



Dr. James Jerome Cooke

March 6, 2016

Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford is honored to serve the Family of Dr. James Jerome Cooke who died Sunday, March 6, 2016 at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Oxford, MS.

Born in Baltimore, MD, Dr. Cooke's family moved to Brooklyn Park where he graduated high school in 1957. After trying his hand at various jobs, he joined the U.S. Regular Army and, after training in the United States, was assigned to the U.S. Army General Depot in Ingrandes-sur-Vienne, France. It was there he met and married Miss Josephine Alexander of Vicksburg, MS.

Cooke entered Mississippi College in 1962, earning a BA in 1965 and an MA in 1966. He was accepted in the PhD program at the University of Georgia and graduated in 1969. While in Georgia, he developed a specialty in Arab, Islamic North Africa, which was coupled with a field in Modern European History. During his PhD studies he accepted the post of Assistant Professor of History at the University of Mississippi. At this time, he began publishing articles and writing books. He was a Professor of History at the University of Mississippi for 30 years.

Still feeling a strong attachment to the military, Cooke sought a commission in the United States Army and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in Military Intelligence as a Strategic Analyst. He commanded B Troop of the

108th Armored Cavalry of the Mississippi Army National Guard for six years. He joined the Intelligence Section of the 155th Armored Brigade of the Mississippi Army National Guard, and commanded that section until he became the Executive Officer of the 2nd Battalion, 198th Armor Regiment, an M1 tank battalion.

In August 1990, with Desert Shield in progress in Saudi Arabia, the Army called up every Arabic speaking officer; Cooke was near the head of the list. He left the National Guard for a return to the Regular Army and was assigned to the G2 (Intelligence), XVIII Airborne Corps. During Desert Storm, Cooke and the division saw heavy combat. For his combat service, Cooke was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

A year after his return from Desert Storm to the University, Cooke was invited to be a Visiting Professor of History at the U.S. Air Force's Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. At the same time, Cooke came in contact with British scholars who had a major scholarly interest in the Great War. This resulted in publication of a number of co-authored books with many articles and books to follow. He has published 10 books, one to be released next year.

In 1995, Cooke retired with the rank of Brigadier General from the Mississippi Army National Guard with 34 years of where he was decorated with the Meritorious Service Medal and the Magnolia Cross of the state of Mississippi. In 1999, he retired from the University of Mississippi. He remained a member of the Division Daguett veterans association in France and a member of the Oxford post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Visitation will be held Wednesday, March 9, 2016, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at College Hill Presbyterian Church, with funeral services following at 1:00 p.m. at the church. Rev. Justin McGuire will officiate. Interment will be in the College Hill Cemetery. Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford is in charge of local

arrangements.

Survivors include two sons, James A. Cooke of Jackson, MS and John Cooke (Liz Nelson) of Lexington, KY; two daughters, Victoria Cooke of New Orleans, LA and Josie (Steven) Nicholson of Oxford, MS; one sister, Carol Wilkinson of Rehobeth Beach, DE; one soon-to-be-born grandson, Baby Boy Nicholson.

His parents, James and Beatrice Cooke, and his wife, Josephine A. Cooke, preceded Dr. Cooke in death.

Memorials may be made to the VFW Post 3978, P.O. Box 2505, Oxford, MS 38655 or College Hill Presbyterian Church, 339 CR 102, Oxford, MS 38655.

Online condolences may be left on the Tribute Wall at www.colemanfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

College Hill Cemetery

339 CR 102
Oxford, MS 38655

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 9. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

College Hill Presbyterian Church
339 CR 102
Oxford, MS 38655

Service

MAR 9. 1:00 PM (CT)

College Hill Presbyterian Church
339 CR 102
Oxford, MS 38655

Tribute Wall



“ Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford created a Webcast in memory of Dr. James Jerome Cooke



Coleman Funeral Home - March 02, 2021 at 09:57 AM

DB

“ General Cooke, it was an honor to have served with you Sir!

MSGT. Dennis Bullard, Oxford, Ms.

