



Curtis "Curt" Dee Cooley

April 23, 1943 - September 9, 2021

FAYETTE, OH - Curtis Dee Cooley, 78, went to be with the Lord on September 9, 2021, at St. Luke's Hospital with family by his side. He was born April 23, 1943, to Kenneth Earl and Vera Marie (Schaffner) Cooley. A 1961 graduate and valedictorian of Gorham-Fayette High School, Curt served as class president and enjoyed playing flute in the band. Known as Diesel, Curt's sharp elbows and dominance in the paint were well-known by his opponents on the basketball courts in Fulton County. His love of animals and the land were instilled at an early age through FFA and 4-H.

He married Nancy Powers, his high school sweetheart, on August 23, 1964, at the Fayette Methodist Church. Curt graduated from Ohio State University in 1965 with a degree in animal science and then completed his Master's in Education at the University of Toledo. Curt and his wife continued their family farming traditions as grain and livestock farmers for their 57 years of marriage.

Three generations of Wauseon High School students benefitted from his 40-year teaching career. His passion for biology and human anatomy and physiology inspired hundreds of students and health professionals across the US. Active in his community, Curt volunteered as the church financial secretary for over 30 years, participated as a member of the Fulton County Farm Bureau, and served on the advisory board of the local Fayette bank.

Curt loved to travel the country with his young family in their Pace Arrow motorhome. In later years, he enjoyed spending time with family and friends at Devil's Lake and on Florida's Gulf Coast. Mackinac Island was a treasured destination where he celebrated his honeymoon and many special occasions with his children and grandchildren. As a former Eagle, Buckeye, and Indian, the last 20 years saw Curt convert to a Bluestreak fan as he devoted his energies in supporting his grandchildren's sports and extracurricular activities.

Surviving in addition to his wife, Nancy, are their three children Cristin (Mark) Hagans of Archbold, OH, Caryn (Jeff) Theobald of Archbold, OH, and Brad Cooley of Norwalk, OH; a brother, Richard Cooley of Stryker, OH; a sister, Kaylene (Drew) Ashbridge of Phoenix, AZ. Grandchildren who will forever cherish memories with their grandpa are Connor, Ethan, and Carsyn Hagans and Trey and Elizabeth Theobald.

The family will receive friends for visitation on Saturday, September 18, 2021 at the Family Life Center in Fayette from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. A funeral service for Curt will be held on Sunday, September 19, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. at the Fayette United Methodist Church with Pastor Jeff Bandy officiating. Burial will follow in Pleasant View Union Cemetery in Fayette. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Wagley Funeral Home, Adrian, MI.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Fayette United Methodist Church or the Gorham-Fayette Fire Department.

Online condolences and memories may be shared at www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Pleasant View Union

Fayette, OH 43521

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **18**. 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Family Life Center
306 E. Main St.
Fayette, OH 43521

Funeral Service

SEP **19**. 1:30 PM (ET)

Fayette United Methodist Church
305 East Main Street
Fayette, OH 43521

Tribute Wall



“ *Curtis "Curt" Dee Cooley*

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *Nancy,*

We just heard of Curt's passing. We will keep you and your family in our prayers at this difficult time. We have so many good memories of our times together at Fayette High and the Fayette reunions in Florida. May God bless you.

Art & Lou Welch - September 19, 2021 at 09:15 PM



“ *Cheeseboard Complete was purchased for the family of Curtis "Curt" Dee Cooley.*



September 19, 2021 at 01:34 PM

MY

“ Nancy & Family,
We were so saddened to hear of "Mr Cooley's" passing. He was more than just a teacher. He was a friend and mentor. I will always remember what a tremendous learning experience A&P class was. One of the few HS classes that truly prepared me for college. Additionally, I will always look back fondly on our basketball games in the barn. Mr. Cooley leaves behind a true legacy of education and love. And now, your family has a special angel to watch over you.
With sympathy,
Mike Yoder
Mary Lou Steward

Michael Yoder - September 19, 2021 at 12:20 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Curtis "Curt" Dee Cooley.



