



Dr. Alfred Joseph Cooke, Jr.

December 18, 2024

Dr. Alfred Joseph Cooke, Jr., 86, of Lancaster, died peacefully at The Glen at Willow Valley on Wednesday, December 18, 2024. His wife of 63 years, Marcia Murray Cooke, was with him when he passed.

Born in Philadelphia, Al was the son of the late Alfred J. Cooke, Sr., a chemist, and Helen Cunningham, a passionate artist and painter. He grew up a Roman Catholic in northwest Philadelphia with his younger brother Stephen Robert Cooke and, for much of his youth, his maternal grandmother, Mary Cunningham of County Cork, Ireland.

Al graduated from the William Penn Charter School before attending Notre Dame University, where he graduated Cum Laude. He went on to Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, earning the Orthopedics prize at graduation (an award that his son, Christopher, would also win several decades later). Al served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War treating wounded servicemen, whose sacrifice he credited for giving him the experience to best serve patients throughout his career. Returning to civilian life, he worked with Dr. William Phippen in Lancaster before starting Orthopedics Associates of Lancaster with his lifelong friend, Dr. Jack Shertzer.

Al was a member of the Lancaster Country Club, Hamilton Club, and the Dataw Island Club on Dataw Island, South Carolina. An avid outdoorsman

and an excellent shot, Al was also a member of the Blooming Grove Hunting and Fishing Club in Hawley, PA, where he loved to vacation in the summer with his family.

Al loved reading and Notre Dame Football. Throughout his life, he also loved tinkering on cars and, in unguarded moments, would admit that auto mechanics nearly captured his heart for a career. His thousands of patients and the City of Lancaster were certainly blessed by his ultimate choice to become a surgeon.

He is survived by his wife, Marcia Murray Cooke, his daughter Hilary N. Cooke; his sons Alfred J. Cooke III (Mary Ann and 3 sons, Alfred, Benjamin, and Alexander) of Lancaster; Anthony M. Cooke (Susan and 4 children, Lily, Austin, Thomas and Mary) of Round Hill, VA; and Christopher C. Cooke, MD (Meredith and 3 children, Wren, Wyatt and Willow) of Lancaster. Al was preceded in death by his younger brother Stephen R. Cooke of Honeoye Falls, NY, but survived by Stephen's wife, Jeanine, and nephew Stephen.

Friends and family are invited to Al's Mass of Christian Burial on Saturday, January 4, 2025, at St. Leo The Great Catholic Church, 2427 Marietta Ave., Lancaster PA 17601 at 11 a.m. with Rev. Peter L. Hahn officiating. A Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until the time of service. Interment will be held at St. Josephs New Roman Catholic Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made in Al's name to VisionCorps 244 North Queen St, Lancaster, PA 17603 or Humane League of Lancaster County 2195 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster, PA 17602.

Cemetery Details

Saint Josephs New Roman Catholic Cemetery

175 Charles Road
Lancaster, PA 17603

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Leo The Great Catholic Church
2427 Marietta Avenue
Lancaster, PA 17603

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Leo The Great Catholic Church
2427 Marietta Avenue
Lancaster, PA 17603

Tribute Wall

JH

“ I was a patient of Dr Cooke, who I affectionately called Cookie. I had the utmost respect for him, but what I liked most about him was his straight shooting down to earth personality. When I think of him, I smile.

I'm sad for your loss. I'm happy that I met him and have some good memories.

Janet Harriger

Janet Harriger - January 14, 2025 at 06:24 PM

LE

“ Your mass for Al was beautiful, lovingly showing the admiration and affection so many of us had for him over his life. What a beautiful family! Heartfelt condolences to all of you. Fondly, Lark Eshleman

Lark Eshleman - January 05, 2025 at 11:23 AM

LE

“ Lark E. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Alfred Joseph Cooke, Jr..

Lark E. - January 05, 2025 at 11:19 AM

EP

“ Our deepest condolences to the Cooke Family. We all have super fond memories of Dr. Cooke, his dedication to and love of his family, his joy of life and all its experiences, and his kindness in every interaction. May his memory be eternal. With Love, Alice and Phil Kousoubris and Evelyn K. Pentikis

evelyn pentikis - January 03, 2025 at 01:34 PM

JT

“ Dr. Cooke was my surgeon for over forty years. He was a very caring man and so proud of his family. I am so happy his son is carrying on his practice with the same caring spirit. You all will be remembered in my prayers.

joan Troutman - January 02, 2025 at 11:03 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Alfred Joseph Cooke, Jr..



January 02, 2025 at 03:57 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Alfred Joseph Cooke, Jr..

January 02, 2025 at 03:57 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Dr. Alfred Joseph Cooke, Jr..