Dennis Bullard - March 11, 2016 at 09:41 AM

CP

“ My love to all of you in the death of your father. I have just read the obituary and feel badly that I missed your mother and father's funerals services. They were wonderful people and will be remembered dearly as cherished citizens of the Oxford- University community. The "old-timers" of OUS are grateful for their contributions to our efforts there too!

Carolyn Pegram

carolyn pegram - March 11, 2016 at 07:45 AM

JP

“ General Cooke, I will always remember our conversations together. We expounded and hoped for a righteous path to be followed by our dear Army as well as the military services of our nation. We prayed together for our comrades in arms, for their families, and our departed brothers of the service. We hoped and wished for national leadership that recognized and followed divine guidance in their deliberations. Thank you for your counsel and support. I will never forget you till we meet once again at our Savior's feet. Jim Petermann

Jim Petermann - March 09, 2016 at 01:03 PM

MG

“ I'm so sorry to learn of Jim's death. I always enjoyed taking to him at the Y and have not been there for a couple of weeks so didn't know the he had died until today. I'm sorry I ca't be at his service to honor him but I am saying a prayer for him and for all of his family. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Margaret P Grantham

Margaret P Grantham - March 09, 2016 at 11:38 AM

CH

“To his family, I send my deepest sympathy at your loss. Dr. or as I always called him (Cap'n) Cooke was one of the finest men it was my pleasure to know. My memories of him go back to the 70's when we were "pards" in our local Civil War Re-enacting group. We had many fine moments jawing around the camp fire with a rather interesting group of people. I took his course Hitler and Nazi Germany and to this day use it with my students as an example of what a course should be. I find myself thinking about him when I teach and the Abraham Verghese quote comes to mind, "There are moments as a teacher when I'm conscious that I'm trotting out the same exact phase my professor used with me years ago. It's an eerie feeling, as if my old mentor is not just in the room, but in my shoes, using me as his mouthpiece." He meant that much to me as a student, comrade and now teacher. When I joined the Army after college he became my mentor. I never missed a chance to see him when I returned on leave until life caused us to drift apart. I always kept up with him through my parents, however. He always treated me with kindness and consideration that is not always the case with a Professor-Student relationship. It is a sad truth that with the march of years, our time is marked by the passing of our treasured friends and comrades. I feel older today with the passing of a great man. Thank you Cap'n for being part of my life. "

Chris Hopper - March 09, 2016 at 09:13 AM

BD

“Just wanted to take a moment to remember James J. Cooke. He was a history professor at Ole Miss for 30 years, served all over the world as an Army and National Guard officer. He was an author and a good guy. Always treated me fair. Once as a Captain, he stood beside me and shielded me from an out of line regular army Lt. Col. AS a student and as a fellow guardsmen, with all due respect Rest in Peace General James J. Cooke..I salute you sir .

Bob Davis - March 08, 2016 at 08:10 PM

M.

I studied at Ole Miss in 1998 as an overseas student playing soccer and studying US Civil War history.

Dr Cooke lectured me. His knowledge and passion of history was clear from the very first lecture.

I wrote my dissertation on Major General Patrick Ronan Cleburne and The Doc flew his Navy flag and crescent when in his tanks.

We became friends and we discussed O'Flahertys Bar in New Orleans amongst many things. I left to come home to Manchester England and we exchanged letters.

A great man. I admired him and respected him dearly.

All men die not many really live. Dr James J Cooke was a living legend.

M.Broadhead

Manchester England

Ole Miss 1998

m.broadhead - March 30, 2019 at 05:43 PM

RL

“*Dr. Cooke was a most interesting, intelligent, and delightful man. I was always impressed with all the many things in which he was involved. We enjoyed knowing him when our children were growing up and being involved in church with him. So glad we got to have a good visit with him during Thanksgiving this past year! Prayers for James, Victoria, Josie, and John.*

Ruth Ann Locke - March 08, 2016 at 01:19 PM

HF

“*He taught me a Mid-East history course while I was a history major which helped me understand the area of the world I spent most of my timer deployed as a Naval officer in the early 80's around the Middle East off, Libya, Lebanon, in the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf. He was interesting, enthusiastic and taught a course useful to me, helped me understand the people I encountered, and helped me enjoy exploring.*

Hale Freeland - March 07, 2016 at 08:26 PM