September 17, 2021 at 03:46 PM

DF

“ Remembering Curt as a special person and friend. Many memories come to mind of his community involvement, bank Advisory Board meetings, lake pontoon rides tho, I think the most meaningful memory was a few weeks ago sitting with him in his "gator" at our local Bullthistle Festival discussing and catching up on our families, the Fayette community and "life in general".

Our love and sincerest condolences to Nancy, Cristin, Caryn, Brad and families.

Dee and Earl Ferguson - September 17, 2021 at 09:05 AM

TE

“ *The Staff at League Elementary purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Curtis "Curt" Dee Cooley.*



The Staff at League Elementary - September 15, 2021 at 03:56 PM

DW

“ *So sorry for the loss of a great educator. I had Mr. Cooley as a high school science teacher. His passion for science helped me determine my career path. He influenced many students. Thoughts and prayers for the family. Debbie Wilson, Wauseon HS Class of 1974*

Debbie Wildon - September 14, 2021 at 10:40 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Curtis "Curt" Dee Cooley.*



September 14, 2021 at 07:27 PM

MM

“ I knew Curt basically all my life and then got re-acquainted when he joined the Advisory Board at the bank and I was in Charge of the area boards. He was a most intelligent individual and was a valuable asset in that position. So sorry to hear of his passing and Karen and I extent our sincere sympathy to the entire family at this time of mourning.

Marv and Karen Miller

Marv Miller - September 14, 2021 at 01:32 PM

MW

“ We will miss Curt going by on his John Deere tractor and always waving to us. We send our sincerest love to Nancy and all the Cooley family, our neighbors for 52 years.
Melvin & Eloise Wyse

Melvin & Eloise Wyse - September 14, 2021 at 12:24 PM

MF

“ *Melvin & Eloise Wyse and Family purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Curtis "Curt" Dee Cooley.*



Melvin & Eloise Wyse and Family - September 14, 2021 at 12:02 PM

KC

“ Keith & Becky Chapin purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Curtis "Curt" Dee Cooley.



Keith & Becky Chapin - September 14, 2021 at 08:29 AM

JJ

“ Sending love and prayers to the Cooley family! Since attending OWU with Cristin, I have shared many memories with this wonderful family. Whether on campus in the early years to days at the farm to summer days at the lake, there was always good food and conversations! What a loving family! Curt was such a personable, loving and caring man. He will be missed by all!
Jenni Jury and family -
Roger, Jordyn & Ried

jenni Jury - September 14, 2021 at 06:39 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Curtis "Curt" Dee Cooley.



September 13, 2021 at 03:37 PM

RO

“ Ronda lit a candle in memory of Curtis "Curt"
Dee Cooley



Ronda - September 13, 2021 at 02:44 PM

RO

“ Sorry for your loss, Brad and family.

Ronda - September 13, 2021 at 02:43 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of
Curtis "Curt" Dee Cooley.



September 13, 2021 at 11:42 AM



“ Heavenly Light was purchased for the family of
Curtis "Curt" Dee Cooley.



September 13, 2021 at 09:23 AM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Curtis "Curt" Dee Cooley.*



September 12, 2021 at 07:46 PM



“ *Curt was a superior role model for any one seeking how to be a father, friend or mentor. He always left me feeling that he was genuinely happy to see me and my family. We will miss this loving man. I am thankful to have so many cherished memories with Curt and his wonderful family. 💔*
Marsha Winzeler

marsha Winzeler - September 12, 2021 at 07:13 PM



“ *Bob & Michele(Wyse) Bedritis purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Curtis "Curt" Dee Cooley.*



Bob & Michele(Wyse) Bedritis - September 12, 2021 at 12:43 PM

NC

“ CDC was one of those teachers who went seriously beyond his job description.

