



## Roy Wiley Cooper

January 14, 1929 - February 2, 2020

On Sunday, February 2, 2020, Roy Wiley Cooper, 91, passed peacefully into the presence of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at his home in Searcy, Arkansas. He was born January 14, 1929, in Bradford, Arkansas, to the late Clyde David and Clara Lott Sanford Cooper.

Roy retired from the United States Air Force as a Captain, having served in the Korean Conflict as well as the Vietnam War. He also retired from the Union Pacific Railroad. He loved to fly and was an exceptional pilot. He was a flight instructor in the Air Force and after his retirement. Aside from his love for flying, he loved the outdoors, farming, gardening, traveling, and animals. He enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Roy was an avid reader who had a passion for learning which resulted in his ability to speak five languages fluently.

Roy is survived by his wife of 46 years, Peggi Jones Cooper; children, Donna Weatherford (Kim) of Beebe, Tina Lawrence of Sherwood, Vivian Roberts (John) of Cabot, Kim Jimerson (Tim) of Searcy, Keith Cooper (Cindy) of Sherwood, Karen Horton (Chris) of Dover, Delaware, Kelli Shaw of Trinidad, Colorado, Trey Adams (Stacey) of Jackson, Tennessee, and Rob Cooper (Krista) of Broussard, Louisiana; exchange students, Silvia Fernandez Peiretti of Buenos Aires, Argentina and Tomo Yamato of Tokyo, Japan; siblings, Dean Cooper (LaVonne) of Victoria, Texas, Myra Lee Barnwell of Bradford, Marlene Busbea (Hugh) of Searcy, and Wilma McDougal (J.F.) of Bradford; 21 grandchildren; a village of great grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends far too numerous to list.

Roy is preceded in death by his parents; siblings, (twins) Lauren and Marlyn Cooper, and Farrel Cooper; children, Charles Cooper and Khaled Cooper; grandchildren, Crystal Lee Dominique Cooper and Kimberly O'Connor; and a brother-in-law, Garland Barnwell.

Visitation will be held Thursday, February 6, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., at Bradford Baptist Church. A funeral service will be held Friday, February 7, at 2:00 p.m. at the church with Bro James Hays and Bro Johnnie Mitchell officiating. Interment will follow at Oakland Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to Bradford Memorial Funeral Home, Bradford, Arkansas. <http://www.bradfordmemorial.com>

A memory from Trey Adams:

What can you say about Roy Cooper?? I'm afraid there isn't enough storage on this computer to tell it all. And that's only from what I know!

He was the smartest man I've ever known. He worked harder and longer than any man I've ever known. He never complained about his knees or back hurting. He never complained about the skin on his hands that were cracking bad enough to bleed. He was tough. A real man's man. A protector. If you were with him or belonged to him, you were safe and you knew it.

He was also the kindest and sweetest man. He could summon his furry friends from the woods. It was truly amazing to see how even the animals loved him. He would spend hours with his cows and love on them to make sure there were no ticks or other discomforts. He had so many critters for pets that would run in fear at the scent or sight of anyone else.

He was tough with education, ethics and love. He was a softy with Black Walnut ice cream and an old pocket knife he carried most everyday of his life. He was aware. Aware of everything. Aware of a poisonous snake that most would never know was there. He was aware of the bear or the panther that stalked him while he fed the cows in the middle of the night. Aware but unafraid.

His faith in God was steadfast and true. His love for Peggi was unfathomable. His art of perfection at everything was spectacular. His diligence at pulling EVERY doc weed on that farm was frustrating. OH MY.....EVERY ONE. Again, diligence.

Finally, Roy Cooper was a veteran of two foreign wars. He was a hero. He fought for the freedoms of this country and not one time complained about the most horrible things a person should ever endure. He only talked of the beautiful places he'd seen and the wonderful people he'd met around the world.

He was a truly gifted pilot. He was a Fighter Pilot instructor and flew everything our armed forces had in stock. He flew them all and better than anyone else. He brought his skills to the civilian world and taught so many people to fly and transferred his passion to them.