January 01, 2025 at 07:40 PM

KC

“ I had the privilege of working with Dr. Cooke in the office on Cherry St., right out of radiology school in 1978. SO many memories of not only his professional abilities, but of his kindness and humor with both his patients and his staff. Almost weekly, he'd come in in the morning, before office hours, dragging one of his boys behind him, so we could X-ray some body part after they either fell out of some tree or jumped off some roof! His family was the joy of his life. May he rest in peace, leaving a legacy of love. Kim (Berry)

kim crow - January 01, 2025 at 10:43 AM

SG

Dr. Cooke was my Dr. and was excellent in giving my ailment attention. May God welcome him into his Kingdom. God Bless You
Dr. Cooke ❤️

SandraLee Gingrich - January 01, 2025 at 12:22 PM

MK

“ My deepest condolences to the Cooke family. Dr. Cooke helped me with Scoliosis when I was younger. He helped me with his humor. I will always remember your kindness.

Monica K - January 01, 2025 at 12:52 AM

WH

“ With Love from Donna Hughes purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Dr. Alfred Joseph Cooke, Jr..



With Love from Donna Hughes - December 31, 2024 at 11:51 AM

WH

“ With Love from Donna Hughes planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Alfred Joseph Cooke, Jr..

With Love from Donna Hughes - December 31, 2024 at 11:51 AM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Alfred Joseph Cooke, Jr..



December 31, 2024 at 11:36 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Alfred Joseph Cooke, Jr..

December 31, 2024 at 11:36 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Alfred Joseph Cooke, Jr..



December 30, 2024 at 09:03 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Alfred Joseph Cooke, Jr..

December 30, 2024 at 09:03 AM

AD

“ Dear Cooke Family, I am so sad to hear of “Uncle Al’s” passing. I have so many fond memories of Uncle Al and your family! Big love to Aunt Marcia who is the kindest warmest hearted person I know! Please know I am thinking and sending prayers for all of you!

Love
Allison Despard

Allison Despard - December 30, 2024 at 08:58 AM

MC

“ Dear Marcia and family,
I was so sad to hear of Al’s passing. I have so many fond memories of him especially in our younger days. He was an amazing husband and father and will be dearly missed by his family and friends. I hope you find comfort in knowing that he is peacefully in God’s arms, free from all pain and suffering. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Love, Marian Cantwell

Marian Cantwell - December 28, 2024 at 02:55 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dr. Alfred Joseph Cooke, Jr..



December 25, 2024 at 02:10 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Alfred Joseph Cooke, Jr..

December 25, 2024 at 02:10 PM

RT

“ *My deepest condolences to the Cooke family, praying for comfort during this time. Rita Tomassetti*

Rita Marcel Tomassetti - December 24, 2024 at 08:18 AM

GB

“ *To the Cooke Family,
I was a representative for an orthopedic company and called on Dr. Cooke for many years. I would meet with him in the office to go over implants and surgical techniques and would observe him in the operating room. What i admired the most about Dr. Cooke during that time was his integrity and the skills he possessed. He treated his patients, his staff and myself with care and professionalism. Dr. Cooke always thanked me sincerely for stopping by and kept me laughing with his funny comments. It was a pleasure to meet and work with him. He was a master surgeon with God given talent that served his patients well. He wil be missed but not forgotten. I would like to extend my sincere sympathy to the Cooke Family. Sincerely,
Glenn Bosshard & Family*

Glenn Bosshard - December 23, 2024 at 09:28 PM

SC

*Marcia and all the Cooke Family...
Sending sincere condolences and comforting thoughts and prayers!
Susie and John Cantwell*

susan cantwell - December 24, 2024 at 09:40 AM

DR

“Dr. Cooke was on duty Nov.8th, 1974 when they wheeled me into the ER at LGH. Dr. Cooke was able to save my foot, my life.I continue to thank the Lord for Dr. Cooke and what he did in my life. My condolences.”

Dave

Dave Ruth - December 23, 2024 at 05:55 PM

NC

“Heartfelt condolences to Marcia and all the Cooke family. Al was very highly regarded by all his professional colleagues. He was superbly skilled in the art and science of medicine. He had a quick wit and a ready smile . A man for all seasons.

Ursula & Noel Connaughton

Noel Connaughton - December 23, 2024 at 03:34 PM

SM

“Chris, Sending my heartfelt sympathy to you and your family during this time of grieving such a loss. May Gob bless you. Thinking of you.

Stephanie Mackey

Stephanie Mackey - December 23, 2024 at 06:07 AM

EJ

“ I was one of the earliest patients at the Cherry Street Office And still go to appointments. I've had many surgeries over the years. Al had a great sense of humor. I was a banker for 44 years. He loved talking about banking. He performed Carpal Tunnel surgery on me at LGH with a local so we could discuss one of his banking investments. We frequently debated whether the wait time was longer at the bank or his practice. My all time favorite doctor. My condolences.

Ed Balderston Jr - December 22, 2024 at 05:49 PM

JM

“ Few death notices take the wind out of me like this one. 'Cookie' saved my brother Kent's life and became a dear family friend. Seldom do you have the joy of being with someone who enjoys life so very much and lives so fully. I have so many sweet memories of he and Marcia from my young adult life. He and my brother sat in many a duck blind together, sharing stories. What a loss. Godspeed Cookie. I'll see you on the other side.
Jill Miller (Obie Miller's Restaurant)

Jill Ann Miller - December 22, 2024 at 01:50 PM

BK

“ Sincere condolences to the Cooke family

bradley Kendall - December 21, 2024 at 04:04 PM