



Melvin Wilford Cooper

July 12, 1935 - April 25, 2024

Melvin W. Cooper was born on July 12, 1935, in Manakin, Virginia to Theodore J. Cooper and Elnora Berryman Cooper. He was preceded in death by his loving and devoted wife of 23 years Elsie Burrell Cooper, Father Theodore J. Cooper, Sr., Mother Elnora Berryman Woodson, brothers Preston C. Cooper, Sr. and Dennis Cooper, and nephew Thomas H. Smith, Jr.

Melvin received his formal education in the Richmond City Public School system at Maggie Walker High School in Richmond, Virginia.

At the age of 13, he accepted Christ as his personal Savior at Moore Street Baptist Church, where he attended until he was called to his heavenly home.

On February 16, 1963, he was united in holy matrimony to Elsie Ann Burrell in Richmond, Virginia. They were happily married until her untimely death in 1986.

Melvin enlisted in the United States Air Force on September 30, 1953, and received an honorable discharge on June 18, 1956.

Continuing with his commitment to service, Melvin was employed at the Veterans Hospital in Richmond, Virginia as a transportation specialist until his retirement. He formerly worked for Baker Shoe Store and Sampson Paint

Company, previously known as Alcatraz Paint Company.

In his leisure time he enjoyed first and foremost, watching and attending Dallas Cowboy football games. His most talked about games were those with the ROWDY Philadelphia Eagle fans. In his leisure time he could also easily be enticed into a good bid whist game, which could last into the next morning. In addition to his love of the Dallas Cowboys and bid whist, he enjoyed traveling, and a good game of pool. Unknown to many, Melvin was also a street performer as a teenager, and received sponsorship by a local organization in Petersburg, Virginia. Melvin loved life and was also a connoisseur of fine spirits. Otto's Restaurant on Second Street was one of his favorite spots. When he loved life too much, his nephews were always there ready to chauffeur him.

Melvin was a family man, an easy-going man, and a man of his word. He was flashy. He loved jewelry, and because of his love of jewelry, some of his great nieces and nephews thought he was a millionaire. He, without a doubt, loved to dress; seldom would you see him without a signature hat, and a toothpick in his mouth. Many called him Mr. Cool. He also had a love of big luxury vehicles, and of all things, western movies.

He leaves to cherish his loving memory Olliema C. Smith, sister and Theodore J. Cooper, Jr., brother (Maitland), his nieces, Synator S. Johnson (Freddie, Jr.), Michelle Fleming, Daphne Corbin and Kristin C. Mullen, his nephews, Preston Cooper, Jr. (Lena), Zachary Cooper (Sharon), Tony Fleming (Angela), Christopher Cooper, Grayland Smith (Pat), Lamont Fleming (Nicole), Michael Cooper (Arlita), and Jason and Justin Cooper, a host of great nieces and nephews and great, great nieces and nephews, and other relatives and friends. Also, a special friend, Ann Purnell.

Cemetery Details

Virginia Veterans Cemetery at Amelia

10300 Pridesville Road
Amelia, VA 23002

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 9. 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Ave.
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Family Hour

MAY 9. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Ave.
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Celebration of Life

MAY 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

Moore Street Missionary Baptist Church
1408 W. Leigh Street
Richmond, VA 23220

Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

March Funeral Homes - May 10, 2024 at 03:14 PM



“ *To the family of mr cooper our prayers and thoughts 🙏 are with you during this difficult time the churchill crew was honored to have known a respectful gentleman the years we had melvin in our circles rest in paradise 🙏*



Jackie Harris - May 09, 2024 at 05:41 PM



“ *My condolences to the family. I remember uncle Melvin's true love for my aunt Elsie (❤️❤�) and the good times we had at the Burrell's family gatherings.*

RIP Uncle Melvin!

Cassandra Lightfoot Wilkerson

Cassandra Lightfoot Wilkerson - May 06, 2024 at 01:38 PM



“ *We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.*

March Funeral Homes - April 29, 2024 at 11:03 AM