Not only did he inspire, encourage and guide us students, he truly cared about us, too.

I have many fond memories of my classes with him at WHS. We also shared many stories and compared notes about our common interest of the southern part of the Irish Hills of Michigan.

On behalf of the Carr family, we offer our thoughts, prayers and condolences to the Cooley family.

-Eternal rest grant unto Curt, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.-

*Nicholas Carr
Class of 2005*

Nicholas Carr - September 12, 2021 at 09:20 AM

R2

“ Mr. Cooley was the best teacher I ever had! His sense of humor and passion for teaching made classes so much fun. He inspired me to become a nurse, and I'm so thankful for that. God bless him and his family.

Rachel Froelich class of 2000 - September 11, 2021 at 09:27 PM

SB

“ Mr. Cooley was such an inspiration to our children. He nurtured our sons and daughter with his love for science. Two out of three took both Biology and A&P from Mr. Cooley. From fruit flies to coloring books, long hours of studying to college and hospital field trips, this mans love for science and kids shown through every day. He inspired our oldest to receive his PhD in immunology and teach A&P and Micro Biology at USF. Our daughter also followed her science dreams and is a surgical technician and a RN on a Cardio Vascular Team. Your passion will live on through your family and students for years to come. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for loving our children. Rest In Peace Curt and always know you changed so many lives.

Sheri Bechill - September 11, 2021 at 07:54 PM

MF

“ Mr. Cooley will always hold a special place in my heart. As an educator, he was one of the finest! He was a brilliant, hard working, and fun loving teacher! I was a better student because of his expectations. My deepest sympathies to his family and community. RIP Captain.

Marsha Figy - September 11, 2021 at 07:40 PM

TB

“ Mr. Cooley was one of the most kind and caring and challenging and memorable teachers any of my children ever had. He did inspire and challenge so many students to do their best, which helped prepare them for their college careers as well, -even keeping track of all of the medical professionals he helped to inspire. He made such wonderful and impactful contributions in his life.

Tina Becker - September 11, 2021 at 04:38 PM



“ My condolences to his family. Mr. Cooley was truly more than a teacher. He was my inspiration! With his wonderful smile, he showed me a small town farm gal could make it to medical school and beyond. Thank you sir for that gentle nudge into my career! I know I’m not the only one who you pushed out of our “high school nest” Into the big world! May your inspiration continue to live in all the lives of those who were blessed to have had you as a teacher! Godspeed my friend!

Kristine Rittichier - September 11, 2021 at 02:43 PM



“ Mr. Cooley was one of my all time favorite teachers! He has such passion and energy, and made it all relevant to our young lives! He was gifted, and we were so very blessed to have him! Julie Spieles Leonard

Julie Leonard - September 11, 2021 at 11:33 AM



“ I took Biology at WHS in 1970 and Mr. Cooley was my inspiration to get an education degree to teach Biology! But the 70’s were hard and due to ‘issues’ , I only taught biology 1 year. Fast forward... I taught Biology for 7 years in a homeschool cooperative and now teach construction at our local HS in Indiana. Great men inspire those they teach! Thanks Mr. Cooley! Allan Figy

Allan Figy - September 11, 2021 at 09:07 AM



“ Mr. Cooley was a gifted teacher. I have found memories of being in his biology class. My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time. May you find peace and joy in your cherished memories.

Debbie Griffin Weissman - September 11, 2021 at 09:03 AM

RB

“ My story is only one of many hundreds, but Mr. Cooley's influence on me did not come from high school A and P, I was lucky to survive it. Mr. Cooley's influence came in the years following; his interest in my college and seminary years, his attendance at my ordination, his asking about my family every time our paths would cross. He was not only an influential teacher, but a person who took a genuine interest in people's lives. He was always in your corner. The world lost a shining light of compassion and grace.

