



SFC (Ret) Robert Edward Hooper

October 8, 1940 - June 16, 2025

Robert Edward Hooper, son of the late Alfred Emmett Hooper and Mary Alice (Booth) Hooper, was born October 8, 1940, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Due to this family being a military family, Robert grew up in Florida, Indiana, Germany, and Spokane, Washington, where he graduated from North Central High School.

Shortly after graduating from high school, Robert entered the United States Navy and served on the USS Lexington, and the USS Hancock as an electrician. He then entered the Naval Reserves while attending college.

Robert entered the United States Army, serving in the Finance Corp, entering as a Private First Class and earning the rank of Sergeant First Class before retiring in 1989.

While in the military, Robert met a fellow soldier by the name of Susan Jeanne Thomas. They began dating and on April 28, 1981, in Denver, Colorado, they were united in marriage. They shared over 44 years of marriage together and were blessed with two children, Robert and Cassandra.

In 1990, Robert and Susan moved to Waynesville, Missouri where Robert began volunteering for many community outreaches but was best known from

being Santa for the Pulaski County Library from 1993-2019 and Theatre on the Square. He was a member of the Evergreen State Lodge in Tacoma, WA, Amity Chapter OES in Tacoma, WA, Copperas Cove Ch 1070 in Copperas Cove, TX; Hanson Chapter #22, Waynesville and Macks Creek #20 of Macks Creek, Scottish Rite, and Abou ben Adhem Shrine of Joplin.

Robert loved children. Playing Santa at the library and having his picture taken with the children was the highlight of his year. When the COVID pandemic made it where he could no longer do that, he missed it greatly. After the pandemic, his health was such that he was never able to play Santa at the library again.

In his spare time, Robert enjoyed music, reading, and collecting gadgets.

Robert passed away Monday, June 16, 2025, in his home having attained the age of 84 years, 8 months, and 8 days. He will be sadly missed but fondly remembered by all those that knew and loved him.

Robert leaves to cherish his memory his wife: Susan Hooper of the home; two children: Robert Brian Hooper of the home and Cassandra Hooper (Dan) of Warrensburg, MO; three grandchildren: Jaimethon Tittes, Aurora Stoll and Darius Stoll; one brother: Douglas Hooper of Salt Lake City, UT; sister-in-law: Janelle Hooper of Puyallup, WA; other relatives and friends.

Even though he is gone from our sight, Robert's love for his community, children, and his family will live on in our hearts forever.

Masonic and Order of the Eastern Star Services were held at 12:00 p.m. Thursday, June 26, 2025 in the Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert. Susan, Robert's wife, recalled her wonderful memories of Robert and the songs "I Did It My Way" by Frank Sinatra, "West

End Blues" by Louis Armstrong, and "Rhapsody in Blue" by Gershwin were played.

Graveside services with military honors were held at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, June 26, 2025 in the Missouri Veterans Cemetery of Waynesville, Missouri with military honors being provided by the United States Army of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Services were under the care and direction of Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of SFC (Ret) Robert Hooper to the Shriner's Children's Hospital or to RiteCare for Children and may be left at Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert.

Cemetery Details

Missouri Veterans Cemetery - Fort Leonard Wood

25350 Hwy H
Waynesville, MO 65583

Previous Events

Masonic & Order of the Eastern Star Service

JUN 26. 12:00 PM.

Memorial Chapels And Crematory Of Waynesville / St. Robert

Graveside Service

JUN 26. 1:00 PM.

Missouri Veterans Cemetery Of Waynesville

Tribute Wall

CB

“ *CSM(Ret)Harold&Brigitte Burleson lit a candle in memory of Robert Hooper*



CSM(Ret)Harold&Brigitte Burleson - August 25, 2025 at 11:13 PM



“ *I first met Bob Hooper early in the summer of 1998, when the Theater on the Square was still mostly an idea and an empty storefront. Even then, Bob had a vision of what it would become, and he was a driving force behind making that vision a reality. In addition to being a dedicated promoter of community theater, Bob was also a wonderful actor. He had excellent timing, a natural grace, and a work ethic that he brought to each part--plus, a voice and a laugh that can't be forgotten. Bob's work, both on and off stage, is a testament to how much joy one human being can bring to so many others. With his passing, the curtain has certainly closed on an era of entertainment in Waynesville. But, as they say, the show must go on --- and it does, thanks in large part to Bob Hooper. Rest in peace, Bob.*

Matt Decker - June 26, 2025 at 02:02 PM

NK

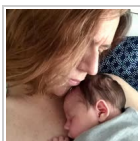
“ *Jerry and I are so very sorry for the passing of Bob. He was a kind, and caring man. We will miss seeing him in Rolla at the Leach Theater. We are keeping Susan and the family in our prayers.*

Nancy Kimble - June 23, 2025 at 09:59 AM

MR

“ Bob was one of a kind, with his sparkling eyes, joyful laugh, and his flair for bringing people together. He brought me (and many others) into the fold at the Theatre on the Square, where he shared his love and laughter with the community. He played my stage husband in my first PFAA show, Charlottes's Web. It was a privilege to perform with him. I'll miss this swashbuckler.. Sending love and prayers to the Hooper Family.

Margie Rogers - June 23, 2025 at 08:50 AM



“ We will miss hearing Mr. Bob's laugh during our shows at PFAA-ToTS. His presence at every show gave us the confidence to do our best and “break a leg”. Thank you for supporting us, Mr. Bob, and for supporting the local arts!! You will be with us always!

Mindy High-Brown Silva - June 22, 2025 at 11:18 AM

MS

“ So sad to hear about Robert's passing. He was a good man and had a delightful personality. He was always at the theater, and around town with his hat and flowing feather. He was involved with our Masonic Lodge and Order of Easter Star and dedicated to do good for others. He will be missed, but not forgotten. May our Gracious GOD wrap HIS arms around you, Susan and bring comfort to family during these trying days ahead. God Bless You.



Marge Scott - June 20, 2025 at 09:31 AM

EN

“ Memories of Bob and his amazing sense of humor date clear back to square dancing in Germany MANY years ago. You couldn't help but smile whenever you were around him!

Gerhard and Ellen Neffgen

Ellen Neffgen - June 20, 2025 at 09:27 AM



“ Mrs. Hooper, I am sorry for your loss.



Felicia Johnson Hicks - June 19, 2025 at 03:15 PM

MB

“ I was a teacher for many years at Waynesville. Robert and Susan were wonderful parents and couple that came to the school to support the family. They were delightful-full of hard work, love of their family, a very deep care for others. I would see them often away from school-they were wonderful to me...prayers for the family-

Marie Brown - June 19, 2025 at 01:56 PM

CB

I was blessed to call the talented character actor Bob Hooper my friend during the beginning years of the Pulaski Fine Arts Association. He and Susan were so supportive of PFAA and of the parent support group for the vocal music department when I led that group. He will be missed. Hello to Susan the quiet strength in the Hooper family. I'm sorry for your loss and send loving wishes your way. PFAA we ever and always be my favorite volunteer endeavor. Greetings from myself and Dave from Warsaw, MO on the Lake of the Ozarks

Cynthia Bolinger - June 20, 2025 at 04:29 PM