Roy Cooper was passionate. He was passionate in providing for his family. He was passionate if you thought you were old enough and strong enough to grip his hand and think you may make him feel pain. The bones in your hand were passionately cracking as he grinned. He was passionate about our wonderful world and all it had to offer. He was passionate about sharing his stories about places he had been and seen simply because he knew most would never experience even a tiny bit of what he had. He was passionate about absor

bing information and I mean LIKE A SPONGE. He would speak to you in five languages passionately. Roy Cooper would pray with the utmost passion. He would pray for me....with passion. Thank you dad. I love you!

# Cemetery

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## Oakland Cemetery

2400 Jackson 2

Bradford, AR, 72020

# Events

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**FEB** **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

**6**

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Bradford Baptist Church

403 West Main St, Bradford, AR, US, 72020

**FEB** **Funeral Service** 02:00PM

**7**

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Bradford Baptist Church

403 West Main St, Bradford, AR, US, 72020

# Comments

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“ An external video has been added.



**Bradford Memorial Funeral Home** - February 12, 2020 at 02:53 PM

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“ What a jewel of a person! We all should strive to be his example. What a wonderful teacher and mentor. All student pilots (and people) should be so lucky as to have had Roy as an instructor.  
Shiny side up Roy, to that eternal landing strip in the sky.  
Dusty

**Dusty** - September 12, 2020 at 02:24 PM

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“ Roy was my first Flight Instructor. He had me flying solo in less than seven hours. I recall doing three takeoff and landing on each pass done Searcy's then three thousand foot long runway. Yes he worked you hard as well as worked hard himself. I can never picture him with anything other than a smile on his face and a twinkle in his eye. Just enough to show he had some mischief in there somewhere. He was and is one of the kindest people I have ever known.  
I will miss him until I see my Flight Instructor once again.

**Mark Dunn** - February 07, 2020 at 01:23 PM



“ Thank you Mark. He thought so much of you.

**Kelli Shaw** - February 10, 2020 at 11:36 PM

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“ Roy was my best friend! We literally grew up together, he being six months older than I. We lived about a quarter of a mile apart. My mother told me that about age one and a half I wanted to go see Roy. Later she found me missing and finally located me where I had crawled under a fence a short distance from his house. My hat, which was tied under my neck was hung up on the fence and strangling me. I had turned blue in the face. Fortunately for me she found me in time to save my life. Don't know if I saw Roy that day or not!

We children had a great time playing together, exploring the woods and Dean Hollow's creek and cliffs. Our parents allowed us to roam freely even though we were quite young. We would climb tall, thin diameter saplings on Jim Burrows farm and bend them over to another tree thinking we were Tarzan. One time, Roy, devised a chemistry project in which he obtained a section of wood stove pipe, placed nodules of carbide in it, and wet it, causing it to produce a gas. He then threw in a match, and, for some reason, he looked into the pipe which at the same time ignited with a large "whoosh." He jumped backwards, startled, with a blackened face and no eyebrows. Fortunately, he was not hurt. Just one example of his intellect and curiosity: When we were about 10 years old or so, he devised an alphabet and a spoken language so that no one else could understand us! He actually spoke his language a little bit; however, I was not quite as adept. Ha. When we were 17 years old and had graduated high school that summer, we agreed to join the army together in order to get the WWII GI Bill before it's cut off 30 September 1946. He was in Michigan working and couldn't get back so I joined the army. About two weeks later he joined the air force. That is how our military careers began. Roy, thank you for sharing those great adventures with me.

I wish you well in your last PCS [permanent change of station] and hope that it will be the stellar assignment that we always hoped the next one would be! Dale Stuart

Dale Stuart - February 06, 2020 at 11:41 PM



“ Such an interesting life's story, thank you for sharing this

Karen morton - February 13, 2020 at 10:30 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Roy Wiley Cooper.



February 06, 2020 at 10:52 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Roy Wiley Cooper.



February 06, 2020 at 05:43 AM

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“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Roy Wiley Cooper.



February 05, 2020 at 07:58 PM

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“ Roy was my Father-In-Law for 24 years, He is the most loving & kindest man I have ever met. And an extremely hard worker. Daddy I am going to miss you so much. Rest In Peace.

