaw

“ Deb, Margaret & Michelle I'm so very sorry for your loss. Earl was such a kind man. Always had a smile when I would see him at camp. The boys and I send our love. "Nanny" Heather Shaw

Heather Brenner Shaw - January 28, 2020 at 07:40 PM

BS

“ Sorry hear that and he was children camp and cabin leader and we miss him.



Brenda storie - January 28, 2020 at 07:17 PM

BS

“ Brenda Storie lit a candle in memory of LTC (Ret) Earl Eugene Hooper



Brenda storie - January 28, 2020 at 07:13 PM

JK

“ Mrs. Deb, I'm so sorry to hear about Earl. I truly enjoyed the summers coming down and staying with y'all before children's camp. He was so great with kids and he will be greatly missed. Pray for you and the girls. May God comfort you and the family in your time of grief.

James Kerns - January 28, 2020 at 07:12 PM

PC

“ Pamela Cox sent a virtual gift in memory of LTC (Ret) Earl Eugene Hooper



Pamela Cox - January 28, 2020 at 07:04 PM



“ Mr. Hooper was a good man and was a solid role model for me growing up as a teenager growing into a young man. An amazing Christian man. A lot of great memories come to mind. I am thankful knowing he is with our Lord Jesus.

Joshua Boland - January 28, 2020 at 07:00 PM

LH

“ Beyond shocked. I send my love to Deborah and her girls. Too young and such a well respected man in our community.  
Mayor Hardman

Luge Hardman - January 28, 2020 at 06:48 PM

TF

“ So sorry to hear about Mr. Hooper. He had a great impact on many boys, including ours! He was the first ss teacher we had when we arrived at Ft Leonard Wood. He was a very blessed man that used his talents for the Lord! Our prayers will be with the family!

The Lloyd family - January 28, 2020 at 06:03 PM

JW

“ Mrs. Hooper you and your daughters are in my thoughts and prayers. So very sorry for your loss.



Jodi Woody - January 28, 2020 at 04:51 PM



Thank you Earl and Deb for being a part of our lives. Especially the boys, you helped contribute to them being the wonderful men they are today. Words can't express my gratitude. I love you both very much! We will miss you Mr. Earl!!!!!!!!!!!!

Anna Hartley - January 28, 2020 at 07:51 PM

GM

The kids and I only knew Mr Earl for a short time we are so sorry to hear about your loss he was a great mentor to my children and your family is in our thoughts and prayers

Guy McGaughey - January 28, 2020 at 09:25 PM

TH

He was a great man and will be missed

Tonya Hillman - January 28, 2020 at 10:04 PM

AC

*This whole county has lost an amazing citizen and friend, with the passing of Earl Hooper. It was so obvious he loved his wife and family, he was passionate about investing in the youth of whatever church he was a member, and loved the opportunities to inspire and teach the love of God and Christ in summer camp, AWANAS, Sunday School, and sports. Bill and I saw him in action working in AWANAS, and were amazed at the rapport he had with the older kids. A true man of God! So thankful for the influence he had on so many. He did a great job of carpentry on Deborah's office on the square, too! Wish he could have lived longer on this earth, but I'm sure he is enjoying Jesus in person now! Praying our Good Lord will comfort Deborah and the family through this difficult transition.*

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**Annette Morrison Catts** - January 29, 2020 at 04:22 PM

RW

*Praying for you and your family - what an awesome Christian he was. Wyndham and Ruth Whynot*

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**Ruth Whynot** - January 29, 2020 at 04:34 PM