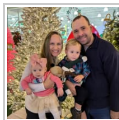
~ Rev. Mary Jo Bray

Rev. Mary Jo Bray - September 10, 2021 at 09:16 PM

BT

“ What a wonderful man and a life worth celebrating to the fullest. I can't say enough good things about Mr. Cooley, both as a teacher and a human being in general. He will be missed as much as he was admired by so many. I'm so very sorry for your loss, Nancy and family. Sending our thoughts and prayers to you all.

Brooke Rice Thompson - September 10, 2021 at 08:46 PM



What a wonderful man Mr. Cooley was! I am so sorry Nancy and family. May his gift of teaching and inspiring continue through all his students!! His class challenged me, led me into the medical field, and prepared me for college and my career as a Registered Dietitian. I always remember his notes all across the chalkboard and the fruit fly breeding project!

Rachel Noirot - September 12, 2021 at 07:54 PM

BG

“ Curt Cooley was one of the best....if not the best educators I have ever had. His passion for Science, love of his students. and approach to education was off the charts. I have but a handful of teachers that I say I love....both educationally and as a person. But Mr. Cooley was truly one of the best. I write this with tears in my eyes, as I know the profound impact he had on literally hundreds of students over the years. God got one damn good teacher in Heaven. RIP Curt....and Go Bucks as I know you would want us to say!!!!

Bart Graf - September 10, 2021 at 07:18 PM

LB

“ Mr. Cooley was someone I will always consider a mentor. He is the person who convinced me I had the ability to become a physician. He touched hundreds of students over the years and his legacy will live on through them.
My condolences to his family. He will be missed, but always remembered!

Laura Rue Blosser - September 10, 2021 at 07:17 PM

LP

“ Former student (aren't we all?) class of 1981.
I took Physiology with Mr Cooley my Senior year. Most demanding course I ever took. Did he prepare me for college? Well, when I went to get my textbook for Biology, lo and behold it was the exact same book!
Greatest teacher I ever had. Will be greatly missed yet lasting legacy for many generations.

Lyle Pontious - September 10, 2021 at 07:10 PM

JF

“ *Jill Fritz lit a candle in memory of Curtis "Curt"*
Dee Cooley



Jill Fritz - September 10, 2021 at 06:59 PM

AF

“ *Mr. Cooley was certainly one of the best educators I have ever had the pleasure to know as a student or professional. He had a intense passion for the sciences, fear sense of humor and unparalleled dedication to student learning. Most of my dearest friends learned from and with him at WHS, and all of us are currently working in medical or allied health fields. Mr. Cooley’s influence is undeniable, and his legacy lives on through both his loving family and the work of those of us who were fortunate enough to call him “Coolch”.*

Amy Fritz-Ocock - September 10, 2021 at 06:53 PM

AS

“ *My daughter, Janelle, loved him as her teacher in Wauseon. I remember him coming to my daughter’s graduation open house, and I believe he did the same thing for all his graduating students. A wonderful, caring teacher. A real credit to the education profession. Thank you for all that you bestowed upon your students. Rest in peace.*

Alan Siewert - September 10, 2021 at 06:41 PM

JF

“ *Thinking of Mr.Cooley and his family. I remember biology class and studying fruit flies. That was a lot of fun. Great educator and person. Love to all.*

Jill Fritz - September 10, 2021 at 06:36 PM

SF

“ On behalf of my family, I wish to extend sympathy to you upon Curt’s passing. He touched our lives as a fellow faculty member in Wauseon Schools, and our daughters were blessed with his expertise in the classroom. May God grant you peace and comfort as you grieve the loss of your loving husband, father and grandfather. He will be missed by so many.

Shirley Fritz - September 10, 2021 at 06:23 PM

TM

“ Curt and Nancy has always been a huge part of my life. I remember going to the Wauseon High school to ask him to be a pall bearer for my Mom and how devastated he was. They also hosted my Dads funeral dinner. I’m forever grateful to him and his family. Rest In Peace dear friend.

Trina

trina march - September 10, 2021 at 06:16 PM