



SFC (Ret) Ronald Lee Cooley

December 4, 1936 - January 17, 2018

Ronald Lee Cooley, son of the late Samuel S. and Ada Marie Cooley, was born December 4, 1936 in Casey, Illinois.

At the age of 19, Ron entered the United States Army and served his country faithfully until his retirement in September 1977 after 21 years of service and attained the rank of Sergeant First Class. For his faithful service, Ron earned several awards and commendations; some of which include: National Defense Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Vietnam Service Medal w/1 Bronze Service Star, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal w/60 Device, Meritorious Unit Citation, Good Conduct Medal (6th Award), Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, and Vietnam Service Medal w/1 Silver Service Star. Ron's military service included leadership positions in construction and maintenance. His overseas assignments included Republic of Vietnam, Germany and Korea.

During his time in the military, Ron met Ok Cha Baek and they were united in marriage on October 21, 1965 in Seoul, Korea. They shared over 52 years of marriage together and many wonderful memories before she preceded him in death on January 9, 2018.

At an early age, Ron made a profession of faith and he was a faithful member of the First Baptist Church of Waynesville. He served in several different

capacities including Deacon and trustee. He thoroughly enjoyed cooking for the Vacation Bible School children and was always willing to help wherever he was needed. Ron and Ok Cha's lives revolved around their church, home and work. Ron was also a member of the Waynesville Masonic Lodge #375 AF & AM.

Ron went home to be with his Lord and be reunited with Ok Cha Wednesday, January 17, 2018 in the Life Care Center of Waynesville having attained the age of 81 years. He will be sadly missed, but fondly remembered by all those that knew and loved him.

Ron leaves to cherish his memory, his nephew, Songho Baek of Irvine, CA; two siblings: Larry Cooley of Indiana and Lois Cooley Neibarger of Martinsville, Illinois; other relatives and a host of friends.

Services were held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, January 19, 2018 in the Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert with Pastor Al Flohr and Dr. Dennis Crowder officiating. Burial 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.

Cemetery Details

Missouri Veterans Cemetery - Fort Leonard Wood

25350 Hwy H
Waynesville, MO 65583

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 19. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Service

JAN 19. 10:00 AM (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 SFC (Ret) Ronald Lee Cooley*



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - January 19, 2018 at 01:43 PM



“ *SFC (Ret) Ronald Lee Cooley*

January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ *20 years ago Mr. Cooley, Mr. C , Ron and I met. I was assigned to CET at Brown Hall on Fort Leonard Wood, he coached me in becoming a Senior and eventually Master Instructor. Ron was also our family Deacon at The First Baptist Church in Waynesville, he was my sponsor into Freemasonry along with my daughter and son into the Rainbow and Demolay. He was my mentor and counselor for those years and help shed alot of Light during some trying times. RIP Ron, Love you Brother!*

John Hutton Jr - August 17, 2020 at 02:37 PM

NA

“ Ronnie with his Sister Lois and his two nieces.



nancy - January 20, 2018 at 12:17 AM

NA

“ Uncle Ronnie at his sister Lois Birthday.



nancy - January 19, 2018 at 10:36 PM

JC

“ Ron Cooley was an awesome man, I worked with him from 2002-03 as an instructor, he was the epitome of professionalism and possessed a knowledge that surpassed his peers. As a Mason and as a combat veteran of the Vietnam era he demonstrated what being a good man is all about, R.I.P. brother, Engineer, and friend respectfully

JAMES R. CORLEY
SFC, USA(R)



JAMES CORLEY - January 19, 2018 at 11:37 AM

JC

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Julie A Nie (Cooley) - January 18, 2018 at 11:19 PM

JC

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Julie A Nie (Cooley) - January 18, 2018 at 11:12 PM

JB

“ Will love and miss you Uncle Ron now enjoy your family in heaven



Jeana L Blake - January 18, 2018 at 06:06 PM

LW

“ Your family is in Life Care Center Waynesville prayers very sorry for your loss



Life Care Center Waynesville - January 18, 2018 at 03:28 PM



“ 28 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - January 18, 2018 at 02:14 PM



“ 2 files added to the album *Tribute Wall*



Larry Cooley - January 18, 2018 at 07:40 AM



Really nice photos of Ronnie and Larry. Thanks for sharing uncle Larry.

nancy neibarger - January 19, 2018 at 10:16 AM



“ 3 files added to the album *Brother Larry*



Larry Cooley - January 18, 2018 at 07:37 AM