**LACINDA (CINDY) COOPER** - February 05, 2020 at 07:14 PM

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“ James and Kellie Coleman purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Roy Wiley Cooper.



**James and Kellie Coleman** - February 05, 2020 at 06:51 PM

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“ 3 files added to the album ROY W. COOPER (DADDY)



**KEITH COOPER** - February 05, 2020 at 06:43 PM

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“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Roy Wiley Cooper.



February 05, 2020 at 02:49 PM

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“ From: Department of Education, 2nd Floor purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Roy Wiley Cooper.



**From: Department of Education, 2nd Floor** - February 05, 2020 at 08:41 AM

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“ America the Beautiful was purchased for the family of Roy Wiley Cooper.



February 05, 2020 at 07:19 AM

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“ With Distinction was purchased for the family of Roy Wiley Cooper.



February 05, 2020 at 07:14 AM

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“ This man was a legend in every way that could be imagined. He always taught me and so many others, so many wonderful things that have stayed with us for life. I love you, and miss you so much, daddy.

**Tina Lawrence** - February 05, 2020 at 12:22 AM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Roy Wiley Cooper.



February 04, 2020 at 11:02 PM

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“ To a very sweet man who was always there when someone needed him, and he was Dennis Wiggins' inspiration and best friend.



**Vivian Maxwell** - February 04, 2020 at 10:41 PM

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“ I remember staying with grandpa when we were young. He always made it a point to keep us outside and to have fun. Over the years we moved around so much that we didn't get to see him as much. He always made it a point to make us grandkids feel special and know that we are loved. My favorite memory about him is when he would tell me his war stories or stories about my dad Khaled.

**Kyra Cooper** - February 04, 2020 at 09:08 PM



“ Mr and Mrs Cooper are some of the best people we have ever met. When Mr Cooper came to our house he would walk around in my yard and say this is paradise, One day he helped me chase my neighbors hog out of my flower bed. They are special people and we loved them ! Prayers for the family and God bless Mrs Cooper.

**Sander Grigsby** - February 04, 2020 at 10:53 PM

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“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Roy Wiley Cooper.



February 04, 2020 at 07:37 PM

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“ This describes our dad perfectly. I love you more he would say. I love you Trey and count my blessing daily for you being my brother. I love you more!

**Kelli Shaw** - February 04, 2020 at 07:10 PM



“ An awesome tribute to an amazing man!

**Regina** - February 04, 2020 at 07:35 PM



“ Trey, what you wrote touched me. It was a beautiful tribute to Dad. Thank you.

**Donna Weatherford** - February 04, 2020 at 10:04 PM



“ Absolutely BEAUTIFUL, Trey! So sorry for the loss. My thoughts and prayers are with y'all. Roy will definitely be missed.

**Angie Throckmorton (Gaume)** - February 04, 2020 at 11:37 PM



“ Thank You so much Trey. Daddy was so outgoing and knowledgeable about everything. He always taught us that if we were going to do something do it right the first time. I will always remember him dressing us up warm to go out to the farm. He would put his clothes on us, having to roll up the sleeves and pants so they would fit. Giving us His rubber boots that would come way above our knees, we could barely walk. Mom would always be smiling at us kids. I am sure we were very funny looking. It was important to him that he share everything he did with us. Always teaching us something new. I remember him taking the sweet feed bag for the cattle and rolling it down so as to making a smaller bag. Then he would tell us not to let the bag touch the ground as the cows would eat out of it. I am sure he was laughing when the cows would ALWAYS push the bag to the ground as they would eat. When the ponds would freeze, he always wanted to make sure the cattle had access to water so we would go break the ice so they could drink. It was a pure joy for him to take me flying as often as he could. He would always buzz our neighborhood making the pane wave. All of us kids would run across the yards as he flew by. You would think by now the farm would not have a rock on it, as many as we threw in the back of that old International truck to throw in the washes. Daddy had such a sense of humor as well. We will all have a piece of him to carry us though the rest of our lives. Daddy, you have touched my life and taught me so much. I am extremely proud to call you Daddy. You are One Of A Kind. Keith

**KEITH COOPER** - February 05, 2020 at 07:07 PM